

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at
The Community Building, Holly Lane, Hapton
On 16th October 2024 at 7.00pm.

In Attendance: Mr N Potter (chair)
Mr T Ward
Mr G Bleach
Mr D Daniels
MR V Blake
Mr A Arber (clerk)

1 members of the public plus County Councillor Alison Thomas and District Councillor Kim Carsok.

- 1. Public Participation**– County and District Council reports can also be received during this time. (10 minutes maximum).

Alison Thomas report

Recycling centre booking can be done online as long as booking slots start on 18/11 and you can book on the 16th for a hazardous items amnesty and items taken to Harford bridge Recycling centre.

Cabinet discussed the budget proposals and is now out to consultation along with the level of council tax due too as there may not be a social care budget at the time.

Supported living units have started with one at Hunstanton and one at Norwich.

New youth violence session and that children are being exploited into drug dealing and gang dealing and a session on Joe dix foundation and how the family life changed due to Joe Dix death. He was chased by 3 individuals and stabbed to death, and they have also been going round schools talking about this too.

New director of Adult Social services and the Long Stratton bypass is making good progress.

Kim Carsok reported

Cabinet has agreed to knock down the john Grose sight in diss. Partners are being sought to ensure the area is used correctly

New living accommodation round is going through for refugees

Members ward grant has gone through

Wacton Battery storage has not yet gone to planning and that could take a year to go through with other going through.

- 2. Apologies** – To consider accepting apologies for absence.

Jenna Goodall-Browne sent her apologies, all agreed to accept

- 3. Minutes** – To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 18th of September 2024.

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the chair

Proposed: Nick Potter

Seconded: Vic Blake

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

Tim Ward for a payment in item 8

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5. Planning

- To discuss the Planned Open Space Land
Nothing has been received on this.
- 2024/2452 Location: Land to The Rear of Greenmantle Fundenhall Road Hapton Norfolk
Proposal: Change of use to camping site for tents only, with dedicated toilet facilities, designated fire pit and bar area (retrospective) and conversion of stable to holiday let
The clerk had produced the plans, and it was noted that this was a retrospective application, and a lot of the work had been done without planning permission and had upset the local neighbour whilst it was being done. The district councillor and others have put objections to the planning and requested that it goes to full planning committee due to the application being turned down once before by full committee and the parish council would again request this on various grounds that are noted on the application such as no streetlights, Excessive traffic, late drinking hours, no parking, Flooding and above all the plans are not suitable to a rural area. All agreed and the clerk will submit our objection asap and again request it goes to full planning committee
- 2024/2853
Location: Five Acres Chequers Road Tharston Norfolk NR15 2ZN
Proposal: Outline planning permission for the erection of 8 dwellings with all matters reserved except for access
Application Type: Outline Planning Permission
It was agreed to approve the application
- 2024/2854 Location: The Bungalow High Road Hapton Norfolk NR15 1SB
Proposal: Erection of 1.5 storey outbuilding to include a workshop, garage, home office/studio with a balcony and the demolition of existing office, workshop, and store outbuildings
Application Type: Householder
It was agreed to approve this application
- To discuss Planning Applications and any received after the agenda is posted
2024/2885
Location: April Cottage Plump Road Tharston Norfolk NR15 2YR
Proposal: Installation of an external EV charging point
Application Type: Listed Building Consent
It was agreed to approve this application

6. Governance - To update all the relevant Policies including new NPTS Standing Order and Financial regulations plus new General Risk Assessment. Plus, AI policy.

Proposed: Nick Potter

Seconded: David Daniels

7. To agree the Appointment of a Parish handyman and agree salary and contract

The clerk, Chair and Vice chair had met with the applicant for the position, and he seemed suitable for the role and has his own van and tools and is willing to work the contracted 5 hours per week on a self-employed basis at an hourly rate of £14.45 per hour.

. this was discussed by all councillors present, and all agreed this was the best way forward and the clerk was tasked with contacting the applicant asap on this subject.

