

# THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at  
The Community Building, Holly Lane, Hapton  
**On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7pm.**

## **In Attendance:**

**Mr N Potter (chair)**

**Mr T Ward**

**MR V Blake**

**Mr G Bleach**

**Mrs Jess Chaney**

**Mr D Daniels**

**Mr A Arber (clerk)**

1 Member of the Public

- 1. Appointment of Chairman** – To sign acceptance of Office  
Nick Potter was nominated to stay as Chairman. All agreed to accept
- 2. Appointment of Vice Chairman** – To sign acceptance of Office  
Tim Ward was nominated as Vice Chairman and all agreed to accept.
- 3. Acceptance of Office and Register of Interests** – Chair and Vice Chair to hand in their acceptance of Office and Register of interest's forms. The meeting will also consider granting an extension for any Declarations of Office forms not received and to declare the seat vacant.  
Nick and Tim duly and duly signed the Acceptance of Office Form witnessed by The Clerk
- 4. Public Participation**– County and District Council reports can also be received during this time. (10 minutes maximum).  
A parishioner commented the following regarding meadow saxifrage growth as you go out of the village and when they cut the verges, they did not cut this back. Meadow Saxifrage is classed as a declining asset. It was asked could we get that as a verge conservation area and if we could pinpoint this area, we can get this done asap. Clerk to contact highways on this issue and hopefully get them not to cut till the summer.

No Report from County Councillor Alison Thomas

District Councillor Kim Carsok emailed the following report

## **Community grants:**

Members' Ward grants – I have £2,000 available this year (hopefully to spread across the 4 parishes)

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Community Action Fund - £500,000 available for new projects, deadline 16<sup>th</sup> August

New Community Facilities upgrades grant - £500,000 available, for fixing/refurbishing/upgrading existing community infrastructure, deadline 16<sup>th</sup> August

£150,000 in Bloom grant £1 per person in a parish, match funded – a new round will open soon (you can apply only if your parish has not already been granted the full amount based on £1 per person in the parish)

## **Leisure Facilities capital investments:**

Wymondham leisure centre is having solar panels installed imminently, some disruption to customers in the car park to be expected

Framingham Earl Sports Centre has had planning permission approved for plans to expand the site including a gym, studio, and upgrades to changing rooms

Diss new leisure centre has also had planning permission and approval from cabinet to proceed with the build; construction should begin within the next few weeks.

Kett's Park in Wymondham – we are considering plans to expand facilities at this site, to include an expanded café, soft play, studio extension, walking path, and 2<sup>nd</sup> 3G all-weather pitch. Currently doing surveys and working with architects on drawings and costings.

## **Food Waste Collections:**

The phased introduction of food waste collections will begin soon. This was delayed due to a (largely predictable) supply and demand issue across the country with specialist lorries not being able to be produced as quickly as had been hoped. Residents in phase 1 will receive a letter followed by delivery of a food waste bin and indoor kitchen caddy.

## **East Pye Solar:**

The East Pye project will go to the planning inspectorate stage. Residents must register by 10 June as an interested person on the government website if they wish to make any comment against this scheme, or to listen in to the hearings etc. You do not have to be a direct neighbour of the scheme, anyone in the country can register to object and we encourage every member of the household to register individually. At this stage you only need make a small comment as to why you are interested.

## **5. Apologies – To consider accepting apologies for absence.**

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Jenna Goodall- Browne sent her apologies all agreed to accept

**6. Minutes** – To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2026

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April and the chair duly signed the minutes

Proposed Nick Potter                      Seconded Vic Blake

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

Tim Ward for a payment

Graham Bleach for a payment

All agreed to accept

## **8. Planning**

- Planning applications  
None this month
- To discuss the Planned Open Space Land  
The meeting with MP Ben Goldsborough was cancelled due to ill health on Bens part and it has been rescheduled for Friday May 15th to get the project moving forward. The clerk has emailed Aylsham FC a date for a visit to Aylsham FC but no reply yet but he is there all weekend, so will chat with them then
- To discuss Planning Applications and any received after the agenda is posted  
None

## **9. Governance**

To instruct the clerk to update all Policies

Clerk will undertake this ready for June meeting

To approve the continued use of the General Power of Competence

It was agreed to keep using the General Power of Competence moving forward

Proposed Nick Potter      Seconded Tim Ward

To approve Bank Signatories

Tim Ward, Graham Bleach and Vic Blake agreed to stay on as bank signatories

To approve the delegation of Power to the clerk for emergency items as Financial Regulations up to £750.00

Proposed Nick Potter                      Seconded David Daniels

To note new insurance policy in place

The new insurance policy is in place, and payment will be made at this meeting with a small increase from £748.06 to £761.83 the charges this year

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## 10. Finance –

- To note receipts in April 2026
  - Precept £20,192.72
  - Election use of Cabin £300.00
  - Scribe Refund £44.40
  - Credit card Refund £27.99

