

**Minutes of the Amport Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 7.30pm  
at  
Monxton & Amport Village Hall**

Present: Cllr C Harris – Chairman, Cllr S Coke-Vice Chairman, Cllr P Harvey, Cllr H Dix, Cllr Mrs T Hawkings-Byass & Cllr Mrs S Baker.

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk  
TVBC M Flood  
3 Members of the public

**Apologies**

1)Apologies for absence had been received from TVBC S Hasselmann, Cllr P Waller, Cllr D Stephenson, Cllr C Hemmings & Cllr A Montagu.

**2) Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Harris declared an interest in the planning application for a self-build property on Keepers Hill, as this was close to the Almhouses of which he is a Trustee  
There were no other declarations of interest in matters on the agenda. All Councillors confirmed that no changes to Register of Interest forms were required.

**3)Public Participation**

The members of the public present were in attendance to listen.

**4) Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising**

**Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Coke seconded Cllr Hawkings-Byass. All in favour.

**5) Specific reports**

**Principle & Process-**Cllr Coke had nothing to report.

**Devolution-** Cllr Harris said recent press reports suggest that His Majesty's Government will announce its decision on Local Government Reorganisation in Hampshire in March.

**The Fen & Green-** Cllr Harris reported the ditch on the verge along the green still needs clearing. In the past this has been carried out by the Lengthsman however the contractor previously engaged is no longer trading. The Clerk confirmed the lengthsman funding for the last two years has now been paid into the Amport Parish Council bank account so that the parish council can engage a contractor to clear the ditch themselves. Cllr Harris reported he had received a quote from a local company Acrewood to carry out the work. The cost was £450.00 but the contractor feels the ditch should be left to dry out before the work is carried out. Cllr Harris proposed this be accepted and this was seconded by Cllr Coke. All agreed. The Clerk will contact the contractor. The same contractor has offered to fit a new gate to the Fen at cost price for the materials only a total of £324.88 plus VAT. The Parish Council accepted this offer with thanks.  
Given there is now some spare lengthsman funding all councillors were asked to consider any other work that needs to be done, bearing in mind work on highways must be carried out by a trained contractor. This will be an agenda item next month.  
The Wessex River Trust / Watercress and Winterbournes will shortly be carrying out some clearance work in the fen, with a view to allowing more light into the fen and enhancing the wildlife. The work will be split across two weeks and resourced by Wessex Rivers Trust, contractors and

volunteers. Contractors are due to be felling trees between Weds 25 Feb and Fri 27 Feb. They will have a tracked chipper available for use, with any woodchips left as small piles within the woodland. Then, volunteers, led by Wessex Rivers Trust, will be out early the following week to process the felled timber, plus create and secure woodpiles etc. A temporary port-a-loo will be sited at the edge of the green for use by those carrying out the work. Cllr Baker will let the school know that the work is taking place so children can be kept safe.

**Play Area** -Cllr Harvey said a review of the equipment in the play area shows all to be in good repair.

**Weyhill**- Cllr Hemmings had sent apologies but had confirmed there was nothing specific to report from Weyhill.

**Footpaths**- Cllr Hawkings-Byass reported the fallen tree has now been cleared. It has been noted that horse riders are still riding on footpaths which is not acceptable, this will be highlighted in the next newsletter.

Cllr Coke reported a tree down on the footpath on Amesbury Road opposite top end Sarson Lane. The Clerk will report this.

**Communications** – The next newsletter will be drafted shortly. Any news items should be emailed to Cllr Hawkings-Byass by 20<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Projects**- Cllr Harvey had looked again at replacing the poles around the parking area at the Village Green but had concluded the costs of replacement posts made the project cost prohibitive. He suggested the posts that were good should be re sited and pegged in and the area tidied up. The Clerk confirmed on a visit to the Village Green she had reviewed the telegraph poles in place to mark out the parking areas. To use posts for the whole of the Village green edge alongside the lane would require 17 posts and there are 12 already in place. To purchase new posts is extremely expensive at approximately £180 per post plus delivery charges. If posts are to be used all those currently in place would need to be lifted and re sited. A possible alternative was hardwood sleepers, 8ft6" long for £33.00 each plus delivery from a local reclamation yard. Cllr Harvey agreed to speak to a local contractor about what work is possible to improve the parking area and the viability of using hardwood sleepers.

