

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of

The Annual Parish Meeting of Tharston and Hapton to be held at Hapton Community Cabin, Hapton on Wednesday 15th May 2024 at **6.30 pm**

This is a public meeting for members of the parish to meet, and to hear a summary of activities and achievements from local groups in the community.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence

No Apologies received

2. Chairman's welcome and Parish Council Report

The chair thanked all the councillors for their amazing work and that the projects are moving forward and thanks to the clerk for his work in the holding of Elections in the cabin and other elections moving forward. The clerk was also thanked for his excellent work during the year in leading the council through the many projects.

3. Approval of the minutes of the last APM on 18th May 2022

Proposed Nick Potter

Seconded Graham Bleach

4. County Councillor Reports

County Councillor Alison Thomas gave the following report

Alison Thomas commented that this may be her last annual meeting of the parish after 18 years, but Alison continues to stand our ward will include Alison as our county councillor.

Alison gave the following figures for all to digest around Norfolk.

90,018 thousand parishioners

£1.8 million spend on social care per day and this is still not enough

36,000 miles of roads

490 miles of coastline with a campaign still ongoing to stop erosion and help those communities.

Bacton Gas terminal supply over a third of all gas supplies in the UK

47 Libraries

750 fire station

42 fire stations that are run by volunteers as retained fire fighters.

The long Stratton Bypass is awaiting the funding sign off and construction should start soon with many of the side roads not available to traffic during the construction process although there may be access via Hall Road once the new bridge is installed.

There will be 600 homes to the west built and 1200 to the east but only a maximum of 250 can be built whilst the bypass is under construction.

Finally, there will an election May 2025 when the county will vote for a directly elected leader as well as local elections.

Alison was thanked for her wonderful service to the village over the past 18 years and sorely missed.

5. District Councillor Reports

District councillor Kim Carsok gave the following report.

South Norfolk Council is proud to have been able to continue enhancing the services provided, while maintaining some of the lowest levels of Council tax in Norfolk.

The Council's 2024/25 budget was set in February with a modest annual increase agreed at £5 for a band D property. This helps to cover inflationary pressures like the increase in National Living Wage.

Alongside the £64 million revenue budget for this year we also approved a capital programme totalling £97 million over the next five years. This includes projects such as:

- Wymondham Public Realm, high street regeneration
- Expansion of the waste and recycling depot to accommodate food waste collections
- Regeneration of Diss South Mere area on old John Grose site
- Contribution towards building the Long Stratton Bypass
- Building two new GP Surgeries in Hethersett and Diss
- Purchase of housing for temporary accommodation, supporting people in crisis
- Extra support for the planning enforcement team for two years

A few bits of recent news:

Community awards: deadline for nominations by 22 May - please nominate volunteers and charitable organisations!

On 19 March a new Changing Places Toilet was opened at Whitlingham Country Park. The new facility will allow people with severe disabilities to enjoy the park. South Norfolk Council contributed £40,000 towards the project.

We are now offering more group fitness classes spaces at our leisure centres. We've also launched a new youth membership and an active senior's membership.

Our Help Hub, community connectors, social prescribers and District Direct team continue to help people who need holistic support with a huge range of issues. The Help Hub is handling about 500 queries per week and District Direct has just dealt with the 5,000th referral.

In our AGM next week, we will be voting on a new leader of the council due to John Fuller's elevation to the House of Lords

My door is always open so please call or email me if you'd like to chat about anything South Norfolk Council can help with.

At the upcoming AGM the SNDC will elect a new directly elected leader as John Fuller has gone to the House of Lords

4. Hapton School

Appendix 1

5. Tharston Parish Church

No report

6. Hapton Parish Church

Appendix 2

7. Tharston Charities

Attached as Appendix 3

8. Footpath Warden

The footpaths in Hapton are generally in good order and are very well used. We continue to have an issue with dog fouling, this is an ongoing issue and signs have been put up to discourage this. I do have concerns around our busiest paths, FP2, BR1 and FP33 as they all fall directly on the route of the proposed Norwich to Tilbury pylon project, and I fear that they will be closed for the duration of the work should planning consent be given. I will ask the question at the Statutory consultation meeting. I am always happy to check out any issues that may arise with the Tharston Footpaths if they are reported to me.

