

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at
The Community Building, Holly Lane, Hapton
On 10th April 2024 at 7.00pm.

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

2 members of the public

Public Participation

Standing Orders were suspended to allow the public to speak.

County Councillor Alison Thomas gave no report.

District Councillor Kim Carsok gave the following report.
Appendix 1

Standing Orders were reinstated.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from David Daniel's and Jenna Goodall Browne All agreed to accept.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 13th March 2024 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.

Proposer: Nick Potter Seconder: Graham Bleach

3. Declarations of Interest

Nick Potter for a payment
Graham Bleach for a payment
All agreed.

4. Planning

- **To discuss the Planned Open space**
Nothing to report.
- **Planning Application**
2024/0965 Alderbreck Cottage, The Street Hapton
Demolition of existing stable building and erection of replacement stable building.
Replace previous approved Juliet balcony with fixed balcony

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The Parish council discussed this, and it was agreed to support the application. All agreed

5. Finances

To note receipts in March 2024

Vat refund £151.92

Important payment made between the meeting.

None

Payments made at this meeting.

I.	Clerks' salary March 2024 (includes overtime for work on grant application as agreed in March meeting)	£1221.58
II.	To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Fund for Clerks Pension March	£378.69
III.	To approve payment to Hapton service Station for maintenance item	£9.60
IV.	To approve payment to Graham Bleach for maintenance Items	£74.00
V.	To approve payment to Nick Potter for maintenance items	£51.22
VI.	To approve payment to B Ward for new invertor system for cabin	£530.04
VII.	To approve payment to Hutchinson 3G for security sims in cameras	£40.54
VIII.	To approve payment to Lloyds for monthly credit card charge	£3.00
IX.	To approve payment to K Grayling for new trail camera	£63.36
X.	To approve payment to ICO for annual subscription	£35.00
XI.	To approve payment to Wensum Print for Newsletter	£400.00
XII.	To approve payment to Amazon for plastic newsletter holder on credit card	£16.48

XIII. To receive the up-to-date financial report.

The clerk reported that the figure at the end of March was £24,330.92 which matched the figure on the bank reconciliation for this month and once all payments are made the total at the start of May will be £21,507.41 plus any receipts received in April.

Proposed: Nick Potter Seconded: Tim Ward

XIV To receive the year end bank Reconciliation for 2023-2024

The clerk produced this for the councillors, and it showed the final balance at the end of March 2024 to be £24,330.92 and this matched the bank statement and the chair duly signed as a true record of the yearend total.

XIV. To receive, agree and approve section 1 of the AGAR Annual governance Statements

The clerk took the councillors through these one by one to ensure we met the criteria, and all agreed we did meet the criteria to answer yes to all statements, and it was agreed to adopt these at this meeting as correct.

Proposed: Tim Ward Seconded: Vic Blake

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- XV. To receive, agree and approve section 2 of the AGAR Accounting Statements and ensure they are correct. All councillors were happy these were correct and agreed to adopt them at this meeting as correct.

Proposed: Tim Ward Seconded: Vic Blake

6. Governance

The clerk reported that he was slowly going through the new NPTS standing orders and these would be ready to adopt at the May Annual parish meeting.

7. To receive details of the meeting with cornerstone regarding on Long Stratton and how it affects the Parish council

Councillor David Daniels has contacted cornerstone with some dates, and we await the replies as to when the meeting will take place.

8. Highways

Highways issues

The clerk has raised many issues with Highways especially the damage to the verge in chequers road and the fly tipping in Marsh Lane and it was noted this continues to be a problem so due to this issue the parish council continues to monitor the area for further incidents. The fly tipping waste was not anything big and looked just like garage clearance items and rabbit and guinea pig items.

Pothole reports also sent in and all noted by highways.

A question was asked on when the council depots are open and what they will take, and it was agreed to put this information in the July newsletter

Long Stratton Development.

No report

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

Tree Warden report

Nothing on trees in general and the planting for the surveyor's land was sent to the clerk on the 7 different species of Xmas tree in 5 different plots with 5 different species not available till September and a bowser would be needed to help with watering. A question was asked that we wait till September to order on block then.

