

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

Present: Cllr C Harris – Chairman, Cllr S Coke-Vice Chairman, Cllr H Dix, Cllr C Hemmings & Cllr A Montagu.

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk

HCC Chris Donnelly

TVBC S Hasselmann

0 Members of the public

**Apologies**

1)Apologies for absence had been received from TVBC M Flood, Cllr P Waller, Cllr Mrs D Stephenson & Cllr Mrs S Baker.

**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) Forest Schools**

Nicky King, Head Teacher at Amport School, had hoped to join an online meeting to speak about the proposals for school children to use the Village Green for forest schools. Unfortunately, she was unable to join the call. The Clerk will contact her for details to share with Councillors.

**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> February were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Coke seconded Cllr Dix. All in favour.

**6) Specific reports**

**Principle & Process-**Cllr Coke reported on an IT policy- see item number 9.

**Devolution-** Cllr Harris reported an announcement by central Government regarding Local Government Reorganisation in Hampshire is expected by the end of March. Local Council elections will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

**The Fen & Green-** Cllr Harris reported The Wessex River Trust / Watercress and Winterbournes have completed their programme of work in the fen and on the edge of the green to allow more light into the leet and enhance the wildlife. Wood chippings have been spread on the path through the fen. There is also a plan to install some “water hazard” warning signs in the clear areas along the edge of the green.

It is proposed that work to tidy up the edge of the green by the leet is carried out, particularly where there has been encroachment by brambles. A quote for this work will be obtained.

**Play Area** -Cllr Harvey was absent.

**Weyhill-** Cllr Hemmings reported residents continue to raise concerns regarding flooding at the junction of the east bound A303 and Sarson Lane, and fly tipping on both private & highways land. Cllr Hasselmann said the fly tipping should be reported to TVBC. A further resident has raised concerns about post and parcels being mis delivered on Sarson Lane which is split by the A303, this will need to be addressed by the postal service. Finally, she reported some residents of Weyhill had raised concerns about an ever increasing pile of chalk which borders an industrial site on the Mayfield Industrial park and private back gardens. It was suggested this should be reported to TVBC planning enforcement.

**Footpaths-** Cllr Hawkings-Byass was absent.

**Communications –** Cllr Hemmings asked if the newsletter could highlight the useful information page on the website for details on how to report potholes, highways issues etc, a reminder to complete the A342 road survey and finally, a reminder to Electors who have not re-registered and who wish to continue to vote by post that they can reapply at [www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote](http://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote)

**Projects-** Cllr Harvey was absent.

**Neighbourhood Plan–** Cllr Stephenson had sent apologies but had reported via email Bluestone and TVBC are working on finalising the report with examiners amendments. The date for referendum is likely to be May at the same time as elections. Additional funding of £712.50 is required to pay the consultations fees for work on the final amendments. Cllr Coke proposed this payment be made and this was seconded by Cllr Harris. All in favour.

**Highways-** Cllr Harris confirmed he has been advised that a recent inspection of the pipework at Fyfield Road/Dauntsey Lane railway bridge has identified a broken section of pipe, which is causing a partial restriction to water flow. A works order has been raised to replace this section of pipe however as there is currently significant demand for drainage repairs it is not possible to provide a precise timeframe for completion at this stage. It is also understood that repair work is due to be carried out on Amesbury Road.

**Southern Water -**Cllr Harris reported Southern Water is under resourced and fighting many battles on different fronts. The team had 127 tankers on deployment at the end of last week. The PPF has raised some of the immediate issues of spills in the catchment (notably in East Cholderton and at Manor Farm, Abbots Ann) and have been promised some action by Southern Water and its contractors.

Complaints have also been made to Southern Water about some of the contractors' tankers idling with their diesel engines running at water pumping stations. This activity may be illegal and has been reported to the authorities. Southern Water has promised to investigate. The verges along the roads have also been damaged by some tanker drivers.

Southern Water have been encouraged to communicate with the public on the current state of affairs.

**Resilience Plan-** Cllr Waller had sent apologies but had sent an email confirming he was unable to attend neither the TVBC or HALC resilience event.