9. Tree warden

I was appointed Tree Warden for Tharston and Hapton almost 30 years ago, having just moved to Tharston from London. The big issue then was that a young local girl had planted some unauthorised trees along the verge of a minor road. Since then, the major issue has been the housing developments along Chequers Road and especially a row of poplars that the then Parish Chair had taken out a Tree Preservation Order on. The builders affected not to know about this and built a row of houses under the shadow of the trees, closely followed by the householders complaining that the trees overshadowed their solar panels and dropped debris in their gardens. So far, the trees are still there, but the pressures of development don't go away.

This past year has seen the establishment of a Village Orchard on the site of the old Village Hall and plans for hedgerows around the Surveyors Land site on the Bungay Road (former B1135). In addition, plans are afoot for a Christmas Tree Nursery to provide an addition income source for the Parish Council.

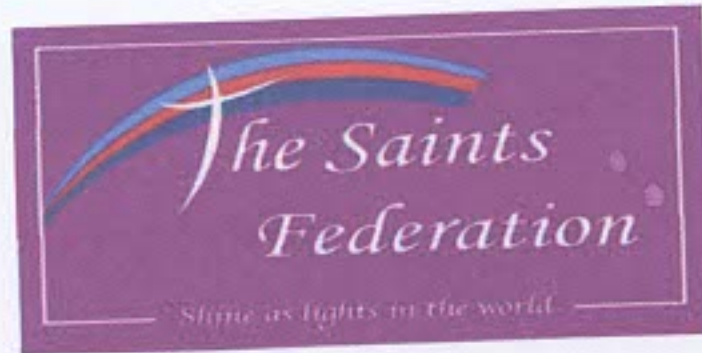
As I am now upping sticks and moving to Wymondham, I will need to hand over duties to someone new. I promise that I will be available for information and advice and possible also practical help if required and wish my successor and the Parish Council all the best.

10. Redwings

Appendix 4

11. AOB

The Annual Parish Council meeting followed this meeting at approx. 7pm.

**All Saints CEVA School**

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Hapton CEVA School

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Tharston and Hapton Parish Council AGM update

23 April 2024

I am writing with an update about the governance at Hapton CE VA Primary School.

The Interim Executive Board (IEB) has been in place for The Saints Federation since June 2022 and has applied to the DfE to join St Benet's Multi-academy Trust, who will then appoint their governors and trustees. As we wait for the academisation process in the DfE schedule, we are in a position to consider forming a local governing body for this transition, hopefully for the start of the new academic year. The Instrument of Governance entitles the local parish a place on the board so we would be asking for a new representative, after the replacement of the previous board with the IEB, and would like to offer an invitation for a new member to join the shadow board with the IEB at our next meeting on 1st May at 9.30 at the school or the following meeting on 6th June at 1pm. Please let me know if you wish to accept this invitation and the name of the representative.

Further details of governance are available on the school website including the IEB Minutes of meeting and the Action Planning.

I would also like to update that the SIAMS church school inspection report of July 2023 is on the school website. It recognises the many strengths of the school as "The Christian vision is lived out in the flourishing of all, especially the vulnerable. A firmly established environment built on safety, dignity and respect is a driving force for school leaders."

The Ofsted report in June 2023, which is on the website, recognised that "Hapton is a happy school where everybody is valued. The school's Christian values are at the heart of pupils' experiences. Pupils are safe and cared for. Leaders have a clear passion to promote a love of reading."

We are delighted to have appointed a permanent Executive Headteacher, Mrs Esme Sexton, who starts her new role in September 2024. She is currently working as the Deputy EHT so is in a good position to carry forward the school improvement and development plans. We have also appointed a Deputy Headteacher who takes up role in September.

We continue to work with The Saints Federation on its journey to secure sustainable success and positive outcomes for all pupils in the local communities.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Kay Swann

Kay Swann

Chair Interim Executive Board

Appendix 2

**St Margaret's Hapton
Annual Report
Hapton and Tharston Parish Council
May 2024**

Hapton Church hosted services every month during the summer from April, culminating in the ever popular Harvest Festival service in September when the church was beautifully decorated by Quinton Spratt and Richard Martin. A Christmas Carol service was also held as usual in December.

