

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at The Community Building, Holly Lane, Hapton
On 15th February 2023 at 7.00pm.**

In Attendance: Mr T Ward (chair)
Mr D Daniels
Mr V Blake
Mr G Bleach
Mrs Jenna Goodall Browne
Mr A Arber (clerk)

One member of the public Plus County Councillor Alison Thomas and District Councillor Barry Duffin

Public participation

Standing Orders were suspended to allow the public to speak.

The clerk commented that he had received a letter from the church warden on the possibility of them hiring the cabin for fund raising events for their church appeal. It was agreed that this would be okay, and the clerk would inform them of this and any future events that are being held so they can join in.

County Councillor Alison Thomas commented the Long Stratton bypass planning application will go in on the 15th of March with a consolidated consultation from all groups being submitted on the day. Alison also commented that she had attended a meeting with Tasburgh Parish Council and Long Stratton Town Council regarding the possibility of linking the parishes via some way. There is a consultation on 12th April between 12.30pm and 6.00pm and all are welcome. The latest news on the hospital issue is that the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital are top of the table for turnaround at Accident and Emergency department which is good news, The budget is due to come to Norfolk County Council on week commencing 20th march with a projected rise of 4.99%. District councillor Barry Duffin commented that elections are on the 4th May and that with the lack of provision for residents of Tharston and Hapton he has put forward Helen House in Tharston as a suitable venue and meetings are scheduled to take place asap on this. The village clusters are now at the Reg 19 stage and there are no planned developments in either Tharston or Hapton which is good news. Finally, Barry commented the South Norfolk Council are not looking to put their precept request up at all this year.

Alison Thomas finally added their will be grants for the Coronation and details should be out later this month.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

1. To appoint a chair to take the meeting.

Due to chair Nick Potter being ill it was agreed that Vice chair Tim Ward would chair the meeting. All agreed.

2. Apologies

Nick Potter and Chris Hewitt sent their apologies. All agreed to accept.

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3. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 18th January 2023 were agreed with one amendment as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

Proposer: David Daniels

Secunder: Jenna Goodall Browne

4. Declarations of Interest

No declarations

5. Planning

- **To discuss the Planned Open space**
Nothing to report.
- **Planning Application**
2023/0200 replacement outbuilding
The Bungalow High Road Hapton
It was agreed no comment would be made.

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6. Finances

The following invoices were approved for payment:

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| I. To approve Payments to Parish Clerk Alan Arber for Jan salary | £843.32 |
| II. To approve payment for Clerks pension for Dec Pension | £249.77 |
| III. To approve payment to Pride Press for Spring Newsletter | £378.00 |

The clerk produced a financial report to show the current balance before today's meeting matched the bank statement at £34,831.09 duly signed by the chair as correct and the balance after today's meeting will be £33,410.00.

The clerk also commented that the VAT reclaim for £261.05 had been processed and was in our account as of today and will show on next month's Bank reconciliation.

Proposer: David Daniels

Secunder: Graham Bleach

To agree to appoint Sonya Blythe as our internal auditor.

The clerk had contacted Sonya Blythe (clerk to Cringleford Town Council) and a competent internal auditor also to get a quote to become our internal auditor. Sonya agreed to do this at a cost of £65 for the year end 2022-2023 and ongoing years.

Proposer: Victor Blake

Seconded David Daniels

7. Highways

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

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Long Stratton New Development

A discussion ensued on this regarding the link road onto a new roundabout in Long Stratton, with little clarification on this link road. It was hoped that once the bypass application is agreed more information would be forthcoming.

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

Tree Warden report

No report from Ken

Footpath issues

The troublesome BR1 finger post will be installed in the new budget year.

Parish Maintenance

Gary Bentley was currently working on the hedges around the Parish.

Grass Cutting at Tharston Meadows

Not relevant at present

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

The clerk asked on the possibility of getting a key safe for the building and that as reported in public participation that church warden will be allowed to use the cabin for fund raising events for their church appeal. The key safe would allow easy access to save the parish council volunteers having to deal with opening and closing of the cabin. The key safe would cost around £20 plus fitting.

It was also agreed we would run a Coronation event on Sunday 7th May which will include a BBQ and drinks as the jubilee event and grants will now be available. The clerk will look at contacting a local company on the possibility of purchasing a second hand Gazebo and the clerk will contact Redwings as a possibility of storing the gazebo with them

- 10. To discuss Parish Projects.**

- **Newsletter.**
The newsletter has now been printed and delivered to our kind volunteer's ion Tharston and the chair has Hapton copies for all to collect. He also felt that this month was very locally focused and a good newsletter.
- **SAM Machines.**
The clerk had been unable to do this and the Hapton one would be downloaded for the March meeting. The batteries are not charging as well as they should so it was agreed that we would look to purchase two new batteries if possible.
- **Phone Box**
No change on this subject
- **Surveyors Land.**
The chair had asked the Clerk to contact SNDC to inform them that we are now taking control of the surveyor's land. The clerk confirmed this had been done but no reply had been received. A group of councillors looked at the site recently and Tim ward had secured 250 trees for hedging with a fair spread of hedging

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and trees, and it was reported that we could get more trees in new spread of applications. The front Hedge needs trimming, and it was agreed we would look at this urgently

- **Parish Councillors and Clerk training.**
Clerk booked on Word and Excel training paid for by one of his other councils. The clerk would share the programme with all councillors.
- **Village Hall**
No report
- **The Vision**
The noticeboard at Redwings needs to be moved to Hapton Community Field asap.
- **New Park Fundraising Ideas**
- Coronation event 7th May 2023 with a separate meeting to be held on the makeup of the event.
- Summer Fete Planning
- **Hapton Phone Box**
- The phone box continues to be well used and getting full up with books and the clerk would take some for Ashwellthorpe Book exchange next week.
- **Defib training**
The clerk has contacted London Hearts and is awaiting a reply with training dates.
- **Neighbourhood watch**
The clerk will order the new signs next week. The bus on local land has been vandalised and needs reporting.
- **Meeting House Field**
No comments made.
- **Allotments**
No report had been received on this and councillors will report on these at the next meeting.

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

No report on this but Victor Blake commented that they hope to be out at the next weekend to do a speed watch morning.

12. Green Initiatives

The clerk reported that he had asked for two waste bins for Hapton Meadow had now been delivered and were cited by the compostable toilet. Sue Wardale has volunteered to pull them out for the collection days.

A question was asked on the solar panels on the cabin roof but as yet no information was forthcoming.

13. To discuss an update on the wildlife river corridor

Tim Ward had done a write up for the newsletter for all to see and it was agreed to take this off the agenda moving forward.

14. To discuss the response from Border-Hoppa on the bus idea

The clerk commented that he is setting up a meeting with Borderhoppa in the coming weeks to discuss the possible routes and had put the idea into the newsletter for parishioners to comment on possible routes and villages/town they would like to see on the routes if possible.

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15. Public participation

County Broadband had been flooding the area with emails and The clerk commented that Wacton Parishioners had experienced many problems with the company and they would not be involving themselves in with this company.

Working party needed for the Coronation event is needed formulating asap.
Bingo event and quiz to be organised by Hapton Working meadow Group.

To receive items for the next agenda.

Events

Internal control

Elections

Next Parish Meeting Wednesday 15th March 2023

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