

# THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at Church Rooms, Hapton  
On 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.30pm.

**In Attendance:** Mr Nick Potter (Chair) Mr Alan Arber (clerk)  
Mrs Jenna Goodall Browne  
Mr Graham Bleach  
Mr V Blake  
Mr C Hewitt (joined after item 4)

**Two members of the public were in attendance  
Including District Councillor Barry Duffin**

## Public participation

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

No public participation.

Alison Thomas reported the following to the meeting via email.

Long Stratton bypass I chair the member steering group which will oversee the planning and delivery of the bypass project within the wider development.

It is hoped that we will be moving to planning determination Dec/Jan so this is the next milestone.

Pleased that the Neighbourhood plan has been agreed so that it can influence that decision.

I am pushing hard to get the Lead Local Flood Authority to show its teeth in enforcing action on riparian owned ditches to prevent issues arising again this winter. The legal powers are limited but I am pushing for us to evaluate those.

Barry Duffin made the following report

Village clusters now moving towards finalising.

*Standing Orders were reinstated.*

### 1. Apologies

Tim Ward and Alison Thomas sent their apologies and everyone agreed to accept.

### 2. C-option - To co-opt new councillor to Tharston and Hapton Council

Chris Hewitt Introduced himself to the Councillors and gave a brief resume of why he wanted to join the Council. A vote was then taken and it was agreed that Chris joins the council after signing the Acceptance of Office forms.

**Proposed Nick Potter Secoded Jenna Goodall Brown**

### 3. Co-option - New councillor to sign the Acceptance of Office and register of Interests forms witnessed by the clerk

Chris signed The acceptance of Office form which was duly witnessed by The Clerk and duly joined the meeting.

### 4. Minutes

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and were duly signed by the chair.

**Proposed Graham Bleach. Secoded Jenna Goodall Browne. All Agreed to accept.**

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

None

6. **Planning Applications.**

- To discuss the Planned Open Space Land Adoption.  
**Nothing Received**
- Planning Application.  
Planning Application 2021/1525 works to TPO trees in Tharston was refused

7. **Highways.**

- **Highways Issues.**

The clerk commented that he had received another complaint regarding speeding on Chequers road and would contact the police on this issue urgently

The council received a letter replying from The owner of Horsenford farm and the bridleways has now been cleared and workable.

All works listed last month had been dealt with by Highways.

Drain on top of Cow Lane needs reporting and needs digging out as its blocked and is the one on the verge

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

No report

8. **Finance**

- To approve Payments to Parish Clerk Alan Arber for Oct salary and expenses £766.38
- To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Fund for Clerks Pension in October £219.08
- To approve Payment British Recycled Plastics for benches for Hapton Project £2214.60
- To approve payment for Newsletter to Pride Press £378.00
- To approve payment of two invoices to Stanton and Stubbs for maintenance projects £469.75
- To approve payment to The Clerk for manuals purchased for his role £79.96
- To approve any payments for Hapton Community Project
- No new payments came in after the agenda posted.

**Proposed Nick Potter Seconded Graham Bleach.**

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 bank account is up and running and it was hoped that all three signatories were able to access the account to authorise payments and this would be the last time we use cheques unless in an emergency. It was agreed that Tim ward would be asked to be a signatory

9. **To receive an update on Current Issues and to consider any necessary action.**

**Tree Warden's Report**

No Report

**Footpath Wardens Report**

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No report but Footpath Warden will Sue look at issues and report direct to the clerk  
Clerk to speak to SNDC regarding the Bins being emptied  
Cross road signs and 30mph overgrown along with fingerpost on FP5 on the street  
Hapton  
Road sign on hall lane/Parkes lane reported to Kim Styles and will be replaced in the 6-8  
week's timescale

## Village maintenance

Sign stapled over the police information on the noticeboard and damaged the board and  
needs a call to inform them. Clerk to contact the company along with Slimming world on  
the same issue.

Gary Bentley needs to cut the hedge on Surveyor's land but currently is suffering from  
health issues at present but will continue to press on as he can. Sue Wardale reported that  
her daughter will help with new hedge and the chairman has the fencing to repair the hole  
done by the recent thefts. Signs work is carrying on by Gary Bentley

### • **Tree Species**

- Hedge on meeting House field
- Surveyors land hedge or field
- New field on community project

It was agreed the clerk would look at the how we get these and would report at the next  
meeting regarding the woodland trust free trees.

Barry Duffin commented that he had £1000 to spend from his members ward budget and  
will collaborate with the clerk on this project and agreed will work with the district  
councillors on this asap.

County councillor Alison Thomas to be contacted on the new tree project with Norfolk  
county council on this issue

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

The Long Stratton Neighbourhood Plan has now been voted in at a recent poll.

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

Play area is now useable and the green area looks better and looks better but  
councillors were concerned about the area in the long term. It was agreed to monitor  
the area in the future.

## **12. To receive an update on Hapton Community Project**

The Play Area has been started and it is hoped will be completed by mid-November.  
There had been an incident where the contractor's digger had been stolen due to the  
hire company not collecting the equipment on the correct day  
Community Building deposit to Scott's Sheds has been paid and delivery is due late  
January/Early February 2022

A decision is needed on the date the pad is to be installed and the compostable toilets  
are purchased and the contractor to install them allocated. A walkway to be installed to  
the toilets plus a metre out the front for tables.

Clerk to get more information on the compostable toilets.

## **13. To receive an update on flooding in the parish.**

Flood report due out soon and clerk to add to website/Newsletter when received  
For parishioners affected to access and make the necessary claims and comments

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## 14. To discuss Parish Projects.

- **Newsletter.**

The latest edition of the Newsletter was well received by many parishioners  
The chair asked if more information from local parishioners to make it more local with things like recipes etc.

- **SAM Machines.**

The SAM machine had been downloaded for Tharston and there was a few issues to report even though parishioners are reporting an increase in speeding something reported earlier in the meeting and the clerk will take this up with the police ASAP.

- **Phone Box**

Tharston Church are not happy with siting the phone box on the council's land as they already have a book exchange in the Church that parishioners use. They have also asked that we contact the Heal family and the diocese on the subject of siting the compostable toilet ASAP (Clerk to Action ASAP). A new site needs locating.

- **Surveyors Land.**

It was agreed that we would ask Helen Sibley to serve notice to The Tenant asap and The clerk had contacted Helen but no reply received yet and The clerk will contact again to ensure notice has been served

- **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. The clerk had attended the SLCC National conference and forwarded a report to the chair for his attention. Training needed for new councillor Chris Hewitt.

- **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**

No report

- **Hapton Phone Box**

The bookshelves and lights are all in place and look fantastic

- **Neighbourhood watch**

The Clerk has forwarded the link to Graham for him to log on and create his own account to work with this.

- **Meeting House Field**

A discussion took place on the possibility of making Meeting House Field a dog walker's/Training and running area. Graham Bleach will print out details for the next meeting. Clerk to get GLS to quote for the work.

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

It is slowly moving forward and the online training will be on-site for the seven volunteers and then the equipment being handover. Three new members cleared and emails sent on the training video and then the group will be doing on site training to start the process.

## **16. To discuss Green Initiatives for the council moving forward**

Many items were discussed during the meeting on Green items such as tree planting and this will continue to be looked at over the coming months

## **17. Public participation.**

None

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

**Climate Change initiatives**

**Chairman Training**

**Policies Update**

**Surveyors Land**

**Budget Meeting date**

**Queens platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

Next Parish Meeting Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.**