

## **Minutes of the Amport Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 7.30pm at Monxton & Amport Village Hall**

Present: Cllr C Harris – Chairman, Cllr S Coke-Vice Chairman, Cllr C Hemmings, Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Baker, Cllr Hawkings-Byass, & Cllr Waller.

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk

TVBC M Flood

0 Members of the public

### **Apologies**

1) Apologies for absence had been received from HCC Donnelly, TVBC S Hasselmann, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Montagu & Cllr Dix

### **2) Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest in matters on the agenda. All Councillors present confirmed that no changes to Register of Interest forms were required.

### **3) TVBC Engagement officer report**

Michelle Penn had asked to speak at the meeting but was unable to attend.

### **4) Public Participation**

There were no members of public present.

### **5) Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising**

**Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Coke seconded Cllr Hemmings. All in favour.

### **6) Specific reports**

**Principle & Process-**Cllr Coke reported on the accounts for the year ended 31/03/2026- see item number 9.

Cllr Coke also reported he is now in possession of the sealed envelope as per the IT policy adopted at the March 2026 meeting, required because of assertion 10 of the audit return for 2025/26.

**Devolution-** Cllr Harris reported the announcement on Local Government Reform in Hampshire was made on March 25<sup>th</sup> and the proposal is for Test Valley Borough Council (minus 4 parishes in the south) to join in a unitary authority with Winchester, most of East Hants, and bits of the New Forest. The new authority is meant to run from April 2028. In the interim, Hampshire County Council, as it is elected in May 2026, will remain responsible for highways, social care, and education.

**The Fen & Green-** Cllr Harris reported the goalposts on the green still need to be moved. Following the work by the Wessex River Trust / Watercress and Winterbournes, "water hazard" warning signs have been placed along the edge of the green. Thanks were expressed to Di Derbyshire for painting the signs and Ray Welch for installing them.

Wessex River Trust visited the fen on 17<sup>th</sup> April to sow seeds on the riverbank, and the benefit of this should be seen soon.

Cllr Baker confirmed the electrical test on the box on the Village Green had now been completed. She will also now obtain a meter read.

**Play Area** -Cllr Harvey had sent apologies but had confirmed via email that he had checked the play area and had no concerns.

**Weyhill**- Cllr Hemmings had nothing to report.

**Footpaths**- Cllr Hawkings-Byass had nothing to report.

**Communications** – Cllr Hawkings-Byass is hoping to have the newsletter ready to send to print at the end of the week and asked for details of any news to be included to be sent to her now.

**Projects**- Cllr Harvey had sent apologies but had confirmed by message that he had approached two contractors regarding the Village Green parking area and was awaiting responses.

**Neighbourhood Plan**– Cllr Stephenson reported on an additional invoice from Bluestone Planning for work on planning and the last stages of the Neighbourhood Plan. Details were discussed and it was agreed although there was no budget set for this expenditure it was money well spent to get the Neighbourhood Plan to the referendum stage. Cllr Stephenson therefore proposed the invoice be paid and this was seconded by Cllr Coke. All agreed  
The referendum vote will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> May alongside the County Council elections. The polling station will be the Scout Hut at East Cholderton.  
The PC expressed thanks to Cllr Stephenson and the whole team who have worked very hard to get the Neighbourhood Plan finished.

**Highways**- Cllr Harris confirmed although some repair work has been carried out, the road conditions overall continue to deteriorate. Amesbury Road requires attention, as do Sarson Lane, Wiremead Lane, The Green, and parts of Furzedown Lane. There may be other roads too. All residents should do their best to report all identified road problems to HCC via the website.

Concerns have been raised by businesses regarding the intended closure by Southern Water of Fyfield Road on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Southern Water has acknowledged the correspondence, but a full response is awaited. HCC Donnelly is aware of the situation, and the local MP will be contacted if response is not forthcoming.

**Southern Water – See item 7**

**Resilience Plan**- Cllr Waller confirmed he is currently updating the plan before this can be published. He hopes that some details can be shared in the Parish Pages.

**School Liaison**- Cllr Baker reported that the school is trying to become more involved in community events they have recently participated in church services and prospective new parents are being encouraged to attend the coffee mornings held at the Village Hall.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council insurance company has confirmed that public liability insurance would cover forest school activities if a third party was injured or third party property was damaged as a result of an incident stemming from the land. The activities themselves must be covered by the local authority. Cllr Baker will share details with the school.

