

# THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at The Community Building, Holly Lane, Hapton  
On 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.00pm.

**In Attendance:** Mr Nick Potter (Chair)  
Mr T Ward  
Mr D Daniels  
Mr C Hewitt  
Mrs Jenna Goodall Browne  
Mr A Arber (clerk)

**Two members of the public.**

## Public participation

*Standing Orders were suspended to allow the public to speak.*

Cow Lane has again become a rat run and has got worse with lots of courier vans are using it along with a huge artic that has taken out the verges. The road is falling apart due to this. The clerk will talk to Redwings and Highways on this also.

*Standing Orders were reinstated.*

### 1. Apologies

Victor Blake and Graham Bleach sent their apologies. All agreed to accept these

### 2. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were agreed with one amendment as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

**Proposer: Tim Ward                      Seconder: Nick Potter**

### 3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations

**Proposed D Daniels    Seconded V Blake**

### 4. Planning

- **To discuss the Planned Open space**  
Nothing to report.
- **Planning Application**  
The clerk brought to the notice of the council the following planning applications for information only.  
2022/1874 Land west of Chequers Road. Outline permission to build 5 new detached single storey dwellings with one to be a self-build  
2018/0112 Land west of A140 for Long Stratton bypass, housing, and relief road  
20220111 land east of A140 for Long Stratton bypass, Housing, School, and employment land.

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## 5. Finances

The following invoices were approved for payment:

I.	To approve Payments to Parish Clerk Alan Arber for Dec salary	£843.52
II.	To approve payment for Clerks pension for Dec Pension	£249.77
III.	To approve payment to HMRC for tax and NI	£29.54
iv.	To approve payment to Turtle Engineering for Defib battery	£198.97
v.	To approve payment to 1-2-1 computers for laptop repairs	£239.97
VI.	To approve payment for Live-drive for Cloud back up an cost	£50.00
VII.	To approve payment to Pride Press for Dec Newsletter	£378.00

The clerk produced a financial report to show the current balance before today's meeting matched the bank statement at £36,820.86 duly signed by the chair as correct and the balance after today's meeting will be £34,831.09

The clerk also commented that he has VAT reclaim to make at the end of Dec for a figure of £252.72 as detailed on your financial report as he could not do this till 1/1/2023

**Proposer: David Daniels      Seconder: Tim Ward**

### **To agree the budget and sign the precept Request Form**

2023-24 Budget was agreed, and the clerk asked all councillors to check their precept request form for the correct figure of **£24,864.20** which agreed with the budget report previously agreed. The council have kept the Band D charge this year the same as last year at £60.35 and the increase in the precept amount to be claimed had increase due to the band D housing figure increasing from 408 to 412 allowing us to not increase the band D charge but increase our precept request as below  
**412 x £60.35 = £24,864.20**

**Proposer: Nick Potter**

**Seconded Jenna Goodall Browne**

## 6. Highways

The clerk is still awaiting the two road signs that have still not been installed and he will contact highways on this urgently.

Long Stratton New Development

No report on this item

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- 7. To receive an update on the following current issues and to consider any necessary action.**

## **Tree Warden report**

Ken went with Tim to look at some central Hedging. Along with the fifty trees we got in December to look at free tree packs and hedging packs from Woodland Trust and these packs would be great for the Surveyors land and a question was asked on getting new hedges for Hapton Community land behind the cabin. It was agreed to apply for these in November and March at around 420 packs each time. Tim took the meeting through the makeup of the packs. The application for November close in August so Tim and Ken will work on this.

## **Footpath issues**

Finger post BR1 still not been reinstated, and the clerk will again report this that he firstly reported in November 2021. Clerk to contact Highways urgently on this asap.

The clerk reported that the footpath FP32 had been diverted as requested under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Sect 257 as per the document from Birketts solicitors that the clerk will scan and ensure is on the website.

## **Parish Maintenance**

The clerk reported that he had asked for two bins to be delivered to Hapton Meadow and as yet these have not been, but should be after the Christmas break. These have still not arrived and The clerk will chase.

The clerk also reported that he had been made aware that the battery in the Defib in Tharston Street was no longer working and when checked he sourced a new battery, and it has been installed by the clerk and the Defib works perfectly now

The clerk also reported that the tap at Tharston Church has again been blocked and he has instructed GLS to look at this asap.

