THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at
The Community Building, Holly Lane, Hapton
On Wednesday 21st October 2026 at 7pm.

In Attendance:

Mr N Potter (chair)
Mr T Ward
MR V Blake
Mr G Bleach
Mrs J Chaney
Mr A Arber (clerk)

1 Member of the Public plus County Councillor K Catchpole and District Councillor Kim Carsok

1. **Public Participation**– County and District Council reports can also be received during this time. (10 minutes maximum).
   County councillor Karl Catchpole commented that he had seen the emails sent by a parishioners regarding the Holbrooks Lorries and it seems that they are legally allowed to come through. All people that have sent complaints into Highways, such as the local MP and councillors, all get the same answer which is disappointing at all times.
   East Pye Solar application the county councillor attended a meeting at the Fox and Hounds in Great Moulton around this issue, with around 60 people attending. The councillor is putting forward a motion to full council in December to consider using a Small Modular Reactor (nuclear) unit that would be on track to be delivered in the early 2030s. Other governments have agreed to use this type of power unit around the world as an alternative.
   District Councillor Kim Carsok gave the following report:
   Kim had a positive meeting with Tharston church on the provision of a community space at the church and it was a very positive meeting.
   Community action fund and Community Facilities fund gave away £93,000 in grants to local projects. The last day for the next set of grants is end of December.
   Members wards grant available of £2000.
   Food waste roll out is going well and the idea of the tying of food bags to the caddies (to indicate the need for replacement bags) was not working as well but parishioners can use any bags for this.

Dental school at the UEA in nearly in place to take patients in early 2028.
Warm space winter pressures grant is now available and the deadline is 30th October.
Full council meeting recently around the data centre near Tesco's showed the strength of opposition to the scheme and the new constitution on planning meaning larger scheme cannot be called into planning, just the smaller scheme of around less than 10 houses. This means that is either an officer or MP can only call the larger schemes in.
Diss Leisure centre build is starting, and Framlingham Earl and Kett's Park are moving forward.

2. **Apologies** – To consider accepting apologies for absence.
   Apologies received from Jenna Goodall Browne and the resignation of David Daniels. (election team informed) all agreed to accept.
3. **Minutes** – To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 23rd of September 2026
   The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting held on 23rd September 2026
   Proposed Nick Potter Seconded Graham Bleach
4. **Declarations of interests** – To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest from members on any item to be discussed.
   No declarations received at this meeting
5. **Planning**
   - Planning applications received
     No applications received before the agenda posted
     This application was received after the agenda was posted
     2026/3140
     Location: Bordeaux Chequers Road Tharston Norfolk NR15 2YA
     Proposal: Proposed new self-build dwelling and garage
     Application Type: Outline Planning Permission
     The council agreed to make no comment
6. **Governance –** To note the mileage allowance has gone up from 45p a mile to 55p a mile.
7. **Finance –**
   - To note receipts in September 2026

SNDC Precept Payment	£20,192.72
Newsletter advert	£80.00
Shared Training costs Tivetshall PC	£21.25

To approve the following payments for October 2026

- To approve Payments to Parish Clerk Alan Arber

for Sept salary and expenses	£993.52
• To approve payment for Clerks pension for Sept	£271.98
• To approve payment to HMRC for tax and NI	£1005.70
• To approve payment to Handyman for Sept Salary and expenses	£334.95
• To approve payment to Norfolk fire for fire safety inspection	£200.00
• To approve payment to Hapton PCC for Churchyard maintenance grant	£375.00
• To approve payment to Toilets to go for events and community payback use	£252.00
• To approve monthly payment for Wi-Fi in the cabin	£55.20
• To approve payment to 02 for security cameras	£79.99
• To approve payment to scribe for Accounts package	£44.40
• To approve payment to Lloyds for monthly credit card charge	£3.00
• To approve payment to Unity Trust for Monthly bank Charges	£7.00
• Credit Card Payments Sept New Toilet Roll Holder	£11.97

Proposed Nick Potter Seconded Vic Blake

7.1. To receive the financial position of the council

The council ended September with a balance of £17,232.49 and with receipts at the end of September totalling £20,293.97. We started the month of October with a healthy balance of £37,526.46 and after today's payments totalling £3634.71, we will end the month of October with a healthy balance of £33,891.75 with a vat reclaim of £786.92 to be reclaimed soon the council are in a very healthy position.

Highways – to receive any updates regarding highways and footpaths.

