

# THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at Church Rooms, Hapton  
On 18th May 2022 at 7.00pm.**

**In Attendance:** Mr Nick Potter (Chair)  
Mr V Blake  
Mr T Ward  
Mr C Hewitt  
Mr G Bleach  
Mrs J Goodall Browne

**District Councillor Barry Duffin was in attendance along with two members of the public.**

## **1. Appointment of Chairman**

Nick Potter advised that he was prepared to be Chairman again for the coming year. No other councillors put themselves forward. It was agreed to appoint Nick Potter as Chairman for the coming year.

**Proposer: G Bleach    Seconder: J Goodall Browne**

## **2. Appointment of Vice Chairman**

Tim Ward advised that he was prepared to be Vice Chairman again for the coming year. No other councillors put themselves forward. It was agreed to appoint Tim Ward as Vice Chairman for the coming year.

**Proposer: N Potter    Seconder: V Blake**

## **3. Acceptance of Office for both Chair and Vice Chair will be actioned by the clerk on his return**

The Clerk will deal with this matter after the meeting.

## **4. Public participation**

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

District councillor Barry Duffin updated the meeting on developments at South Norfolk Council. He advised that:

- The £150k Community Action Fund will open for applications soon.
- He has a Member Ward Grant of £1k that could be made available for parish projects
- South Norfolk Council was prepared to fund an electric vehicle charging point in the parish if there was a suitable site and sufficient interest.
- South Norfolk Council ("SNC") has agreed to relocate away from Long Stratton to the Horizon Centre at Broadland Business Park.

The Parish Council discussed the relocation of SNC and felt that it was very detrimental to the parish and the people living in the parish who work at SNC. It was also felt to be notable that SNC has an economic development team that would work extremely hard to attract or retain a large employer in a key settlement like Long Stratton and that it felt strange that SNC itself would proactively relocate its headquarters out of the village and out of the district.

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It was agreed that the Chairman would write to SNC to express the Parish Council's dissatisfaction with the relocation decision.

**Proposer: N Potter    Secoder: C Hewitt**

*Standing Orders were reinstated.*

## **5. Apologies**

No apologies were received.

## **6. Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 20th April 2022 were discussed, amended, and duly signed by the Chairman.

**Proposer: N Potter    Secoder: J Goodall-Browne**

## **7. Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman (N Potter) declared a pecuniary interest as the recipient of a payment proposed in respect of paint that he purchased from Kent Blaxill for the Community Cabin.

## **8. Planning**

**No planning application discussed**

## **9. Finance**

The proposed payment to Simons Landscaping for landscaping work at Hapton Meadow was discussed. C Hewitt noted that the balance is proposed for payment but the deposit has already been paid and he was not sure when the Parish Council had agreed that payment. It was noted that the Parish Council had agreed on 20 April to accept their estimate for the work and that the estimate clearly stated that a 30% deposit was required on acceptance. It was therefore agreed that by agreeing to accept the estimate, the Parish Council had also agreed the payment of the deposit. It was agreed not to pay the balance until the work had been completed.

It was agreed to accept a new estimate of £1,370 + VAT from Simons Landscaping for an additional soakaway to serve the new toilet at Hapton Meadow. It was necessary to get this done in advance of the proposed event on 5 June and Simons Landscaping would already be bringing relevant equipment to site in order to complete the landscaping works and therefore it was agreed to appoint them to do the soakaway for the toilet without further competition.

