

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at
The Community Building, Holly Lane, Hapton
On Wednesday 22nd July 2026 at 7pm.

In Attendance:

Mr N Potter (chair)

Mr T Ward

MR V Blake

Mr G Bleach

Mrs J Chaney

Mr D Daniels

Mr A Arber (clerk)

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

1. Public Participation— County and District Council reports can also be received during this time. (10 minutes maximum).

The county councillor Karl Catchpole gave the following report

Since the last meeting, the county councillor has attended over 9 parish council meetings and is on 4 committees

The traffic through the village was still an issue due to the bridges or corners causing a problem when other cars meet them at these points.

The council feels it is dangerous due to narrow bends and damage to the verges, and the councillor said they could put measures in place, but these are expensive. If you encounter a large lorry on the bends between the Mill and Elec Sub Station, you take your life into your hands if you meet the lorry. Insurance on unclassified roads means the lorry company are not insured which should be taken up with the companies. The damage to the verges mean all the mud goes into our drains that clog up and on rainy days causes flooding. An alternative route has been suggested but it has not been utilised.

The councillor was recently on a team's call with National grid around the costs that were suggested the companies were getting and there is community fund, but the figures were unknown who gets what moving forward. Hethel are putting in a large roundabout, and the reason is that there is plans to put in a development area for companies and power companies, but this has not been signed off.

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Pulham market transfer station and plans are being drawn up by a company called FCC and they will run the site, and it will be bigger than Morningthorpe site.

Kim Carsok gave the following report.

Meeting with Annetta on East Pye as they came into SNDC around the NSIP and it was very productive.

New Planning rule coming in with developments over 100 houses they must go to secretary of state to be refused and a new GNLP is being rewritten, and the LGR proposals could impact this so watch this space. Food waste caddies first ones have been delivered and the second batch in September. A request for the three weekly collection but this has been refused.

Teen activity programme in the Summer for children

Playground upgrade programme have half of these have been finished

South Norfolk in Bloom grant been paid out

CAF fund of £1million closes on 16th August.

£2000 members ward grant is available

Framlingham Earl and Diss Leisure centre funding is in place

Kett's park and Wymondham leisure facilities are in the planning stage.

2. **Apologies** – To consider accepting apologies for absence.

Jenna Goodall Browne sent her apologies

3. **Minutes** – To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 13th of May 2026

The minutes were approved as a true record of the Parish Meeting held on 17th June, and the chair signed the minutes

Proposed Nick Potter Seconded David Daniels

4. **Declarations of interests** – To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest from members on any item to be discussed.

None Recorded or requested at this meeting.

Nick Potter for a Payment

Tim Ward for a payment

All approved

5. **Planning**

- Planning applications
- 2026/1557
- Land west of chequers road Tharston

Gate access

Refused by the council and would continue to do so should any further applications for planning received on this part of land in Tharston.

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- To discuss the Planned Open Space Land
No date received from Aylsham, but the clerk has spoken to Bungay FC who are willing to let us visit their facility and has arranged a meeting with MP Ben Goldsborough on Tuesday 29th September and all are welcome to attend.
- To discuss Planning Applications and any received after the agenda is posted
None Received

6. Governance

No governance this month except the clerk commented that all policies are updated as agreed at the June Meeting and are on the website. Councillors must not use the What's app platform to request items to be purchased or send apologies they must all come through on email at all times.

7. Finance –

- To note receipts in June 2026

Clerks Training Bursary	£60.00
Cabin Event card sales	£186.55
Cabin Event Card sales charges	-£3.31
- **To approve the following payments for July 2026**

• To approve Payments to Parish Clerk Alan Arber for June salary and expenses	£907.13
• To approve payment for Clerks pension for June	£272.08
• To approve payment to HMRC for tax and NI	£648.83
• To approve payment to Wensum print for Newsletter	£475.00
• To approve payment to RES joinery for the new toilet block	£5862.00
• To approve payment to Handyman for salary and expenses June	£345.25
• To approve payment to Hapton Service station for new battery for Mower	£72.00
• To approve payment to Nick Potter for Mower Fuel	£27.65
• To approve payment to Tim Ward for security Camera work	£61.97
• To approve payment to Brownes boilers for Grass cutting and maintenance	£398.00
• To approve payment to SLCC for annual membership	£94.00
• To approve payment to SLCC for clerks attendance at SLCC National Conference	£245.50
• To approve payment to SLCC for clerks Internal	

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Auditor Qualifications	£168.00
• To approve payment to Viking for stationery	£132.51
• To approve payment to Tharston PCC for Annual Church maintenance Grant	£525.00
• To approve Payment to Play safety for annual play inspection report	£118.80
• To approve payment to Ashtons for Land registry work	£500.00
• 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	
Barnes Butchers BBQ food for event	£299.77
Microsoft Office Subscription	£104.99
Cat Litter	£26.74

Proposed Nick Potter Seconded Tim Ward

7.1. To receive the financial position of the council

The council finished June with a balance of £29,933.01 and after today's payments totalling £11464.81, we have a balance of £19,563.71 on the account with a vat reclaim of £2534.12 outstanding that the clerk will look to reclaim at the end of July

7.2 To receive the first quarter budget v Expenditure report

The clerk also produced a detailed Budget v Expenditure report for quarter 1 and a detailed Budget Summary for all councillors to see and was thanked for his work on this.

