

# THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at  
The Community Building, Holly Lane, Hapton

**On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.00pm.**

**In Attendance:** Mr N Potter (chair)  
Mr T ward  
Mr D Daniels  
Mr G Bleach  
Mr V Blake  
Mrs J Goodall-Browne  
Mr A Arber (clerk)

**2 members of the public plus County Councillor Alison Thomas and District Councillor Kim Carsok arrived at 8pm**

## **Public Participation**

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

Alison Thomas gave the following report.

Long Stratton bypass application is moving forward, and it is hoped that once all the funding is in place the project will start in early 2024 and finish around late 2025. It is hoped that the contractors will be assigned in early 2024 when all points are in place.

No decision on Long Stratton house on the asset of community value and it may be as early as Friday.

The new 1 million trees application is a discounted scheme, and the council is urged to apply.

Highways agency started the work on North Burlingham bypass and as soon as the legal challenge was thrown out the work started asap to stop extra costs being incurred by more legal challenges.

Adult social care is still an issue with the ability of living on your own and having a small free care package of 4 hours a week then if more care is needed this is chargeable with Acle having a great plan called Swallowtail House with one being also done in Hunstanton soon. The scheme is excellent and local people come into the scheme which is great for the residents. A question was asked on how far the care package goes up, but Alison was unsure on this depending on the care provider. The doctor's strike is causing many issues and please be kind if you get a call to say your appointment or operation is cancelled.

Another question was asked if Long Stratton was getting supported living but as, yet this was unknown with Harleston being the closet one at present.

Ken thanked the parish council and everyone in the room for their help with the fete and it raised over £2000. The clerk for his work on the ten and risk assessments and organising the gazebos and marquee plus Tim and Sue for their help with the bar.

The worrying thing was many people had no idea what was available in the area, and it was noted that they obviously do not read the clerk's newsletter. It was felt it was a good exercise in building bridges allowing people to know what is in the village.

Fornsett Pylons walk on Sunday if anyone wants to attend from 10 am.

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*Standing Orders were reinstated.*

## 1. Apologies

No Apologies received.

## 2. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairperson.

**Proposer: Nick Potter    Seconder: Tim Ward**

## 3. Declarations of Interest

Nick Potter for a payment  
**All agreed.**

## 4. Planning

- **To discuss the Planned Open space**  
Nothing to report.
- **Planning Application**  
No planning received.

## 5. Finances

To note receipts in August

HMRC Refund	£458.20
Simons Landscaping advert	£72.00

The following invoices were approved for payment:

- **August Payments approved and made.**
  - I. Payments to Parish Clerk for Salary July £897.98
  - II. payment to Norfolk Pension Fund for Clerks Pension July £255.99
  - III. payment to Toilets 2 Go for toilet hire for events. £228.00
  - IV. payment to SLCC for Clerks attendance at SLCC national conference £141.70
  - V. payment to Gala Tent for Marquee for Tharston £1149.99
  - VI. Payment to Gala Tent for POP up Gazebos £812.19
- **September Payments to be approved.**
  - VII. To approve payments to Parish Clerk for Salary August £937.99
  - VIII. To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Fund for Clerks Pension August £255.99
  - IX. To approve payment to Pride Press for Newsletter £378.00
  - X. To approve payment to Gary Bentley for parish maintenance in July and August £176.00
  - XI. To approve payment to Paul Riches for Grass cutting £125.00
  - XII. To approve payment to Nick potter for Cabin Heater £125.00
  - XIII. To approve payment to SNDC for annual dog bin charge £601.20
  - XIV. To approve payment to PKF Littlejohn for External audit £252.00
  - XV. To approve any payments that come in after the agenda is posted.

k). 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 £29301.05 and after today's payments the balance stands at £26,449.87 with a Vat refund to be reclaimed of £354.66 which will be done asap.

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**Proposed: Nick Potter    Seconded: Chris Hewitt**

L). To receive the external audit and note any actions to be dealt with

The clerk reported that the external audit has been received and apart from having to restate on the AGAR no actions have been noted by PKF Littlejohn we got a clean bill of health on our finances and procedures which the clerk was happy about. The councillors thanked the clerk for his work on this.

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

David Daniels briefly took the councillors through the next part of this process and a decision will be made on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September and if it is successful, Long Stratton Town Council have 6 months to raise the funds. Chris Hewitt took the council through the process moving forward. A discussion ensued on this, and it was noted that we support the building being made an ASSETT OF COMMUNITY VALUE. Alison Thomas commented that Long Stratton Town Council are due to get £2 million of CIL monies from the newly agreed housing development.

## **7. Highways**

**No report**

**Long Stratton New development**

**No report**

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

**Tree Warden report**

**No report**

**Footpath issues**

**BR1 finger post replaced.**

Clerk to send an Email to Ben Willis to thank him for maintaining the bridleway that crosses his land.

A question was asked on the Redwings issue and as yet no reply has been forthcoming from redwings on the issue.

FP9 is a worry that to walk down the footpath is dangerous as the dogs appear and the worry is the dogs could get out and cause issue. A new fence is needed to make it safe.