Proposed: Nick Potter

Seconded: Graham Bleach

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8. Finance –

- To note receipts in September
 - 2nd Precept payment received £12,522.62
 - Members ward Grant £200.00
 - Simon’s landscaping Newsletter Advert £72.00
 - Redwings Newsletter Advert £72.00
 - Metrod Newsletter Advert £80.00
 - Vat Refund £5465.38
 - SNDC CAF Grant £10,000
 - Pride in place final draw down £15,000

- **To approving the following invoices for payment:**

1. To approve Payments to Parish Clerk Alan Arber for Sept salary and expenses £796.11
- 2.. To approve payment for Clerks pension for Sept £275.54
3. To approve payment to HMRC for Tax and NI £35.62
4. To approve quarterly payment to Unity Trust for bank charges £18.00
5. To approve payment to Royal British legion for Poppy wreaths £40.00
6. To approve payment to Wensum Print for newsletter £400.00
7. To approve payment to Tim ward for Solar battery £25.99
8. To approve payment to 3 mobile for Direct debit for security sim cards £40.54
9. To approve payment to PKF Littlejohn For external audit £252.00
10. To approve monthly payment for Credit card, charge £3.00
11. To approve payment to Lloyd for Credit card Purchases as detailed below
12. To approve payment to Bangood for security camera on Credit card £213.10
13. To approve payment to Amazon for Tank adapter £11.98
14. To approve any payments that come in after the agenda is posted.
15. To receive the External auditors report and note any actions

The clerk reported that the external auditors report has now been received and no issues were reported. **The clerk was thanked for his work on this**

16. To receive the financial position of the council as of 1st October 2024

The clerk reported that the council was in a good position as all grants applied for are in along with the final Pride in place draw down request and the vat reclaim of £5465.38 had also been received and after today’s payments the council sits with a balance in the bank of £28,536.38, bit we still have the planting of the sensory and commemorative garden to come out of that figure and it is hoped that we will have around the 75% surplus we should hold at year end.

17. To note the clerks, work on the new budget and set budget meeting date

The clerk had done a lot of work on the budget and all councillors had a copy for them to look over and bring their thoughts to the November meeting when this would be discussed in full by all councillors ready for the budget meeting either at the November meeting or early December.

18. To agree the appointment of Sonya Blythe as our internal auditor for 2024-2025

It was agreed by all councillors that we would appoint Sonya Blythe as our Internal auditor for the year end 2024-2025 and the clerk will contact Sonya to advise her of this

Proposed: David Daniels

Seconded: Nick Potter

8. Highways – to receive any updates regarding highways and footpaths.

- Highway issues

Nothing reported

- To discuss the Proposed Long Stratton new development and Land west of Long Stratton.

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In principle David had written to the developers but had no response. The biggest challenge to us is we can do anything we want but with their being drainage or attenuation pond. In a meeting with the developers, we would want a seat on the management companies board, and we would not be happy if the same management board at Tharston Meadows as they have done nothing.

The land to the west of Long Stratton has been sold to Norfolk Homes and the homes they propose to build, and design is not of a great quality of the houses and had been done before the new regulations come in and this does not meet our requirements. It was proposed that David keeps looking into this and keep the council up to date.

9. To receive an update on the following current issues and to consider any necessary actions:

- Tree warden's Report

Nothing reported

- Footpath Issues

Nothing reported

- Maintenance

Nothing reported

10. To receive an update on the Hapton Community Project

- **To discuss the possibility of installing wi-fi in the cabin**

The clerk has looked into this and the main cost would be around £50 a month for a mobile dongle that is not that stable, but had conversations with a company at the national conference that could install a stable wi-fi system into the cabin at an approximate cost of £72 per month, A discussion continued, and it was agreed to look into this in the coming weeks to get all the information for the November Meeting.

- **To agree to purchase and install new security cameras at the Community project**

These have been done with the help of a £200 grant from District councillor Kim Carsok

- **To discuss Vandalism in the community project**

The council had held conversations with the police on this issue and with the new signage they have provided we hope that the issue will dissipate but we urge everyone to report to the clerk or police as the article in the newsletter should they witness any vandalism in the coming months.