7.3 To approve Sonya Blythe as our internal auditor for 2027-2028

All agreed

Proposed Nick Potter Seconded Tim Ward

8. **Highways** – to receive any updates regarding highways and footpaths.

- Highway issues

Dealt with under County Councillor Report in Public participation.

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

- Tree warden's Report

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The clerk has been made aware of a TPO being served for the following property due the Council has served this TPO because These mature oak trees make a significant contribution to the landscape character and visual amenity of the area. Several of the trees exhibit veteran characteristics, providing valuable and irreplaceable habitat features that merit protection and retention. There is potential for the land to be cleared as part of future development proposals, which could place these trees at risk. Given their public amenity value, ecological importance, and contribution to the local landscape, the Council considers that the trees warrant protection through the serving of a Tree Preservation Order. These trees have scored a significant TEMPO (Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders) score which indicates that they are suitable for a TPO. They are an important landscape feature which make a significant contribution to the amenity of the area. This is in line with Policy DM4.8 of the South Norfolk Local Plan Development Policies Document 2015

Tree(s) at: Mead House Chequers Road Tharston Norfolk NR15 2YA
Nothing to report and the clerk has had no contact from the Tree warden despite many emails so an advert will be placed in the newsletter for a new one.

- Footpath Issues

Nothing to report

- Maintenance and Handyman's report

Included in the councillors pack for their attention but we need to find more work for the Handyman as his owed hours are growing and it is a worry.

10. To receive an update on the Hapton Community Project

The new toilet block at the community area will be installed from tomorrow 23rd July and will take 2 days and the clerk will be onsite to meet the contractors tomorrow and the chair will meet with them later to look at the installation of the sundries.

It was noted that we have at last received the monies back via our bank from Rural Law and Ashtons have been paid today and the clerk will contact them to ensure the works are completed within 7 days as agreed with the council.

The event was excellent but not the best turnout due to the football and the heat. With a small profit of around £35 but more payments are due in totalling £250.00

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11. To discuss the latest Pylons information

The clerk had received the following email from a resident of Swainsthope. I wonder if it would be possible for you to make as many villagers as possible aware of the crowdfunder that Pylons East Anglia has launched to fund the fight against the N2T. This is to pay for legal fees. They have managed to raise 30% of the target set. If every household in all villages along the route gave as little as £5, the target would be reached in no time. The crowdfunder is on their Facebook page. Other than that, nothing else has been sent to the clerk on this subject

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

The rule 6 letter has been received from East Pye Solar showing the timescale for the planning inspectorate investigation and this has been shared with all councillors via email. The first event on this where people can appear is Tuesday 15th September at Dunston Hall and the clerk commented that all councillors are welcome to attend and speak but must register with the planning inspectorate in the first instance.

13. To note information on Tas way energy park application

No further information on this scheme

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

Detailed earlier in planned open space agenda item

15. To discuss Parish Projects

- Newsletter
The new issue has been started but the clerk needs the pictures asap of the recent event plus any items the council would like in by the end of July or first week of August without fail
- Sam Machine
Still working but needs downloading asap. A question was asked on a new flashing sign with smiley face moving forward. As it seems the Parish Partnership scheme has been scrapped by the new reform administration this is now not a possibility, but the councillor will check.
- Tharston Phone box
This really needs to be done and installed and a pad cost looked into, and we would expect to see it installed asap. Three quotes are needed. Ben Willis, GLS and Simon Landscapes would be good to contact. What three words to be used to get the location that the chair will provide.

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- Parish Councillors/Clerk training/Personal development
The clerk has booked for the upcoming NPTS Autumn Seminar on 1st October along with the upcoming Digital AGAR seminar in Reading (he will pay his own hotel costs) and new governance seminar in Northampton (again he will pay his own hotel costs) and this one will have the costs split between his councils
The clerk will also attend the upcoming SLCC National Conference in mid-October
- New Defibrillator and Defib Training dates to be fixed.
Nothing to report on this
- Surveyors Land and Christmas tree Order
Deferred till September meeting.
- Hapton Phone Box
All good and needs more books and could it be put in the newsletter.
- Neighbourhood watch
Nothing to report
- Meeting House Field
Nothing to report
- Parish Orchard at Old Village Hall site
Was looking good but it is looking quite dreary at present with a lack of water, but we can use a hosepipe as it is a public facility.
- Dog mess in the village
Still an ongoing issues. People must be reported asap.

17. To discuss Green Initiatives moving forward including recycling and actions on the biodiversity policy

• Green recycling of blister packs and razors

The clerk has made an appointment to meet the bio-diversity consultant next Tuesday 28th at the community project at 11 am to chat over possible grants and help with our biodiversity policy. He has also booked himself on the upcoming nature conservation lunch on Tuesday 11th August at SNDC to see the procedure and schemes they may fund.

18. Public Participation (10 minutes)

For any Parishioners to comment on any items that have been discussed during the meeting only

We should consider taking the marquee down if we get more high winds as it could be getting more damage.

Could Community payback be used but they are not booked till later in the year

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19. To receive items for the next agenda.

Xmas Tree Order

Church Letter for funding

Meeting closed 22nd September 2026

Next Meeting Weds 22nd September 2026