

# THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at Church Rooms, Hapton  
On 14<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm.

**In Attendance:** Mr Nick Potter (Chairman) Mr Alan Arber (clerk)  
Mrs Jenna Goodall Browne  
Mr Tim Ward  
Mr Graham Bleach

**3 members of the public were in attendance  
Including County Councillor Alison Thomas**

## Public participation

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

County Councillor Alison Thomas asked the clerk a question regarding the dog bin by the doctors in Long Stratton that was overflowing and the Clerk commented he would look into this and speak with Long Stratton who actually owns the bin as it was placed by the developer Taylor Wimpey. Alison also commented on the grass verges and the length they were saying Highways Engineer Gary Overland was looking into the issues and would get them dealt with as soon as possible, Alison then commented on The Long Stratton Bypass saying that the drainage issues were being looked at and it was hoped the financial support from Government would be obtained soon and that the planning application may go in around the end of September 2021. The Flood Inspection report was out and that she was concerned it did not go deep enough with its recommendations and was lacking in detail on what happened, why and where the situation would be dealt with. Finally, Alison commented that Shotesham Forge would be closed due some tree work needing to be done as a large tree near the forge was found to be rotten and needed taking down as soon as possible.

*Standing Orders were reinstated.*

### 1. Apologies

Barry Duffin and Victor Blake sent their apologies and everyone agreed to accept.

### 2. Minutes

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and were duly signed by the chairman.

**Proposed Nick Potter. Seconded Tim Ward. All Agreed to accept.**

### 3. Declarations of interests – To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest from members on any item to be discussed.

Graham Bleach for item 7 Everyone agreed to grant that Graham could not vote on item 7

### 4. Planning Applications.

- To discuss the Planned Open Space Land Adoption.  
**Nothing Received**
- Planning Application.

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2021/1288 It was agreed that no comments would be made and Mr and Mrs Randall left the meeting

## 5. Highways.

- **Highways Issues.**

Chair Nick potter commented that he was concerned (issue brought to his attention by a parishioner) that the air quality (the traffic gases our heavier than air) on The Street Hapton could be affected by the increase in Traffic since the inception of The Hempnall Roundabout. It was agreed that once the SAM is downloaded the figures would be looked at comparing before the roundabout was installed

- **To discuss the proposed long Stratton development and the adoption of the open space.**

No report

## 6. Finance

- To approve payment to Parish Clerk Alan Arber for June salary and expenses £1174.38 (which includes a tax Rebate of £417.00)
- To approve payment to Norfolk pension fund for Clerks Pension £219.08
- To approve payment to GLS for Parish maintenance £1296.00
- To approve payment to London Hearts for new Defib £1724.40
- To approve payment to G Bentley for Village maintenance £104.50
- To approve payment to PWLB by Direct Debit £1147.17

### **Proposed Nick Potter Seconded Jenna Goodall Browne.**

The clerk took the council through the latest financial position and reported that the council was in fine financial condition.

**Unity Trust Bank Change** – The clerk commented that the council were close to setting this up but needed signatories to sign form and details from Jenna to submit to Unity to complete the application.

## 7. To receive an update on Current Issues and to consider any necessary action.

### **Tree Warden's Report**

No Report

### **Footpath Wardens Report**

It was reported that FP20 and FP21 and FP22 were overgrown and it was asked that the rangers undertake the work needed asap.

FP33 on the parish border with Toprow and Wreningham needs some work also again it was asked if the rangers could undertake this.

BR10 was again causing issues near Horsenford and it was agreed the clerk would write to the landowner on this issue to remind them of their liabilities in keep the are tidy and accessible at all times.

The Bench on BR1 had been cut by the footpath warden who was thanked by the councillors

### **Village maintenance**

Gary Bentley to look at the Lock on the new field asap

It was agreed that the new defibrillator and lights for the phone box would be installed at the following costs

Defibrillator installation at Victory House £288.00

Lights installation at Hapton phone box £181.75

**Proposed Nick Potter    Seconded Tim ward**

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## 8. To receive and update on the Long Stratton Neighbourhood Plan

Tim ward will be attending the next meeting on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> and it was noted that once the examiner had completed its work the plan would be going to SNDC for referendum

## 9. To discuss the options on adopting the open space land at Tharston Meadows

No Reply had been received from Taylor Wimpey on the proposals sent by email after the last meeting and it was agreed that a deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> August would be sent to Taylor Wimpey by the clerk for their reply.

## 10. To receive an update on Hapton Community Project

The Clerk and The Chair visited the Superior buildings to look at a new building for the area and the chair invited all councillors to attend with him on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> at 2,30pm to look and decide the options.

A discussion ensued on the makeup of the play area and the contractor to be contacted on the discussions asap to ask for a better multi-play equipment that is comparable with the wooden one. It was also agreed the contractor would be Vale Sport and Leisure and the make up would be the Steel equipment by a vote of 3-1.

It was also agreed to install the compostable toilets at the new field and Tharston Church via the contractor Woo Woo Waterless Toilets. Final quotes to be obtained by The Clerk.

It was also agreed that The Clerk would contact Planning to see what planning applications were needed asap and report back to the chairman asap.

Finally, The clerk would contact SNDC to understand what was needed to apply for the monies already agreed with Anita Varney and to apply for the monies asap.

## 11. To receive an update on flooding in the parish

Nothing to report

## 12. To discuss taking old council documents to Archive Office

It was agreed that the clerk is able to take the older records to the Archive Office and will list the items archived for the council's attention

## 13. To discuss Parish Projects.

### • Newsletter.

The Newsletter needs to have more local information on the next issue but the clerk commented that he is struggling to get the information from local groups in time.

### • SAM Machines.

The SAM machine can now be downloaded and The clerk will fix a date to get this done with Victor asap.

### • Phone Box

It was agreed to site the phone box at Tharston Church on Parish Council land and to agree a site meeting with Tharston PCC asap

### • Surveyors Land.

It was agreed that we would ask Helen Sibley to serve notice to The Tenant asap

### • Parish Councillors and Clerk training.

New Chairman's training is required by Tim ward and an update for Nick Potter and The Clerk would look into this asap. It was also agreed the clerk would

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attend the upcoming SLCC National Conference with costs shared with Wacton PC

- **Village Hall.**

No comments made

- **New Play Area/Hapton Community Project**

Dealt with earlier in the meeting.

- **The Vision.**

Dealt with under Village Hall.

- **New Park Fundraising Ideas**

The Chair commented that he had heard that neither Wacton or Long Stratton councils would be holding a firework display this year and he was proposing to contact Des Fulcher on this and was asked to ensure Des provided all the necessary documentation in advance.

- **Hapton Phone Box**

It was agreed to look at local shops and gumtree for the bookcases or shelving for both phone boxes for their library ideas

- **Neighbourhood watch**

The clerk had enrolled the council in the national scheme and sent log in details to Graham Bleach.

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

It was noted that the information had been sent to all the volunteers with declarations to be signed by the volunteers before the training can commence and it was agreed that new members would be approached to add to the group and get the necessary forms signed in preparation for the training when it commences.

**15. To discuss Green Initiatives for the council moving forward**

The council had a full discussion on this and Tim ward gave some information on a scheme he had researched and the information would go in the newsletter. Graham Bleach also asked if the Clerk could look through the old files for the license on claiming monies back for recycling from Norfolk county Council.

**16. Public participation.**

Comments were made on the possibility of converting Meeting House field into a wild meadow but leaving paths for dog walkers. This would be discussed at the parish council meeting in more depth,

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

**Climate Change initiatives**

**Training**

**Policies Update**

**Surveyors Land**

Next Parish Meeting Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.**