- Highway issues
- None

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

• Tree warden's Report

No report

• Footpath Issues

Parkes Lane BR16 a big old Ash Tree has split, and a part of the tree has fallen away. This will be reported to Highways.

• Maintenance and Handyman's report

As detailed in the councillors packs - the handyman is slowly reducing the hours owed by 15 a month, and this should be clear by the Xmas break.

The clerk has arranged the Screwfix account to aid the handyman and councillors in buying items for maintenance and we just await the cards from Screwfix to allow us to purchase on account or by card.

- Hapton Common-ownership, Footpath, Fencing and letting of common

The details are with a solicitor at present around the ownership. We should have more details on this once the finalities have been concluded.

A question was raised on shooting and grazing rights. It was felt that the solicitor would pick this up at the time of the registration.

10. To receive an update on the Hapton Community Project and meeting with MP Ben Goldsborough

The Clerk and Councillors Blake and Bleach met with MP Ben Goldsborough and his advisor recently which was a very fruitful meeting, with the MP agreeing to give support to our wish to build a suitable facility on the new Tharston Park Land and would help with looking at grants at parliamentary level we could utilise. He would also work with us in our dealings with Norfolk Homes regarding landscaping and service being put in place by Norfolk Homes at their costs. The clerk is looking at getting a sign for the accessible toilet block made asap with all the necessary information on regarding the toilet facility.

The clerk also reported that he has arranged for Community Payback to be here next Tuesday 27th October to take the marquee down and do any works that need doing.

11. To discuss the latest Pylons information

The clerk has received no further information on this scheme as yet.

12. To note our comments to East Pye solar Development Consent Order being received.

The new Rule 8 letter has been received and is on the website detailing the next steps in the planning inspectorate process. The clerk has put this onto the website for all to see and will be attending the next set of hearings.

13.To note information on Tas way energy park application

No further information on this scheme is known and is currently on hold

14. To discuss the Tharston Open space land and next steps

The chair and councillors Ward and Bleach visited Bungay FC recently to look at the facility they have built and the following was found: The chair told the meeting that their set ups slightly different to us and they have three clubs in Football, Cricket, and Tennis. They are looking to install a 4g pitch, at a e cost of around £1.2 million. The chair commented that we would need to look at this option asap and the revenue would be quite substantial moving forward.
The next steps are how we move forward once grant funding is known.

15. To discuss Parish Projects

- Newsletter
  The Xmas edition has been started. We await MP Ben Goldsboroughs' article and a further couple of pages to be completed. We should be ready to send to the printers in the middle of November for delivery the last week in November.
- Sam Machine
  This was recently downloaded and the details shared with all councillors via email. The average speed through the village was an encouraging 28.92 mph and the data has been shared with the police and asked they visit Hapton to run some speed checks due to one speeder being clocked at 85mph on 7th July at 11.35am which is unacceptable.
- Tharston Phone box
  The handyman has finished painting but needs putting together to get it finished. Ben Willis has not come back to Graham yet on how we can get it on his truck. We need the site location asap which the chair has shown Ben Willis and he can put the pad in at the location.
- Parish Councillors/Clerk training/Personal development
  The clerk recently attended the VVG Clerks conference in Holland as a guest of the SLCC and his National Conference the week after which was excellent as usual with the second day being the pick of the bunch. He also managed to get a copy of the new Clerks manual, and this will be invoiced direct to the council.
  In two weeks, he will be attending the SLCC regional training seminar in Northampton on Governance and the Digital Agar

details that have changed recently with the new Practitioners guide coming.

- Surveyors Land and Christmas tree Order
  Deferred.
- Hapton Phone Box
  Continues to be well used
- Meeting House Field
  No report on this
- Parish Orchard at Old Village Hall site
  The handyman has undertaken some clean-up work on this and now that Councillor Daniels has left, we should hand the reigns to the handyman to look at this weekly to ensure all is well, reporting directly to the clerk.
- Dog mess in the villages
  This is still an issue and very worrying.

17. To discuss Green Initiatives moving forward including recycling

The clerk has ordered the Terra pack bags for the pill sleeves, and they should be with us early next week for him to send the items back under our green policy.

18. Public Participation (10 minutes)

Bottle recycling is going to come in and we await all the details to be sent to the clerk in the coming weeks.

<u>For any Parishioners to comment on any items that have been discussed during the meeting only</u>

19. To receive items for the next agenda.

Budget Meeting date
Widget Board
Tablets for councillors
Village Gates
Social Media Platforms

Meeting closed 20.03pm

Next Meeting Weds 18th November