- **New Disabled Friendly compostable toilet**

The clerk had looked into this and the only way we could do it without a cost of over £4,000 is to get another compostable toilet and a kit to make it accessible with handrails etc at a cost of around £1500 from the company we used before.

11. To discuss the latest Pylons information

The clerk had sent the letter round from our local MP Mr Goldsborough, and it has created a lot of issues with his reply and the lack of help he will be giving to the issues the scheme is creating and it was asked if we could invite him to a meeting to see the scale of the destruction it would cause in Hapton and the surrounding area.

12. To discuss the Norfolk Homes land and what next steps are

Dealt with already

13. To discuss Parish Projects.

- Newsletter

All done for Autumn edition and very well received, and the clerk is now starting the Xmas Edition

- Sam Machine

It appears the one in Hapton is not recording correctly and the clerk commented that we can apply for a new one via the new parish partnership scheme this was dismissed as not needed.

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- Tharston Phone box
The clerk had contacted the management company (who was quite useless), but they have no dates free till November to meet to discuss the siting. He will keep onto this to get it moving asap. A site needs sorting before we move it onto the site.
 - Parish Councillors/Clerk training/Personal development
The clerk will be attending the NPTS autumn seminar and had also recently attended a Parish Online mapping seminar which he felt would benefit the council at a cost of £56 per year plus Vat. It was agreed to get this system on place asap. The clerk also commented that the national conference was not quite as good as normal but one thing that cam from it is that he has been requested to write an article for the Clerk magazine and to also attend the National Municipal clerks conference next year in Holland.
Proposed; Nick Potter Seconded: David Daniels
 - Village Hall Fundraising ideas/The Vision/Community Area fundraising ideas
Take off agenda
 - New Defibrillator and Defib Training dates to be fixed.
The clerk had shown the councillors how to use the defib before this meeting but had been made aware of the training that another Parish Council will be hosting.
 - Surveyors Land
Planting of the Xmas Trees needs doing asap along with other trees that are due. The chair would take the new handyman to look at the project at the land and if he would like the extra hours to deal with the project.
 - Hapton Phone Box
All good and still used by all parishioners.
 - Neighbourhood watch
New signs from the police have been erected and it was agreed we would purchase some bin signs once in stock
 - Meeting House Field and new dog lead signage
It was felt that we need a keep dogs on a lead sign for the Community Field as there have been people on the security camera with dog not on a lead. The clerk will action this asap.
 - Parish Orchard at Old Village Hall site
Trees are good and fruit bushes need replacing and around 12 hedge plants need replanting.
 - Gov.uk Councillor email accounts
All councillors except one are on the new system and this needs to be done asap as the old system will close at the end of October.
 - Dog mess in the village
Continues to be an issue and it was agreed if any parishioners have seen this happen, we would report to environmental health at SNDC and request they are fined
 - V E Day celebration
The red lamp of peace had arrived, and it would be lit on the day in the evening and all parishioners invited to join the celebration.
- 14. To receive a report from the Speed watch Group**
Nothing to report as nothing done since last meeting and the numbers are very low and it was requested that we have a recruitment drive to help
- 15. To discuss Green Initiatives moving forward including recycling and actions on the biodiversity policy**
Tim went to Norfolk wildlife habitat plan and Tim is starting to write one and will bring to the next meeting for our 4 parcels of land

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- **Green recycling of blister packs and razors**

It was thought we should contact the doctor's surgery on having them near their premises with us providing the bins. One also in the phone box in Hapton.

16. Public Participation (10 minutes)

Did anyone here no they are proposing another big solar farm at Flordon, and we have had no notification as yet. Why have Flordon not informed us. Clerk will contact Flordon Parish council on this asap.

17. To receive items for the next agenda.

Budget

Clerks Appraisal

Mobile internet for the cabin

Christmas party

Flordon Solar farm

Next Meeting Weds 13th November 2024

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.