

# THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at  
The Community Building, Holly Lane, Hapton  
On 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.00pm.

**In Attendance:** Mr N Potter (chair)  
Mr T Ward  
Mr G Bleach  
Mr C Hewitt  
Mrs J Goodall-Browne  
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 from 8pm**

## **Public Participation**

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

County Councillor Alison Thomas gave the following report.

Alison Thomas had sent the clerk a letter of support for our pride in place grant.

Alison then commented that her highways budget has all been spent but is willing to look at schemes for the parish when the new Highways budget is in place.

Problems with flooding with fords closed which has caused consternation from certain people.

Better broadband projects and mobile phone coverage that is pretty poor in our area and a new initiative to put monitoring equipment on the bin lorries to show the coverage of mobile phones and will provide data to show where the lack of coverage is in place. It was noted the telephone companies are difficult to deal with.

The county budget is proving to be difficult this coming year and is as difficult as Alison has ever seen in her 40 years as a county councillor. The elderly care package and learning disabilities has caused these issues and other problems and the budget meeting will be at County on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 with a final budget meeting being held at the late in Feb or early March.

The grant from government has reduced which also does not help the issues.

The proposals will be known for the cuts soon.

A question was raised on the passing place on Holly Lane needs upgrading and this could be done by Alison highways budget once given in the start of financial year 2024.

Long Stratton bypass road closures are starting to be enforced and the final business case has gone to government for final sign off and the allocation of the funds.

A question was asked on the archaeological dig on the planning of the bypass but as yet this has not been seen by anyone but there was only small artifacts found the Alison is aware of.

District Councillor Kim Carsok gave the following report.

The new initiative of Right care Right person has been put forward were the Police and other agencies can attend in the right context but as yet there is no funding in place for the scheme to start. Once this is in place it will assist the help hub connectors

# THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

to work in the evenings and nights to aid those people that need the help in the correct way.

Flood Damage grants are now available for any parishioners that have suffered flood damage in the recent storms.

Nutrient Neutrality is moving forward with the Credits Norfolk scheme hoping to be in a position to sell credits to the small building companies.

The public space protection order in South Norfolk is also in place to allow the police to stop things such as car meets in Wymondham and Longwater lane, The main hotspots at present, to be shut down quicker.

The help hub outreach vehicle has now been delivered and there are trail runs being done at present and it is hoped that the full schedule will be known in the spring and councils can request a visit from the help hub bus on any issues they may encounter.

Finally, the pride in place deadline is Jan 31<sup>st</sup> and the pride in place clean it and bloom event is being held at Wymondham rugby club on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March with each parish allowed 4 attendees at a cost of £20pp.

*Standing Orders were reinstated.*

## 1. Apologies

Apologies received from Footpath warden Sue Wardale all agreed to accept.

## 2. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairperson as a true record of the meeting.

**Proposer: Nick Potter    Seconder: David Daniels**

## 3. Declarations of Interest

Tim Ward for a payment

David Daniels for a payment

**All agreed.**

## 4. Planning

- **To discuss the Planned Open space**

Nothing to report.

- **Planning Application**

No planning received.

The clerk commented that the recent licence application for Greenmantle Hapton had been refused on all points after a lengthy meeting which he attended with Parishioner Claire Dove and District Councillor Kim Carsok who the council wish to thank for all her support everyone on this troublesome Licence application.

## 5. Finances

To note receipts in December

None

# THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Important payment made between the meeting.

None

## Payments made at this meeting.

|       |   |         |
|-------|---|---------|
| I.    | To approve payments to Parish Clerk for Salary December           | £934.63 |
| II.   | To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Fund for Clerks Pension Dec | £272.33 |
| III.  | To approve payment to HMRC for tax and NI                         | £38.70  |
| IV.   | To approve payment to Unity trust for bank charges                | £18.00  |
| V.    | To approve payment to Tim ward SD Cards and maintenance           | £72.56  |
| VI.   | To approve payment to 3 for monthly sim card charge               | £11.33  |
| VII.  | To approve payment to Lloyds for Credit card charge               | £3.00   |
| VIII. | To approve payment to D Daniels for Trees for the orchard         | £218.00 |
| IX.   | To approve payment to Clerk for Annual Cloud back up charge       | £50.00  |
|       | To approve payments made on Credit card in December.              |         |
|       | Bang Dogg for security Cameras                                    | £202.45 |
|       | Currys for annual Laptop Software upgrade                         | £79.99  |

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

The clerk reported that we are in good health and the balance before today's meeting was £29,734.88 before the unity trust payment was taken out making it £29,716.88 and after today's payments (including Credit card purchases) the balance stands £27,833.89 at with a Vat refund claim ongoing of £544.43 Plus a further Vat refund to be claimed of £41.41.

**Proposed: Nick Potter    Seconded: Vic Blake**

## xi. To receive a 9-month budget v expenditure report.

The clerk produced the 9-month budget v Expenditure report and was thanked for his work on this.

### 6. To confirm the Precept request for 2024-2025

The clerk produced the precept request for 2024-2025 and asked all councillors to check the request form against the budget showing the precept request to be **£25,045.25** with no band d increase meaning the band d charge for 2024-2025 would stay at £60.35. All councillors duly checked their copy of the form, agreeing it was correct and the chair signed the precept request as agreed.