Ken grayling is leaving the parish and needs to hand over the paperwork as he is giving up the tree warden role. Ken will contact the clerk to arrange to get the items to the Hapton community area storage shed. With Ken leaving the post will be advertised in the July newsletter

Footpath issues

Nothing to report

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Maintenance

The 240-volt system has been installed and the part p certification being difficult to get done so will not be turned on until the certificate is achieved. Gary Bentley is currently out of action and Plan to garden have been approached to undertake the grass cutting in during this time. A price of £275 was brought forward per cut with lots of small areas to be included along with the orchard, surveyors land and the small village green area along with a few other parts.

Paul Riches will get the Community project in the coming weeks cut and will be asked if he is interested in undertaking the work detailed above. Graham Bleach will speak with Paul Riches on this asap. It was also hoped that wildflower areas would not be cut so we can get wildflower paths left into the area of meeting house field. Questions were asked on the dog owners using meeting house field and that it is not just for that purpose that everyone should be able to be use the field along with the wildflower areas. Discussion ensued on how the wildflower area could be done and it was agreed that further research was needed on this but hoped we get start the project asap.

10. To receive an update on the Hapton Community Project and plan events for 2023-2024

The clerk reported that he had sent all the information back to South Norfolk Council that was required, and it is hoped to hold a meeting with the contractor to get all the plans in place for the start and the actual structure of the contract and plans.

11. To discuss the latest pylons Information

The clerk has now received the latest consultation documents and will put the information on the website and noticeboards asap. The statutory period starts at noon today until it is completed in June. A parishioner is finding it hard to read the document online via their website and there are only 2 local consultation times and the short notice do make it exceedingly difficult to get to the consultations and they must adhere to the gunning principles including ensuring they meet the criteria of the Gunning principles and that the final decision must meet and give their parishioners due time to attend events and get the parishioners points of view across. Three footpaths and bridleways are affected by the route, and it was noted that we must contact other parish councils to see what they are doing. The parishioners feel railroaded on this and is having an effect on people's mental health and living areas.

12. To discuss Parish Projects.

- **Newsletter.**
The new parish newsletter has been widely received as an exceptionally good +upgrade on the old versions and the clerk has informed Wensum print of this. New items for the July newsletter are required asap. The invoices will go out once the clerk has finished the work on year-end. The chair asked that more help is given to the clerk in proofreading the newsletter.
- **SAM Machines.**
The clerk reported that he had not yet received the data from Long Stratton for the SAM 2 in Chequers Road and is endeavouring to download the Hapton Sam 2 once the new batteries are sourced as we need them.
- **Tharston Phone Box**
The clerk has contacted the management company on this and awaits their reply as he has taken it over from Chris Hewitt since he left the council. The phone box needs fixing and looking at asap to get it ready to site at Tharston Meadows.
- **Parish Councillors and Clerk training.**

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The clerk along with Jenna, David, and Tim attended the pride in bloom seminar and it was very enlightening and enjoyable giving many ideas and thoughts to be discussed in the coming weeks and meetings. The clerk also requested if the council would work with his other councils in him attending the annual SLCC Annual Conference in October and hopefully practitioners conference in January. All agreed

- **Village Hall Fundraising**

No report

- **Hapton Phone Box**

The phone box continues to be well used and now look very tidy and graham has cleared out some books and added 2 shelves. There are also DVDs in the phone box for all to take and watch

- **Defib training**

The clerk noted that we are looking to run this ourselves as no other councils are running any except Tivetshall but as, yet no date had been arranged. The new defib is installed and should be operational in the next 2 weeks. The new defib is on the circuit and a bleed kit is needed

- **Surveyors land**

Graham had spoken with a contractor on this and all that is needed is maintenance and this will be told to the contractor and just needs a general tidy up A quote will be asked for on this before going ahead. The camera has been moved to catch number plates for such things as Fly Tipping and people using the area as a toilet and the camera is going well and cyclist and wildlife have been seen in the area.

- **Neighbourhood watch**

Nothing to report

- **Meeting house Field**

No report and dealt with earlier

- **Community Orchard**

Pylon banner has been erected and David reported that he had replaced the 3 sets of damaged wire restraints and has trimmed and tied in the bushes that had achieved an acceptable height. However, he reported that most plants are not doing well, which he suspects is due to the dominance of the trees and he will look at a new feeding regime in the coming weeks. He also reported that work needs to be done on the Tap and that Ken Grayling will strim back the weeds on the plot that are taking over the site. David also reported that with ken leaving the parish we would need to get a grass cutting plan in place with our contractor urgently.