The church hosted a wedding in June 2023, and a baptism in April 2024 and is hosting a wedding again in June 2024 for a local couple.

The church wardens have been grateful for the support of the Parish Council in helping with our fund raising challenge of raising £20,000 for repairs to ensure the roof remains watertight, as well as to enable the repairs to windows and gutters, and removal of branches from nearby tree that was in danger of falling on the church.

We held a Jazz in the Garden party at Hapton House in June 2023, a Hapton History weekend with tea and cake stall at the church over the Coronation weekend, and hosted a Hapton History Group meeting at Hapton House in early 2024. Together with fund raising from the PC Quiz and Chips event, and donations from two local trusts, R C Snelling and John Jarrold Trust, we have so far raised £12,000 towards our target.

We would welcome continued opportunities to raise funds alongside the Parish Council and for any donations from trusts that may be available via the Parish Council.

Michelle Martin
Tony Bate

Church Wardens St Margaret's Hapton

Bank details:
Upper Tas Valley All Saints PCC sort code 20-99-08, number 53537676

Payment ref - Hapton Fabric Fund

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024

THARSTON POORS' ALLOTMENTS CHARITY

For those of you who do not know this small Charity was formed in 1804, and its income is derived from 2 small parcels of land in Tharston, which produces a rent each year, which was historically distributed as Bread and Coal to the 'needy' in the village of Tharston.

The land continues to be rented out on an annual basis, and the proceeds can be distributed to households in the village. The income is just over £300 annually, and this year we carried out some maintenance on the land.

From time to time we remind the parishioners of the village that this Charity exists, and that students may apply for a contribution from this charity if they are embarking on further education.

There are 4 Trustees, whose appointments are for a 4 year term.

The current Trustees are Gerald Barnes, Jimmy Mills, Sue Hubbard and Helen Lawson

Tharston & Hapton APM: Update from Redwings Horse Sanctuary (May 2024)

As a UK-wide charity, we continue to work with our peers on the national survey of horse owners and rescue centres about the impact of the Cost-of-Living crisis, which is being repeated and measured. The information in this survey is being shared and discussed with DEFRA and is of national use.

Our centres are still at capacity, but the demanding economic landscape means that it makes even more sense to loan a horse from a rescue centre rather than buy; our horses out on loan remain in our ownership so can be returned if circumstances change. We rehomed over 100 horses in 2023 and restricted our horse rescues to those in need of special care, whilst working with owners outside the sanctuary to help them make the best decision for their horse.

Our joint project with the University of East Anglia (UEA) to publish a new edition of the Black Beauty book was launched on the anniversary of Anna Sewell's birth in November, with the proceeds going to support our welfare work. We were honoured to welcome Her Majesty Queen Camilla to look at our interpretation display illustrating the importance of Black Beauty in horse welfare. Her Majesty was able to share her fondness for this special book and passion for horse welfare and meet staff, volunteers, and representatives from Great Yarmouth. This project has widened the understanding of horse welfare and its importance in society.

Our education work continues; we run apprenticeships and work with colleges in Norfolk and beyond. Our vets receive students who want to learn about non-commercial practice, or our specialist work in geriatric horse care, nutrition, behaviour, or biosecurity.

Our visitor centres host groups from other charities, including Wellbeing and Dementia charities, the groups benefit from meeting at the cafes and being able to walk outside and engage with our rescued herds.

Of note is that we have had to call the Police out for many incidents, most recently of vandalism and trespass. We are finding less respect for private property and land, as a result of which we are needing to spend charity resources investing in more security measures and additional protocols. The Police have advised us to take photographs of any wayward visitors and have been very helpful and responsive. In another local parish, facilities on an allotment have been damaged and they too have had to increase their CCTV.

Should any suspicious activity concern you then do phone our Head Office at Hapton on 01508 505246 or email info@redwings.co.uk to log your concern.

Thank you, Lynn Cutress, Chief Executive