

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk commented that he had received an email from a parishioner regarding the damage to verges on Chequers Road and he had forwarded this to Highways for their comments

- The Clerk commented that he had received details that the proposed works in Low Tharston that had been due to start on March 10th was now rescheduled to 24th May.
- Councillor Graham Bleach brought up the issue of the mud slide on Cow Lane. The clerk will contact highways to ask for them to inspect the issue asap
- To discuss the Proposed Long Stratton new development
David Gunton commented that there was nothing to report.

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

- Tree warden's Report
No report
- Footpath Issues
Nothing reported.
- Village maintenance

The Clerk commented that he had received notification from Gary Bentley that the signs are almost finished, but the chairman commented that he had located another sign and would talk to Gary regarding this.

8. To receive an update on the Long Stratton Neighbourhood Plan

The email of our resolution on this has been sent to Long Stratton Town Council.

Standing orders suspended to allow this item to be fully discussed along with a representative from Taylor Wimpey

9. To discuss the options on adopting the open space land at Tharston Meadows

The council welcomed Reece Horne from Taylor Wimpey to answer questions on the proposal for the council to take on the management of the public open spaces at Tharston Meadows.

Councillor David Gunton asked the questions that had been agreed by the council prior to the meeting to which Reece gave an overview of the proposals and what it entailed.

Both SNDC and Long Stratton Town council were not interested in taking on the proposal so it left just our council to take this on in the future if we decide too.

Reece commented that the proposal stood at the amount £110,000 to take on the management of the public open spaces but this would be reviewed in April to see if there was any further amount due to inflation etc. This commutes to a sum of £11,000 for a ten-year period (£110,000) Reece was unsure if this were with VAT or without VAT, from which after the council would need to fund the management of the land along with any extra maintenance that needed to be undertaken for things like Play areas, Fencing, Tree Surveys, and grass cutting.

Reece commented that Taylor Wimpey would hand the land to the council at a nominal sum of £1 and they would pay all fees the council incur from their solicitors and the land would be handed over freehold.

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If the council agreed to take on the land Reece commented that a walk round with themselves and representatives of the council would take place to ensure any issues with snagging the site were dealt with before the transfer went ahead.

If the council chose not to take on the proposal then the existing management company would be extended to include the maintenance of the Public Open Spaces. This would mean that the residents of Tharston Meadows would be charged for the maintenance and not all residents of the parish sharing the costs as would be the case if the council took on the proposal and had to raise the precept to ensure they kept enough monies in the bank to continue with the maintenance.

Should the Management Company fail for whatever reason then Taylor Wimpey would step in and hand the maintenance of the Public Open Spaces to a new Management Company. Reece could not confirm if the Management Company could sign the land as 'Private – Residents Only'.

It was agreed that the first thing the council would undertake was to get GLS to do a walk round of the site to look at their quote for the maintenance costs before any decision would be made. Once this was done the proposal can be looked at in more detail and a decision can be taken with all the facts known.

Reece was thanked for his contribution and duly left the meeting.

Standing orders reinstated

10. To receive and update on the Hapton land purchase

The Chairman commented that the planting will take place week commencing 15th March with Gary Bentley doing the work as agreed. He also commented that after a meeting with Redwings they agreed to sort out the drainage issue with the pond. The chairman also asked that all councillors think of a name for the park to be decided at the next meeting as he had received a quote for a new noticeboard for the park at £550. Finally, the chairman commented that he had asked GLS to do a quote for a multi-use games area size 20 m x 30 m and it was hoped that help from the district councillor would assist funding the muga.

11. To receive an update on the recent Flooding issues.

Davis Gunton commented that the reports to The Flood management team had yet to be submitted but he hoped this would be soon.

12. To discuss Parish Projects

- Newsletter
The Spring newsletter has been finished and The Clerk would like to thank Chris and Helen Lawson and Tim Gammon for delivering the Tharston area for The council.
- Sam Machine
Still being moved around the parish by Vic but due to Covid we are unable to download.
- Phone box
Potential sites to be looked at for the siting of the phone box in Tharston Meadows area and it was agreed that The Clerk, Chairman and Councillor Duffin would arrange a meeting at potential sites asap
- Parish Councillors/Clerk training

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Clerk reported that he had now passed three units of his Cilca work and was halfway through another one which he hoped to complete asap. That only leaves one more unit to complete

- Village Hall Fundraising ideas
No Comments on this
- The Vision
No Comments on this
- New Community Area Funding ideas
No comments on this
- WW2
No Comments on this
- Surveyors Land

A detailed discussion took part on this issue again and the The Chairman had spoken with the Tenant to find out his thoughts on keeping the tenancy or handing and he was amenable to The Christmas tree idea it was agreed the clerk would contact SNDC regarding taking back the land.

A discussion also was had on the hedge and how it needed some work to be done and the chairman would speak to Gary Bentley on this.

13. To discuss Speeding in the Parish and the setting up of a Parish Speed watch group

The Speed watch group have all been cleared to participate but due to Covid the initial training was still to take place.

14. Public Participation (10 minutes)

No Comments

15. To receive items for the next agenda.

Meeting finished at 8.04pm

Next meeting 14th April 2021