**Neighbourhood Plan**– Cllr Stephenson had sent apologies but had reported via email that the examiner had accepted the submitted plan as factual with one small amendment. It is hoped the plan will be agreed and TVBC will now take the next steps toward a referendum.

**Highways**- Cllr Harris confirmed problems reported to HCC include the flooding problems where Wiremead Lane goes into Thruxton, at Dauntsey Lane (both ends), the condition of the whole of the road from the end of Wiremead Lane to the bend on Furzedown Lane in Ampport, and the pavement opposite the entrance to the fen. Cllr Donnelly advises that Amesbury Road is on the list for resurfacing in March. There is some local road works scheduled in the next couple of weeks, in Sarson Lane and Wiremead Lane. Parishioners can check for details on one.network. Cllr Baker reported a large road collapse in Monxton High Street, she will obtain a photograph so the Clerk can report this.

**Southern Water** -Cllr Harris reported following unprecedented rainfall tankers are now on permanent duty in Ampport, Monxton and Manor Farm (Abbotts Ann). Thank fully electric pumps have now been deployed at pumping stations which are the quietest option and cause less disturbance to residents living close by.

The tankers are needed because the sewers south of East Cholderton, which were not sealed last year, are now being inundated with groundwater and water from road run-off. In the circumstances, Southern Water says it has no choice but to tanker from the parish and downstream, which is an expensive approach. Southern Water have recently commented that they

need to calculate at what point the cost and disruption caused by the sealing work is overtaken by the certainty that treatment provides. A possible solution is the creation of wetlands but discussions and agreement with the regulator would be required.

**Resilience Plan-** Cllr Waller had sent apologies but had sent a report to the Clerk confirming he is updating the plan, and this will be posted to the Parish Council website when ready.

**School Liaison-** Cllr Baker said the school are keen to get a PCSO to visit at school drop off or pick up time and the Clerk was asked to follow up on her previous request for such a visit. Problems with traffic have continued and Cllr Hawkings-Byass suggested the parents who are concerned start a rota to monitor traffic at the busiest times.

Cllr Baker said the staff member training to run forest schools should complete training soon and once this is in place will be asked to give a presentation to the Parish Council so it is clear what activities will take place. This will enable the Parish Council insurance company to take a view on what cover the Parish Council policy will provide. Hampshire County Council provide some insurance provided staff are fully trained.

#### **6) Trees at the water pumping station & behind Nether Cottage**

Cllr Harris reported some months ago, trees fell across the Pillhill Brook on private land north of Nether Cottage. The site is by the footpath and is something of an eyesore. The Clerk will write to the landowner to ask for the trees to be removed supplying the names of local tree surgeons who can be approached.

#### **7) A342 working group.**

Cllr Dix reported a traffic survey designed by the Working Group for completion by residents of all local parishes adjoining the A342, is planned to be conducted in March. Cllr Dix is at the forefront of this effort, working closely with Michelle Penn of TVBC. The aim is to use survey-monkey as far as possible and instructions for online reporting will be provided. Hard copies of the survey and collection points will also be made available in the Parish.

#### **Clerks report**

8) The Clerk reported as follows-

Following the last meeting she had costed the project to replace the broken dragons teeth at the Village Green, submitted a grant request to Hampshire County Council which had been agreed and payment of the grant made to the Parish Council bank account. Given the work to clear the ditch is to wait for drier weather the Clerk was asked to liaise with the contractor to get the work carried out.

As reported in the Village Green report Lengthsman funding for 2024 and 2025 has now been passed to the Parish Council. The cluster lead has agreed he can pass the funds each year to the Parish Council if they choose.

The flooded areas on Dauntsey Lane were reported again to HCC via the portal and HCC Donnelly has pushed for work to be carried out. Both ends where flood water gathered were cleared of flood water and the drains unblocked. This has worked at the Amesbury Road end but the problems under the bridge where Dauntsey Lane meets the Fyfield Road continue. Further reports have been sent to HCC including photographs sent to the Clerk by a local business as this flood impacts on staff making their way to and from work.