- **Gov.com emails**

The clerk reported that these are almost ready to be implemented and will send the details round once all finalised.

- **Dog mess in the village**

It was reported that the situation has not got any better and more people are talking and pulling people up to say we would prosecute if caught on CCTV or in person.

- **Big Litter Pick**

There are people picking up along with Sue, Jenna and her girls and the clerk would enter the council into the project

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

Next speed watch is on Thursday 11th April between 4-5.30pm and this will be the first one this year due to the extra light making it easier.

14. Green Initiatives.

The clerk reported that he had produced the action plan with the help of Councillor Tim Ward and asked that councillors look at it and come back with comments asap on the plan.

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A discussion ensued on the possibility of putting a recycling box for people that have medication to put their waste medicinal blister packs recycling packaging in and it would be sited at Hapton community cabin.

2 contractors had been found that provide these and they are Terra-cycle and myrefactory who are the cheaper option at around £80 per box. It was agreed that the clerk would look into this and report back in the May meeting. It would also go in the July newsletter to inform everyone in the parish of the facility

A campaign is also available for razor blades to be recycled and again as this meets the councils green plan it would go in the newsletter in July to inform parishioners of the scheme

It was also agreed we would look to enter our new part of the community project for the sensory and memorial garden in the new RHS in Your neighbourhood campaign. Reusing plant pots is also a new campaign and a n idea is to recycle these twice a year at an event in the coming months.

The clerk to email church benefices on siting the boxes in the church lobbies.

15. Public participation

None

To receive items for the next agenda.

Internal audit report
Sign on Fundenhall road to be looked at
Biodiversity policy
Newsletter
Tharston Fete

Next Parish Council Meetings Annual meeting of the parish 6.30-7pm Wednesday at Hapton community Cabin 15th May then at 7pm onward Hapton annual Parish meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Update for Parish Councils 10/04/2024

Kim Carsok, South Norfolk District Councillor for Forncett Ward

- Councillor Fuller has recently become Lord Fuller, and as he will be sitting in the House of Lords he will be stepping down in May as Leader of the Council. The new Leader will be elected at the AGM in May.
- Greater Norwich Local Plan – this has been approved by SNC at the March meeting.
- Wymondham Public Realm Improvements – The Town Council has agreed to co-invest with SNC on improvements to Wymondham town Centre. Funds will be provided from proceeds of the sale of the old Town Council building on Middleton Street and the CIL co-investment fund. A working group of Councillors and officers is being formed and work on public consultation and feasibility will begin soon.
- District Direct Funding – Cabinet has agreed to enter into contract negotiations with the ICB and County Council to ensure the service continues long term. The DD Team supports with admission prevention and speeding up discharge from the NNUH, by quickly dealing with social and practical issues for the patient. They also work with Hellesdon, community hospitals and the ambulance trust.
The team deals with around 340 referrals a month. The NNUH believes that a referral to District Direct shortens time in hospital by seven days. In this financial year District Direct will have dealt with 3,600 referrals saving 25,200 bed days. This is the equivalent of two wards for a year! This represents a bed day saving equating to over twenty million pounds. This service ensures that people do not remain in hospital any longer than they have to, and that social and environmental issues do not result in unnecessary, distressing, and disruptive hospital admissions. People are enabled and supported to remain in their own homes thus enhancing their independence as well as alleviating pressure on NHS in-patient facilities and Adult Social Care.
- Long Stratton Surgery Visit – Following questions raised by Forncett PC, I visited Long Stratton Surgery and spent the morning listening in on the phones with the senior receptionist. There are certainly pressures on the service but no more than any other surgery in Norfolk. The team offers same day appointments for urgent issues and a rolling two week booking for routine appointments. The building work is now complete, so more room capacity is available. They are doing their best to hire more practitioners to ensure appointment availability. They also continue to work with senior management at Well Pharmacy relating to complaints on the service.
- Pride in Place grants have now been completed. The third round had triple the number of applications. Hapton & Tharston Parish Council received funds for their community garden and the Woodland Club in Tacolneston also received money for improvements to the building.
- The Community Action Fund has been increased to £150,000 for this coming financial year, with the maximum grant per project of £20,000. Applications will open after the PCC elections in May.