**Proposed: Nick potter**

**Seconded Tim Ward**

## 7. Governance

The clerk reported that a new contract for clerks is close to being completed and he would duly get this done and reported at the next meeting in March 2024

## 8. To receive the details of the long Stratton town council proposal and discuss supporting it.

No report forthcoming on what is happening at present. **Remove from agenda.**

# THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

## 9. Highways

### Highways issues

Already discussed with Alison Thomas

LC Whip question was asked on this and will be going to formal proposal to cabinet on this. A question was asked on the issues with 60 mph road at Picton Road and Swan Lane along with the junction with chequers road and that the lowering of the speed limit is an issue and needs looking at, but it was felt that the new Long Stratton development may help this. Alison would take this up when the new proposal comes to cabinet.

### Long Stratton Development.

No report

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

### Tree Warden report

3 projects are hovering around with the surveyor's land, the orchard and Christmas tree plantation.

### Footpath issues

No report from Footpath warden

### Maintenance

The toilet at the cabin keeps blowing over and once the new shed is installed it will be tethered to both the cabin and the new shed to assist the safety of the toilet and stops it keep blowing over. There are still a few jobs on this and the cabin area to be completed.

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

The clerk commented that he had signed the papers after a few meetings with SNDC for the cabin to be used as the Polling Station in May elections and a figure of £250 would be paid to the Parish council for this use.

The clerk had also spent many hours on the pride in place grant for the sensory and commemorative garden project along with a disabled path from the cabin all up the right-hand side of the field linking all the parts of the project together meaning everyone can access the whole project from the cabin right up to the new garden project. This had been a long process with many meetings with Andy sexton the pride in place grant manager who had been extremely helpful.

Much research and 3 quotes for all part of the project were needed and these are now in place and the grant application is ready to be submitted in the next couple of days. The clerk asked all councillors to look at the application he had prepared and to comment on this please. The following comments were made and would be submitted with the application along with our preferred contractors on each part. The clerk commented that Plan to garden had quoted to do all the work in one go and also lay bases for the WW2 benches and to install them too. This would mean less work and delays if we go with that schedule. The other contractors for this part would only do the garden and we would have to plant the wildflowers and site the benches when received.

The clerk asked which benches the council preferred from the metal ones to the wooden ones or the sustainable weather-proof recycled plastic ones. But it must be noted that if we go for the wooden ones and the recycled plastic ones, we will also

# THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

need to arrange the wording of the plaques to be installed on these options. The metal ones come all with the relevant wording showing the WW2 poppies and other figures. It was agreed that the following would be requested in a separate letter to detail the parish wishes that Plan To Garden are the preferred contractor for the whole project and that due to the wooden benches not being suitable and the composite ones only having a 10 year life span that we should go with the David Ogilvie benches although they are the dearest but offer the best value and are the most suited to our project. The clerk was tasked with conveying this information when he sends the grant application in.

The clerk was thanked for his work on this and commended by all councillors for his diligence on the grant application too.

It was asked if we were doing an event for D Day for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary and plans would be looked at on this asap as the event is in June 2024 plus other events need to be planned.

## 12. To discuss the latest pylons Information

There is some government money on the possibility of a consultation on the scheme moving forward and the possibility of looking at other ways to do the scheme.

## 13. To discuss Parish Projects.

- **Newsletter.**  
The clerk was still awaiting some invoice payments to come in and as yet these have not been received. The new cover from the new suppliers is being designed and he hopes that the next issue will come out around the end of March and will carry information on the defibs, the details of the project on the garden etc and anything else people would like to see in there.
- **SAM Machines.**  
The clerk reported that due to Victor being unavailable these have not been downloaded.
- **Tharston Phone Box**  
Nothing on the Tharston phone box and letter has gone to the residents from the management company in the coming weeks with hopefully a decision in late January.
- **Parish Councillors and Clerk training.**  
The clerk asked if anyone would like to attend an event on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> march for the NPTS seminar and also the 28<sup>th</sup> march at Wymondham rugby club regarding the Anglia in bloom project and we have 4 places available to which we can use the pride in place clean it and bloom grant money to pay for attendance which is £20 pp.
- **Village Hall Fundraising**  
No report
- **The Vision**
- Dealt with earlier.
- **New Park Fundraising Ideas**
- 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.
- **Defib training**  
The clerk commented that the new defib for the cabin project has arrived and needs installing by the end of January at the latest as these are the terms of the grant application.
- **Surveyors land**

# THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

The chair commented that he had met with the tree warden regarding this project and the hedge has been cut but it was suggested it was laid again by our local group of councillors.

The surveyor's land hedge needs tidying up. This can be done by anyone, and it was suggested to contact the lady who laid it for her input. The trees would be ordered asap for the planting of the trees and this need to be done very quickly. Ken Grayling will investigate this.

- **Neighbourhood watch**

The clerk reported that he had ordered 10 each of the small and large Neighbourhood plan wheelie bin signs and these would be delivered to Graham Bleach due to his impending leave.

- **Meeting house Field**

No report.

- **Community Orchard**

The new trees should arrive in Feb due to a delay in the weather and it should be easy to get them dug in and the hedge plants are here to be planted also.

- **Gov.com emails**

The clerk had now submitted the physical order to Parish online and we await all the details of when the scheme will start.

- **Dog mess in the village**

The clerk reported that he had ordered 6 of the agreed signs regarding this issue and again due to his impending leave these would be delivered to Graham Bleach in the coming days.

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

No report

#### **15. Green Initiatives.**

Clerk asked if anyone had looked at the biodiversity policy he gave them at the Dec meeting and did anyone have any comments which they did not.

Tim Ward is in the process of filling in a questionnaire for some trees and claiming all the biodiversity credits for doing this

#### **16. Public participation**

None

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

**Clerks Contract**

**Events**

**Biodiversity Policy**

Next Parish Council meeting Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7pm

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15. pm.**