**Maintenance**

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The chairman has spoken to Gary Bentley is to tackle the hedges and surveyors land moving forward.

The land at the shed needs to be prepared soon and it is hoped this could happen next week and the water in the harvesting system can be used to make the area soft to work and get the land prepared.

## **Grass Cutting at Tharston Meadows**

No Issues reported on this.

## **Highways Barrier at Hapton School**

Alison Thomas will look into this asap with Gary Overland

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

Our thanks to GLS for the sponsorship plant area

The clerk reported that he had made an expression of interest in the new £1 million government scheme to provide more defibrillators on the community for the cabin but had also got a new defib sign to be put up on the outside of the cabin to show the current location of the nearest defibrillator.

The clerk commented that he had started the process along with Councillor ward on the Sensory and commemorative garden utilising the Community Action Fund Grant with help from District Councillor Kim Carsok and it is hoped that we would meet the deadline on this of 21<sup>st</sup> September. He has set up a meeting with Simons Landscaping regarding the path and is collating quotes asap on this project which if funded will start around early January and finish by end of November.

#### **a). To agree planning for VE day 2024**

Lots of ideas were in place before covid took our plans away and it is hoped that these plans could be revisited asap. The clerk will keep an eye out for any grants they may be available nearer the time. It is hoped the event will be weekend either side of the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2024.

### **10. To discuss the latest pylons Information**

Pylon Walk from Forncett on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September from Forncett starting at 10 am for a 3-mile walk.

### **11. To discuss Parish Projects.**

- **Newsletter.**

The clerk has distributed the newsletter and has sent all the invoices out to the advertisers for payment asap. It is noted that some advertisers had pulled out due to not being able to afford it and this will be reflected in the amount of advertising revenue we receive this year.

Obituary for Barry Duffin and the old head teacher of Hapton school.

- **SAM Machines.**

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The clerk reported that these will be downloaded in the coming weeks for reporting at the October meeting.

- **Phone Box**  
Managing agent for the resident's company with the wording to be agreed when the clerk has it
- **Parish Councillors and Clerk training.**  
The clerk will have booked his national conference and the costs are shared by all his 4 councils. Plus, he is booked on both NALC and the NPTS Autumn Seminar. He will also start to study for the FILCA qualification if his councils allow this and split the cost at £30.00 each council.
- **Village Hall**  
No report
- **The Vision**  
Dealt with earlier.
- **New Park Fundraising Ideas**
- BBQ made £178.40.
- **Hapton Phone Box**  
The phone box continues to be well used and still very full of books and Graham has cleared out some books and added 2 shelves.
- **Defib training**  
Shelton and Hardwick Parish council are looking at Defib and CPR training. Clerk to email to register our interest.
- **Surveyors land**  
A tree was down across the entrance when the man that was going to Harrow the land could not get in to look at the land as the tree was totally blocking the land, Graham Bleach and Tim Ward have looked at this and will get it sorted asap.  
It was proposed that 5 plots of trees would be planted as a trial of how well they would grow.
- **Neighbourhood watch**  
The clerk had put the message in the newsletter on the neighbourhood watch signs so he could order them but as usual only 2 people had replied.
- **Meeting House Field**  
Been cut and all good
- **Community Orchard**  
Second week in October will look at the trees and plant early to late November.  
A question a new hedge near the fence needs to be planted and some new trees are coming, and these could be used as hedgerow. It was agreed to use these as the hedgerow.

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

Victor Blake commented that there has been a few sessions and 16-18 in an hour are still caught as speeders. Another session is booked, and we await the results. It is hoped the Police may attend soon with an official camera speed machine.

## 13. Green Initiatives.

Council are still planting heavily meeting our green initiatives.

## 14. Public participation

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The clerk made the council aware of scam emails doing the rounds and he urged everyone to be vigilant on these types of emails.

**District Councillor Kim Carsok gave the following report.**

Nutrient Neutrality is still an issue despite the government saying it has been changed as the bill on this has yet to go through the house of lords.

There are grants still available in the Community Action Fund which closes on 21<sup>st</sup> September and Pride in Place that is on a rolling basis should the council wish to apply for one.

There is an in-person Parish Forum on 9/11 that anyone on the council can attend.

Long Stratton gym has seen some new equipment installed that makes it easier for people who are not gym friendly to utilise the equipment such as dementia groups.

Homes for Ukraine is being upscaled with people with a grant of £500 a month available should anyone wish to host a family to assist with bills and there is also support for the Ukraine families.

The SNDC outreach vehicle will soon be on the road and will help with various issues such as debt and other issues and should the parish wish to arrange a visit the council can get this arranged through the district councillor.

The Mental Health awareness training is still available with many dates during the day and evening on the SNDC website.

Finally, the sale of Long Stratton House decision should be known by Friday as reported earlier in the meeting.

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

**Hapton History Group Grant**

**Budget Meeting date**

**Sensory and Commemorative Garden Quote**

Next Parish Council meeting Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October September 2023 at 7pm

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