**Proposer: N Potter    Secoder: T Ward**

The following invoices were approved for payment:

- I. To approve Payments to Parish Clerk Alan Arber for April salary and expenses £829.50
- II. To approve payment for Clerks pension for April £236.94
- III. To approve payment to Spotted Penguin Company for tables for table for new cabin £716.02
- VI. To approve payment to Gary Bentley for Parish maintenance £467.00
- V. To approve payment to Nick potter for special paint for Cabin £63.48
- VI. To approve payment to The Clerk for Towel dispenser and hand towels £44.97

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VII. To approve any payments that come in after the Agenda is posted

VIII. To agree Clerks salary, increase of one point to SCP20

VVI. To receive a financial report and report balance of Unity trust account other proposed payments were agreed.

**Proposer: N Potter    Seconder: J Goodall-Browne**

## **10. Highways**

Nothing discussed

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

### **Tree Warden report**

- The Tree Warden updated the Parish Council on relevant matters.
- The Chairman made the Tree Warden aware of some concerns about trees near Tharston Church
- The Chairman advised that the Parish Council would be planting a Rowan Tree on the new Hapton Meadow as part of the Queen's Green Canopy.

## **Footpath issues**

The Footpath Warden updated the Parish Council on relevant matters.

## **12. To discuss the National Grid proposal for new pylons in Hapton**

Cllr Ward reported that he had attended consultation events online and in person but found they were not extremely helpful. It was discussed that the proposals will have a significant and detrimental impact on the visual amenity of the parish and may directly affect the properties in the village. Cllr Ward advised that National Grid had advised that an offshore route would cost 2.5 times as much as the proposed route. The Parish Council felt that this was reasonable for the sake of avoiding such significant damage to the landscape, flora, and fauna.

The Chairman agreed to write to South Norfolk District Council, Norfolk County Council, and the local MP to encourage them to object to the proposals in the strongest terms with the objective of taking the project offshore or, if the proposed route is pursued, to maximise the benefit to the local community affected by the proposals.

**Proposer: C Hewitt    Seconder: N Potter**

## **13. Hapton Community Project**

The Chairman advised that chairs and tables have been delivered for the Community Cabin. Paving is mostly done, with just the French drain and soakaway still to complete.

The Meeting House Field Working Group ("MHFWG") painted the Community Cabin internally and externally. The Parish Council was advised that a commercial decorator would have charged the Council around £1,200 for this. It was agreed to provide a grant of £600 to MHFWG in recognition of their support for this community project, which they would be likely to reinvest in the local community by organising community events.

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**Proposer: N Potter    Seconder: T Ward**

## **14. Jubilee Celebration**

A working group is to be formed and meet on Saturday 21st May to agree roles and responsibilities for the organisation and management of the event on 5 June.

## **15. To discuss Parish Projects.**

- **Newsletter.**  
The latest edition has been printed and is being distributed.
- **SAM Machines.**  
No update.
- **Phone Box**  
No change on this subject
- **Surveyors Land.**  
No report
- **Parish Councillors and Clerk training.**  
C Hewitt advised that he had attended the new councillor induction training and found it especially useful.
- **Village Hall**  
No comments made
- **New Play Area/Hapton Community Project**  
Dealt with earlier in the meeting.
- **The Vision**  
No comments made.
- **New Park Fundraising Ideas**  
No further report on this
- **Hapton Phone Box**  
G Bleach has cleaned it and installed bungees to keep the books tidy.
- **New Defibrillator Training. Community Responders**  
C Hewitt advised that he had asked the CFR co-ordinator for permission to share his contact details with interested persons in the parish and awaits a response.
- **Neighbourhood watch**  
No report
- **Meeting House Field**  
The Chairman reported that dead hedge has been created.

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

V Blake said that he had noticed that there seemed to have been a lot of fast traffic recently and he would soon be organising more Speed Watch sessions to tackle this.

## **17. Green Initiatives**

T Ward made the Parish Council aware of some courses being held and promoted by Norfolk Wildlife Trust on subjects that are relevant to this item. He will circulate details to councillors after the meeting.

T Ward also advised that he is meeting with Forncett Nature Group on Tuesday 24th May to learn from their previous experiences of delivering green initiatives.

## **Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Parish**

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In response to a query from C Hewitt, the Chairman advised that there were no minutes of this meeting as it had been held via Zoom and therefore a full video record was available.

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

**No items minuted**

Next Parish Meeting Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:05 pm.**