**School Liaison-** Cllr Baker had sent apologies. (see item 3 regarding Forest Schools)

## **7) Fete**

Cllr Harris reported that volunteers have now stepped forward to run the fete and this will be held on 04/07/2026.

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

Cllr Dix reported the traffic survey designed by the Working Group for completion by residents of all local parishes adjoining the A342, has been circulated to all households for return by 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

### **Clerks report**

9) The Clerk reported as follows-

Following the last meeting the work required to fit the dragons teeth alongside the Village Green has now taken place. Hours spent by the contractor were greater than estimated because the posts were longer than those already in situ and larger holes had to be dug, also all posts had to be concreted in so there were additional costs for materials not included in the estimate. The overall spend on the project was £781.76 an increase of £54.76 over the original quote. There were some unused posts and reflectors that the contractor will store until required

The Clerk highlighted the costs of two post boxes for Amport Parish for the collection of the A342 surveys. She also reported on a concern raised on locations where surveys could be left, in that some Amport surveys had been left at Thruxton, the surveys quite clearly said they could be left in any of the locations.

The Clerk reported she had been contacted about a proposed road closure in May for Southern Water work along Fyfield Road in Weyhill which could have serious impact on businesses on the Mayfield industrial estate. HCC Donnelly was able to locate the proposed closure on an internal HCC website and will screen shot the relevant details and send to the Clerk. The Clerk will pass full details to Cllr Harris to discuss with Southern Water.

Finally, she highlighted a new audit requirement where the Clerk had to sign an assertion confirming the Parish Council used a generic Parish Council email service, had an accessible website, complied with the requirements of GDPR and have an adopted IT policy. The first three points were in place but there was currently no adopted IT policy. A NALC template had been used to create a policy. This had been shared with Cllrs Harris and Coke.

Cllr Coke had reviewed the policy and proposed it be adopted, this was seconded by Cllr Harris. Cllr Coke said there was a requirement for a Cllr to retain a sealed envelope containing all passwords for Parish Council machines and programs and he volunteered to hold this. The Clerk will provide the necessary details.

### **10) Lengthsman**

The clerk said as previously reported 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 and it has now been announced that £1000 funding per parish will be available for 2026 and 2027. The Clerk explained that admin funding was also provided and as this is subject to PAYE will attract employers NIC. Each parish in the cluster will be expected to meet these costs.

The Clerk further explained that she runs a lengthsman cluster and after a short discussion it was agreed that Amport should ask to join this cluster.

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. The first item to be considered was to clear the footpath along Amesbury Road footpath from the Dauntsey Lane to the Michaelmas Close. The Clerk will ask Acrewood if they can quote.

### **Finance**

**11)**

i1) To note the bank balances as at 10/02/2026

Lloyds savings £20,426.44

Lloyds current £1705.54

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

H Bourner salary	£519.28
HMRC	£164.84
H Bourner exp.	£24.19
YU energy (DD)	£ 22.42
Taits printers	£110.00
Web site	£11.99
Email service	£24.99
TVBC dog waste	£582.17
Jenny Hopkins (post boxes)	£65.36
Ray Welch	£395.00
Award Plaque	£22.00

**Retrospective**

ATF dragons teeth posts	£455.73
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**Borough & County Councillor Reports.**

12) HCC Chris Donnelly reported £80 million was required from reserves to balance the 2026/27 HCC budget, HCC hope to raise funds in future from road rental to utility companies, funding for new classrooms at Harroway has been provided and a decision is expected by 25<sup>th</sup> March regarding Local Government reorganisation.

Cllr S Hasselmann reported the TVBC budget has been approved, the Andover Health Hub has been nominated for an award, TVBC has had more success in prosecuting fly tippers and finally she reminded anyone wishing to apply for a postal vote can do so by visiting [www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote](http://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote).

**13) Planning**

1) To note the following TVBC decisions: None

2) Reviewed between meetings: None

3) To review in meeting: 26/00522/FULLN-removal of timber building and replacement with side extension- 9 Sarson Close-no objections

**Correspondence**

14) The Clerk highlighted a brochure from Elan City regarding speed awareness cameras

**Community News**

15) Nothing to report

**Date of next meeting**

16) The next meeting will be on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 7.30pm at **Monxton & Amport Village Hall**