

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at
The Community Building, Holly Lane, Hapton
On 18th October 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

Public Participation

Standing Orders were suspended to allow the public to speak.

County Councillor Alison Thomas gave no report as she was not in attendance.
District Councillor Kim Carsok gave no report as she was not in attendance.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Chris Hewitt all agreed to accept.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 13th September 2023 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairperson.

Proposer: Nick potter Seconder: Vic Blake

3. Declarations of Interest

Nick Potter for a payment
Tim Ward for a grant application

All agreed.

4. Planning

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

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5. To receive and discuss the Hapton History Group Grant Application.

Cllr Tim Ward left the meeting.

The clerk commented that he had received a grant application from the Hapton History Group, and they had provided information to the meeting on what the money would be used for moving forward including a new website. A discussion ensued and it was agreed to donate £200 to Hapton History group as the website benefitted the Parish in many ways. It was agreed to contact Tharston History group to see if they needed any funding such as provided to Hapton History Group.

Proposed Nick potter Seconded Jenna Goodall-Browne
All agreed on the decision.

Councillor Tim ward rejoined the meeting.

6. Finances

To note receipts in September

GLS Newsletter Advert	£80.00
Netherton House Newsletter Advert	£100.00
Simons Landscaping advert	£72.00
Precept Payment from SNDC	£12432.10
Redwings Newsletter Advert	£72.00

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Payments made between meetings due to the urgency of these payments.

I. Payments to Scott's sheds	£520.00
II. payment to Lloyd's bank for. Credit card set up charge	£50.00
III. payment to Unity Trust for Quarterly bank Charges	£18.00

Payments made at this meeting.

IV. To approve payments to Parish Clerk for Salary September	£891.99
V. To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Fund for Clerks Pension Sept.	£255.99
VI. To approve payment to Royal British legion for Poppy wreaths (sect 137)	£40.00
VII. To approve payment to Hapton Meadow working group for rainwater project at the cabin	£700.00
VIII. To approve payment to Scott's Sheds for new Storage Shed	£1265.00
IX. To approve payment to Nick potter Treated Timber for Rainwater project	£25.20.
X. To approve payment to Hapton History Group Grant	£200.00

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 £38,723.20 and after today's payments the balance stands at £35345.02 with a Vat refund to be reclaimed of £441.33 reclaimed and a further VAT reclaim of £308.37 to be done asap. The clerk also commented that the council are due to receive a further payment from the CIL receipts of £431.24 by the end of October.

Proposed: Tim Ward Seconded: David Daniels

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The Clerk Commented that he had at last received the credit card and had registered it to be used asap for all Parish Business only. The cost was £3 a month standing charge which he had added to the 2024-2025 budget.

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

This has been held up as new bids have been received and the clerk will inform the council once more information is known.

8. Highways

Bungay Road closed coming into Hapton and it seems it has closed early which has hindered parishioners.

Long Stratton New development

No report.

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

Tree Warden report

No report

Footpath issues

Redwings asked for footpath markers as requested.

The question raised on the dog issues on a footpath and the chair will again speak to the parishioners.

Maintenance

The chairman has spoken to Gary Bentley and set up a maintenance schedule moving forward. Grass cutting done, hedges will be done by end of October, Noticeboards to be done asap.

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. It is a worry that the school are not helping as they are not letting the children in till 8.45am and this is a worry that there are safety worries around the road. The clerk to contact the school on this when Victor Blake will send the clerk the information.

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

The clerk commented that he had submitted all the information on the application with the help of District Councillor Kim Carsok and it is hoped that we get a decision by the end of October on what funding we have been allocated. Once this is known we will look to make up any shortfall via the pride in place grant system. Questions were asked on watering the area and it was felt the water table was more than wet enough to allow for the planting.

The new storage shed will be installed next week (unless we can get a later date with Scott's Sheds due to the proposed bad weather this week) and the location was agreed with all councillors being asked to assist where they can. It was agreed to site the new shed would be next to the toilets once the details are finalised with the doors and final location.

A question was asked on the hire of the cabin for a Halloween event from the Hapton Meadow working group and the event could be done for free for the benefit of the whole Parish. This was agreed that it would be free.