### To approve the following payments for May 2026

- To approve Payments to Parish Clerk Alan Arber for April salary and expenses £854.51
  - To approve payment for Clerks pension for April £271.98
  - To approve payment to HMRC for tax and NI £293.40
  - To approve payment to Handyman for salary and expenses April £389.05
  - To approve payment to Solicitors for land registry work on community area **paid in April**
  - To approve payment to CAS for Parish Insurance £761.83
  - To approve payment to Tim ward for new solar panel for cameras £12.59
  - To approve monthly payment for Wi-Fi in the cabin £55.20
  - To approve payment to Graham Bleach for hand wipes £12.48
  - To approve payment to 02 for security cameras £79.99
  - To approve payment to scribe for Accounts package £44.40
  - To approve payment to Gala Tent for marquee cover and sundries £658.88
  - 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
  - Hotel for Clerk for Planning Inspectorate meeting in Ipswich £162.54
  - BBQ charcoal and Firelighters and Card Machine £51.94
  - Terra Cycle Blister Pack Bags £68.60
  - Wix Domain Payment £15.24
- Proposed Nick Potter Seconded Vic Blake

### 7.1. To receive the financial position of the council

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The council started the month of May with a balance of £34,947.63 and after today's payments are taken out the balance will stand at £31,532.99 with a VAT Reclaim of £553.62 to be done

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

- Highway issues  
Nothing to report

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

- Tree warden's Report

No report

- Footpath Issues

No report

- Maintenance and Handyman's report

The handyman's report was given to all councillors for their attention

10. **To receive an update on the Hapton Community Project**

To discuss the costs for a history group to use the cabin

It was agreed the History Group could use the cabin with no charge

To discuss the installing of rabbit fencing

It was agreed this was not needed and should be taken from the agenda

To agree date to start the work on the new toilet block as per the grant we received.

Due to us having limited time left on the grant before the monies needed to be paid back it was agreed that the build would start by the beginning of June 2026 and would take a few weeks to get done before we get the fittings in place.

The cabin has a booking for a child's party on 13<sup>th</sup> June, and the clerk will contact the family on this asap to arrange everything.

Comments were made regarding the solicitor to ask why they have not paid the funds over. Email sent.

Fertilizer to be put on the hedge at the top of the project asap.

11. **To discuss the latest Pylons information and Clerks attendance at latest Planning Inspectorate Meeting**

The clerk attended the 2-day hearing and was disappointed that no-one from South Norfolk Council chose to attend although Norfolk County Council did for a short while. It was a difficult hearing with The Clerk being questioned by National Grid Barrister and Fischer German the agents, but he manage to get his point across on the air quality, Traffic, Biodiversity and Local historic buildings.

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

It was noted that the consent order is now in and the clerk has registered the council as an objector under the registration number F7E8E94F7.

## **13. To note information on Tas way energy park application**

No comments on this application as it is on stop at the moment

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

This has already been dealt with earlier

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

- Newsletter  
It is with the printers, and it is hoped that it will be ready next week for distribution.
- Sam Machine  
All Okay and moved plus we need to do a download asap.
- Tharston Phone box  
Nothing to report
- Parish Councillors/Clerk training/Personal development  
Nothing to report on this.
- New Defibrillator and Defib Training dates to be fixed.  
Nothing to report
- Surveyors Land and Christmas tree Order  
Will be done in late September
- Hapton Phone Box  
All good and looking like it could do with a paint and needs more books
- Neighbourhood watch  
Nothing to report
- Meeting House Field  
Still being well used. Also been cut and there are 6 owl chicks in one box, and it is hoped that they will survive moving forward.
- Parish Orchard at Old Village Hall site  
Community payback did a good job on this. We need to keep on top of the works, and we will utilise the Community Payback where possible. It was felt the area is not very level and could this be looked at. Could we look at getting a recycled bench moved up there.

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- Dog mess in the village  
Still an issue and people are still using the community project to walk their dogs off a lead, and an article is in the newsletter around this.

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

- **Green recycling of blister packs and razors**

We have utilised the Blister Pack big bags and our first two bags of Blister packs have been returned via Inpost which was an easy scheme to use. The clerk felt this was a great system and we should get more asap. All agreed

- **To note the application to the South Norfolk in Bloom application for £940 match funded by SNDC to the same amount**

We have been awarded the full £940 which the council will need to match fund to the same amount, and we could start with getting some owl boxes for the community area.

## **18. Public Participation (10 minutes)**

**None**

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

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

**Details of meeting with Aylsham FC**

**Owl Box and recycled bench**

**Hedge in the Autumn at the community project.**

**Meeting closed 19.30 pm**

**Next Meetings Weds 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**Parish Council Meeting 7.00 pm onwards**