

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at
The Community Building, Holly Lane, Hapton
On Wednesday 18th February 2026 at 7pm.

In Attendance:

Mr N Potter (chair)
Mr T Ward
MR V Blake
Mr D Daniels
Mrs Jess Chaney
Mr A Arber (clerk)

Neither County Councillor Alison Thomas nor District Councillor Kim Carsok were in attendance due to meetings at their respective Full councils

1 Member of the Public

- 1. Public Participation**– County and District Council reports can also be received during this time. (10 minutes maximum).
Alison Thomas sent the following report as detailed below
As you will be aware the full election for May is back on.
Budget passed yesterday.
Nothing else of great note for Tharston.
District Councillor Kim Carsok sent the following detailed report as in the councillors packs and will be attached to these minutes **Appendix 1**
A massive thanks to the Parish Council for allowing the clerk to attend the recent Planning Inspectorate meeting recently.
- 2. Apologies** – To consider accepting apologies for absence
Jenna Goodall-Browne and Graham Bleach sent their apologies all agreed to accept
- 3. Minutes** – To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 14th January 2026
These were agreed as a true record of the meeting held on 14th January and they were duly signed by the chair
Proposed Nick Potter Seconded Victor Blake
- 4. Declarations of interests** – To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest from members on any item to be discussed.
Tim Ward item 7.2
Tim Left the room whilst this item was discussed
Time returned to the room at

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5. Planning

- Planning applications
None at this meeting
- To discuss the Planned Open Space Land
Nothing to add
- To discuss Planning Applications and any received after the agenda is posted

None at this meeting

6. Governance – To update our publication Scheme

The clerk commented that there is a new model Publication scheme out with the ICO and he has updated ours and will get it on the website asap

7. Finance –

- To note receipts in January 2026

None

To approve the following payments for February 2026

- To approve Payments to Parish Clerk Alan Arber for Jan salary and expenses £899.88
- To approve payment for Clerks pension for Jan £297.32
- To approve payment to HMRC for tax and NI £291.53
- To approve payment to Handyman for salary and expenses Jan £352.00
- To approve payment to Parish Online for Gov.uk email yearly subscription £216.00
- To approve payment to the clerks extra day and room at Conference £147.20
- To approve monthly payment for Wi-Fi in the cabin £55.20
- To approve payment to O2 for security cameras £76.08
- To approve payment to Lloyds for monthly credit card charge £3.00
- To approve payment to Unity Trust for Monthly bank Charges £6.00
- Credit Card Payments
 - New Chainsaw £299.99
 - Handyman's new safety Trousers £65.23
 - Cloud Storage annual subscription £60.00
- Proposed Tim Ward Seconded David Daniels

7.1. To receive the financial position of the council

The council started the month of Feb with a balance of £24,309.12 and after today's payments totalling £2,344.21 are taken, we will have a starting balance for March of £21,964.91 and a VAT return of

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£688.20 to be reclaimed so the council will hopefully end the financial year in a good financial position

- 7.2. To discuss the payment of the landowners extra solicitors charges for Community land Registry documents and registration of the land
The clerk commented that we had found out that the land had not been registered and we have started the process after speaking with our solicitors and the papers need to be agreed with the original landowners solicitors and this would incur a charge of around £500 to fully complete and they have asked if the council will undertake this cost moving forward. All agreed to accept
Proposed Nick Potter Seconded David Daniels

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

- Highway issues

We are still having issues with large lorries and Jenna had written to Ben Goldsborough MP on this, but the council are still worried around this issue as nothing is being done to help them. It was noted the police were doing speed checks in Hapton in the last week.

Potholes reported Junction of Marsh Lane and Norwich Road and Holly Lane and Norwich Road. Also, Swan Lane by the Doctors surgery coming up the hill.

Drain clearing due to the recent lorries and signs had gone up but no information to the council.

Drain at the bottom of Lane permanently blocked to be reported. Litter Pick team pulled the mangled road sign from the ditch by the 30mph sign.