Proposed: Nick Potter

Seconded: David Daniels

All Agreed

a). To agree planning for VE day 2024

The clerk had attended a training course on this and some of the items that came out of this is that it was hoped that everyone would look at the fish and chip option to celebrate the day as the soldiers used the word 'Fish' as a code word and they would await the word 'CHIPS' as the correct response. D Day Celebrations are planned for the weekend of 8th May 2024 as D Day anniversary is on the 6th of May 2024.

Hapton History Group still hold a £200 donation and it was agreed to hold the main event in May 2025

11. To discuss the latest pylons Information

It is reported that groundworks have started on Tower 24 in Flordon, and this is a worry because that nothing has been agreed and it was noted that the contractors can do groundwork surveys if they hold the necessary licence and is totally normal. A question was asked on whether we can have a banner. It was felt we should look into the provision of a banner, but a discussion ensued, and it was felt the scheme should be out to sea, but the worry is the infrastructure is not up to the capacity now. It was asked the clerk to contact the doctors in Tharston to see if they will have a banner on the side of the road. The clerk commented we need to get the costs first for the banners then agree the location.

12. To discuss Parish Projects.

- **Newsletter.**

The clerk is still awaiting some invoice payments to come in and it is hoped that the Xmas newsletter will be completed by the middle of November to allow the Xmas church services and events to be put in place.

- **SAM Machines.**

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

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- **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 enjoyed his latest conference where he attended workshops on Gov.com emails, D Day Information, Policing, and the issues it has at present, levelling up grants, Climate emergency agenda, Internal control, and Governance such as so this will become an agenda item at all times to ensure our governance is correct and any new policies can be adopted asap.
- **Village Hall**
No report
- **The Vision**
Dealt with earlier.
- **New Park Fundraising Ideas**
- To be discussed next meeting
- **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. The clerk has applied for a new defib under the new scheme which we await the decision.
- **Surveyors land**
Tree that blocked the entrance has been moved but there are worries that the ash trees are looking at difficult angle and a question was asked on whether the hedge needs tidying up (weaving strands into the hedge) and it was also asked that we contact the lady that lays the hedges on her input for the new hedges we are putting up but this was felt not to be needed at this stage of proceedings. It was asked if we could look at a pumpkin patch on the land along with the Christmas trees idea. It was agreed to plant in March 2024 if the scheme goes ahead.
It was reported that Graham tried to get someone to clear the scrub on the land and the Farmer from Fundenhall would look along with Paul riches to also look at clearing the scrub.
- **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**
Notice board near the gate is quite difficult to read as it's a big step up and it was asked if we move the notice board to by the gate asap.
The mini herb garden has a security camera in it that helps with security of the area and the clerk will look at paying Ken for his camera and the sim card.
- **Community Orchard**
David Daniels commenting that the order is in for the trees with many variants, and these will be planted when the trees are delivered.
- **Gov.com emails**
Already dealt with on recent parts of the agenda.

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

Victor Blake commented that the recent speed watch caught double figures recently and the scheme needs the SAM machines to be turned off when the scheme is running.

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14. Green Initiatives.

The clerk is working on a Climate emergency policy at present and has done the initial work. He has discussed this the idea to make all our meetings paper free and use councillor's mobile as their meeting information. He has held talks with an IT company that can assist with this at his recent conference, and this can be done once we get our gov.com email address arranged. This is in hand as the clerk has enrolled the council on the new scheme to do this with the government. More information to follow. Climate emergency UK have done scorecards on all councils and South Norfolk percentage is 25% and Norfolk County Council 22% which is a worry. It covers many areas of both councils.

Recycling of blister packs is needed and does anyone know who takes these and there is a lady in Wreningham holds all this information in a porch in Wreningham Church. It was agreed we would look at this not put in the newsletter for Christmas. Another 100 trees are coming in and around 14th December.

15. Public participation

No public participation

District Councillor Kim Carsok gave the following report.

To receive items for the next agenda.

Gov.com emails

Sensory and Commemorative Garden information

Climate emergency Policy

Governance

Next Parish Council meeting Wednesday 15th November September 2023 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.