The electrical connection box on the village Green needs to be tested. As a key holder Cllr Baker will arrange to meet the contractor to unlock the box for the work to be carried out.

Finally, she confirmed she has asked for a PCSO to visit the village at school drop off or collection time to view the issues with excess cars and offer some suggestions on how to alleviate the problems.

### 9) Thruxton Airshow

Cllr Harris had circulated details of a proposed airshow at Thruxton Airfield on 12/13 September along with suggestions as to how all the local Parish Councils might get involved in the event.

Concerns were raised about the traffic from this event and the impact on surrounding villages, but no details are clear. Alex Thistlethwayte from the Circuit has agreed to go to the Thruxton annual parish meeting and provide more information.

### Finance

#### 10)

i) ) To note the bank balances as at 09/02/2026

Lloyds savings £20409.01

Lloyds current £3466.58

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

H Bourner salary	£519.28
HMRC	£164.84
H Bourner exp.	£34.26
YU energy (DD)	£ 24.82
Taits printers	£110.00
Web site	£11.99
Email service	£24.99

#### Retrospective

Acrewood £768.00

Further funding of £405.52 has been received from Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust for the Pillhill Brook Association. Further invoices from them have also been submitted and will now be paid.

2 Nature spy cameras £284.38

2 Camera tripods £32.54

Testing equipment £171.32

The Pillhill Brook Association has now joined the Angling Trust at a cost of £60.00 and as such now have the necessary insurance for volunteers to continue to carry out testing. Each Parish Council involved in the PBA has agreed to contribute £8.67 to meet these costs. The Clerk will monitor receipt and ensure the invoice is paid.

### Borough & County Councillor Reports.

11) HCC Chris Donnelly was not present.

TVBC M Flood highlighted a recent motion at full council to write to the Government regarding land banking and the current volume of agreed planning permissions where building has yet to take place.

She said TVBC are exploring the possibilities of applying for National Landscape Protection for the chalk streams in Hampshire.

She has highlighted concerns about the traffic management plan for the roadworks on the A343.

When the works were taking place there was considerable traffic chaos in surrounding villages.

Finally, she highlighted concerns about damage to trees and hedges on land in the area, in particular Broad Road which has seen TVBC implement emergency preservation orders. Natural

England are also now involved. Cllr Flood will seek permission to share all the information she has received from the land management company with all Parish Councils affected.

## **12) Planning**

The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

25/03012/TREEN- tree works Sherbourne Lodge, Furzedown Lane-permission

25/03011/TREEN- tree works 4 Sarson Barns, Monxton Road-permission

25/02812/CLPN-certificate for lawful development- mobile home at Lane Cottage, Wiremead Lane- issued

25/02864/TPON- tree works trees north of Amport Green- consent

## **Reviewed between meetings:**

None

**Resolved:** that the planning advisory committee's approval on the following applications were endorsed: None

## **Amport House**

Cllr Harris reported the prospective purchaser of Amport House has had a favourable response from TVBC on its query about developing the site in phases. News of an exchange of contracts is awaited.

## **Self-Build House-Land off Keepers Hill**

The clerk confirmed the application for permission in principle for one self-build house on land off Keepers Hill would be heard by Northern Area Planning on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb. The officer's recommendation is to grant permission.

## **Land available via auction**

Cllr Harris reported he has been made aware of a parcel of land behind 24 Sarson Close which is for sale via auction. The land is crossed by a public footpath, has an electricity transformer on its edge, and neighbouring property has access to a gate along another edge.

## **Correspondence**

14) The Clerk highlighted a HALC Emergency Planning & Community Resilience workshop on 24<sup>th</sup> March and a TVBC Community Resilience Forum on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March. Details will be shared with Cllr Waller.

## **Community News**

15) Cllr Baker highlighted the weekly coffee morning every Monday 10-12 at Monxton & Amport Village Hall. All welcome.

## **Date of next meeting**

16) The next meeting will be on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 7.30pm at **Monxton & Amport Village Hall**