## **Grass Cutting at Tharston Meadows**

Not relevant at present

- 8. To receive a report on the Hapton Community Project**

The clerk had received a request from Elections at SNDC on the possibility of using the cabin for the upcoming elections. He had met with the elections team, and they are keen for this to happen but are worried about no electric. The clerk made them aware that we could provide hot water in our flasks during the day for them along with Tea and Coffee. Many pictures were taken, and they were impressed but asked if there was a possibility we could install charger points for mobile phones and iPads as they are here for 16 hours as there were no actual plug points for this to happen

The chair commented that this is possible, but no costs were discussed. It was agreed that we would go ahead with this with costs to be looked at.

This would bring in revenue for the cabin and make it easier for parishioners to vote at the upcoming elections rather than go to Forncett.

It was also discussed the possibility of a key safe for the building.

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The chair has recharged the battery and we need to get the solar panel asap. The battery had lasted over 4 months.

Sue and Tim trimmed back the trees on Holly Lane.

Fisher German wants to Survey the land for pylons and Tim will reply to this

Tim has created some leaf mold for next year and the seeds are down, so they get the cold snap they need but Tim has run out of seeds, and we need to purchase some more moving forward.

## 9. To discuss Parish Projects.

- **Newsletter.**

The next edition is being started and it is hoped will go to print in late Feb and include details of the budget in as we normally do along with details of the proposed Border-Hoppa service. All future events will be published on the village noticeboards in future along with the website and newsletter.
- **SAM Machines.**

The clerk had been unable to do this as Victor was ill and will be downloaded for the Feb meeting
- **Phone Box**

No change on this subject
- **Surveyors Land.**

We need to arrange a working party meeting before the spring to work out what will happen with the land and what project will be done with the land.
- **Parish Councillors and Clerk training.**

Clerk booked on Clusters Seminar on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January and the Essential Clerk seminar in March.
- **Village Hall**
- It was asked if the land could be made into allotments on the land, but it was felt that the covenants would not allow this.
- **The Vision**

The noticeboard at Redwings needs to be moved to Hapton Community Field asap.
- **New Park Fundraising Ideas**
- Coronation event planning
- Fete Planning
- Future Events for the community field planned.
- **Hapton Phone Box**
- The phone box continues to be well used and getting full up with books and a lady will take books away and it was agreed she could take what she wants.
- **Defib training**

The training will take place at the new building and the clerk will book this asap.
- **Neighbourhood watch**

The clerk has enrolled us now into the Neighbourhood Watch and will look at getting the new signs now.
- **Meeting House Field**

No comments made.
- **Allotments**

The land at Tharston Church is being looked at but no decision has been made on this despite a discussion on this. A community garden was also discussed.

## 10. To discuss Speeding in the village and the setting up of a speed watch group.

Victor Blake sent the clerk the following information on this

Because of Christmas, New Year, and inclement weather no Speed watch sessions have been held since the last meeting. Will get back on track as soon as possible.

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## **11. Green Initiatives**

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

A question was asked on selling off the Carbon offset from these trees, but it was noted this could not be done at present. The Christmas tree farm was again discussed.

## **12. To discuss an update on the wildlife river corridor**

The Forncett nature matters group have been to see us and they are extremely impressed with most things in the parish. They are concerned with the river Tas as there are only 25 chalk rivers in Norfolk. 210 worldwide with one in Tharston and Hapton. On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> at Forncett Village Hall they will be holding a session on what they are doing moving forward and what we can do as a group also. All are welcome to attend.

Otter filmed in our village again too which is good news.

## **13. To discuss the response from Border-Hoppa on the bus idea**

The clerk had now spoken with Border-Hoppa, and they are keen on our plans and initiative with Thursdays being the best day to work with them. It was thought we need to put our heads together to devise a route that takes in local villages and times and stop points with Border-Hoppa asap.

It was agreed that we need to prove the viability for this service and then with information we can lobby the bus companies to provide this service.

## **14. Public participation**

No Public participation

**To receive items for the next agenda.**

**Allotments in Tharston**

**Coronation and events on Hapton field for 2023**

**Internal Control**

Next Parish Meeting Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.**