## **7) Amport Water Pumping Station Noise Concerns**

Cllr Harris highlighted the presence of tankers at the Amport Water Pumping Station over the last few weeks. Recently the levels of groundwater in the catchment, although still high especially in the Pillhill Brook, have fallen sufficiently that the tanker in Amport has been removed. It is accepted that there has been exceptional levels of rainfall this year in the catchment, but Southern

Water need to conduct much more work to understand the reasons behind the fact that local sewers have not able to manage the water.

Complaints have also been made to Southern Water about some of the contractors' tankers idling with their diesel engines running at the water pumping station. A meeting took place last week with the contractors, Southern Water and Flow Management Solutions to discuss the complaints and to seek a better solution to the process. It is reported that there was some positive movement, but not on every aspect. Over the summer the Pan Parish Forum will press the issues with Southern Water, and if needed with Test Valley Borough Council, so that residents do not encounter the same problems in the future.

#### **8) A342 working group.**

Cllr Harris reported the A342 survey is now closed and a report from Test Valley Borough Council is awaited. They have agreed to erect and fund traffic cameras for a week on the A342. The data gathered will be useful for the group to gauge the level of increased traffic. Volunteers are sought to help with this project. Please contact the Clerk [clerk@amporthantsparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@amporthantsparishcouncil.gov.uk) if you can help.

#### **Clerks report**

9) The Clerk reported as follows-

Accounts for the year ended 31-03-26 have been drawn up and circulated to all councillors. Cllr Coke confirmed he had reviewed the financial documents provided and proposed the accounts be agreed. This was seconded by Cllr Harris. All agreed. The required details will be used to complete the audit return. The clerk confirmed the internal audit will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> May

The Clerk confirmed she had received a renewal notice for annual insurance. This had increased from £796.42 to £927.80 (for a three year deal) but a test online showed this to be competitive. Cllr Harris proposed the Zurich policy be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Baker. All agreed

#### **Finance**

##### **10)**

i1) To note the bank balances as at 31/03/2026

Lloyds savings £20,426.44

Lloyds current £436.56

2) To approve the following payments and authorise online transactions: -

H Bourner salary	£519.28
HMRC	£164.84
H Bourner exp.	£17.20
YU energy (DD)	£ 24.82
Taits printers	£110.00
Web site	£11.99
Email service	£24.99
Ray Welch	£200.00
HALC	£505.00
Bluestone Planning	£1463.93

#### **Borough & County Councillor Reports.**

11) HCC Chris Donnelly had sent apologies

TVBC Cllr M Flood reported on the latest TVBC newsletter in particular the decision made by central government about Local Government reorganisation which sees Winchester, East Hants,

TVBC and part of the New Forest join together to form a new unitary authority. She explained how TVBC were now working very hard to finish all the projects that they are part way through. There will be elections for the new unitary authorities in May 2027, but the mayoral vote will not take place until May 2028.

## 12) Planning

1) To note the following TVBC decisions:

25/02700/FULLN-change of use from agricultural to equine, Land north of Amesbury Road-permission

2) Reviewed between meetings:

26/00561/TREEN- tree works Ladysfield, East Cholderton-no objections

26/00601/TREEN- fell conifer, Marigold Cottage- no objections

3)To review in meeting:

26/00551/FULLN- erect garden shed-Two Hoots, Dauntsey Lane-no objections

26/00466/FULLN-change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian-Field behind Old Farm-no objections

26/00554/FULLN-conversion of garage to annex, Hurstwood House, Georgia Lane-no objections

26/00711/VARN- variation to full application to build two industrial buildings, New Abbey House, Fyfield Road, Weyhill-no objections

## Correspondence

13) The Clerk reported the play area inspection will take place in May.

## Community News

14) It was noted several advertising signs had once again been erected on fences at the White Horse pub. The Clerk was asked to report the issue to planning enforcement.

Cllr Hemmings noted The Weyhill Fair is to open for last time on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 1pm for viewing of the historic mural before the building is destroyed and nine houses are built on the site.

## Date of next meeting

15) The next meeting will be the AGM/Annual Meeting and will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 7.30pm at **Monxton & Ampport Village Hall**