Large lorries are being used for the bridge repairs on Blacksmiths Lane and using Marsh Lane which is unsuitable.

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

- Tree warden's Report

Nothing to report

- Footpath Issues

None reported to the clerk

Map From Flordon Parish Council map for the new walk and this needs erecting by the handyman asap.

- Maintenance and Handyman's report

The handyman had helped with the Community Payback work at the surveyors land and his report is in the councillors pack

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- Community Payback report

Community payback have completed the work at The Surveyors land and the planting of the hedge, and it looks fabulous. I have sent pictures to the co-ordinator who has replied and said they are free to undertake any works we have for them moving forward.

10. To receive an update on the Hapton Community Project

A page on the Hapton Meadow working group and hopefully with some events will be added to the newsletter for the Spring edition.

New Cameras need to go in when possible.

11. To discuss the latest Pylons information

The clerk had attended and spoke at the recent National Planning Inspectorate meeting in Ipswich and had spoken on both days if the concerns that Tharston and Hapton Parish Council have and had also requested a site visit as a matter of urgency. He had produced a paper from the meeting and sent this round to all councillors, and he thanked Tim for his comments, and these have been added. He asked that all councillors agree that the paper can be submitted as our objection which must be in by Thursday 26th February along with our request for a site visit. The clerk was thanked for this work on this, and it was agreed the objection paper would be submitted by Friday 20th February along with our request for a site visit

Proposed Nick Potter Seconded Tim Ward

12. To note our comments to East Pye solar

This will go to DCO application in the coming weeks and with our knowledge gained at the recent Planning Inspectorate Hearing it was felt we now have the knowledge how the procedure works and what we need to do moving forward

13. To note information on Tas way energy park application

This is on hold due to them not getting a connection to the grid

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

Norfolk homes had submitted the following dates for meetings with the council

Thursday 5th March PM

Friday 6th March

Friday 13th March

It was agreed that we would request the date of Friday 6th March. Clerk will contact Norfolk Homes to arrange times and location.

The clerk commented that he had spoken to Long Stratton FC and they are keen to be involved and would invite all the council to their meeting with Ben Goldsborough at a date to be arranged.

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15. To discuss Parish Projects

- Newsletter
Almost finished ready for submission at the end of February.
Next Newsletter to be done and delivered by 15th June 2026.
Tim Gammon is unwell and cannot deliver the newsletter, but the Lawson family will deliver Tharston and are asking for volunteers.
- Sam Machine
All working well and freshly charged
- Tharston Phone box
Nothing to report on this
- Parish Councillors/Clerk training/Personal development
The clerk had recently attended the SLCC Practitioners conference, and it was excellent and lots of networking possibilities and it was worrying that even the big town councils suffer with similar problems as we do. It was also noted that on the last evening that the clerk was asked if he would stand for election of President of the SLCC moving forward.
The clerk has also enrolled for Clerks Networking and the upcoming NPTS Spring seminar
- New Defibrillator and Defib Training dates to be fixed.
No dates fixed
- Surveyors Land and Christmas Tree Order
As detailed earlier the hedge has been planted and the community payback had done a great job on this. They are happy to plant the Xmas trees once we have them on site.
- Hapton Phone Box
Still being well used but does need new books if possible.
- Neighbourhood watch
Nothing to report
- Meeting House Field
Nothing to report
- Parish Orchard at Old Village Hall site
Need some work completed by community payback and the clerk will order the toilet once we get the date. Community Payback will need to be contacted to get dates to assist the work along with rebuilding the fence with Simon the handyman.
New Hedging needed to be planted when possible.
- Dog mess in the village

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This is still an issue but as yet the culprit has not been caught but we are watching

17. To discuss Green Initiatives moving forward including recycling and actions on the biodiversity policy

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

Nothing to report on this

18. Public Participation (10 minutes)

None

For any Parishioners to comment on any items that have been discussed during the meeting only

19. To receive items for the next agenda.

Community Events

Community payback

Next Meeting Weds 18th March 2026

Alan Arber PSLCC

Meeting closed at 19.46pm