

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at The Community Building, Holly Lane, Hapton
On 12th July 2023 at 7.00pm.**

In Attendance: Mr N Potter (chair)
Mr T ward
Mr D Daniels
Mr G Bleach
Mr V Blake
Mr A Arber (clerk)

One members of the public

Public Participation

Standing Orders were suspended to allow the public to speak.

Alison Thomas sent the clerk the following report as she was on leave this week.

The clerk has copies of the new scheme around Conversation matter for the noticeboards along with details of a scheme regarding ID being given to carers for when they take people in their care to hospital or other agencies, so they are easily identified in the first instance as carers.

Alison also reported that South Norfolk council have a new scheme where people can go online to report the service they get from the county and district councils be it good, bad, or indifferent.

Finally, Alison reported that the Long Stratton bypass will go ahead in April 2024 and be completed by Autumn 2025, and she had attended a gateway meeting recently regarding this and it was reported that the finance was now being moved from central government to the treasury for allocation of the funding for the project and that all that there is still work to be completed on hedges and grass verges in the coming months.

A Parishioner gave an update on the Tharston Fete and as yet few replies with very few volunteers coming forward to help and the parishioner has given volunteers till the 20th of July to reply.

Could a Port-a-loo be found, and they should contact Becky Potter who has the details on this.

The chair commented that he would speak to the Hapton Meadow working group to see if they could help and the cut-off date is the beginning of August to see if the Fete could go ahead.

The clerk commented that the council had already agreed to purchase a large marquee and 2 pop up gazebos, the marquee stored in Tharston. It was agreed that 3 pop up gazebo will be purchased for the events as agreed at earlier meeting.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Alison Thomas, Jenna Goodall Browne, and Chris Hewitt. All agreed to accept.

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

2. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 14th June 2023 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairperson.

Proposer: Nick Potter Seconder: David Daniels

3. Declarations of Interest

Nick Potter for a payment
David Daniels for a payment
All agreed.

4. Planning

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

5. Finances

The following invoices were approved for payment:

a). To approve Payments to Parish Clerk for Salary June2023	£893.97
b). To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Fund for Clerks Pension	£255.99
c). To approve payment to Gary Bentley for Parish maintenance	£38.00
e). To approve payment to N Potter for Rainwater project	£432.21
f). To approve payment to D Daniels for Orchard materials	£85.98
g). To approve payment to Viking for stationery	£76.04
h). To approve payment to Pride press for the newsletter	£378.00
i). To approve payment to P Riches for grass cutting	£125.00
j). A payment for quarterly bank charges was made on 30/6/2023	£18.00

k). 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 £34,585.40 and after today's payments the balance stands at £32,209.21 with a Vat refund to be reclaimed of £266.88.

Proposed: Tim ward Secoded: Victor Blake

L). The clerk also produced a 6-month expenditure v budget report for the councillors and was thanked for this by the chair.

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

6. To receive the details of the long Stratton town council proposal and discuss supporting it.

David Daniels briefly took the councillors through the proposal, and a discussion ensued with questions asked on the legality of some parts of some bids and that one of the discussions was held in a sealed council which upset many people. Long Stratton Town Council are looking to list this as a community asset making it difficult to knock down for housing to be built instead of a community building which is very much needed. It was agreed to support the request by Long Stratton Town Council to support their plans.

Proposed: Nick Potter

Seconded: Tim Ward

7. Highways

Long Stratton New Development

The chair commented that he had started to write a letter on the large lorries using Hapton Street and he asked if everyone could assist him on this.

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

Tree Warden report

No report

Footpath issues

Finger Post BR1 The Clerk reported that highways had agreed this needed doing and had marked it for replacement with the next 6 weeks.

The clerk also commented that he had forwarded all the footpath closures regarding the national grid work to the footpath warden.

Maintenance

The chair had a good walk round with our maintenance contractor and he had cleared the bridleway at the surveyor's land and the chair worried that our contractor may need help with the list of jobs that need doing.

A discussion was had on using a different contractor to do the hedges and verges and a contractor would be asked for a quote moving forward.

The chair will send a copy of our maintenance requirements to Graham for looking at this and discuss what we can do.

The Guttering is in place on the cabin and only water butts needs placing on site at this could be done as early as Thursday 13th July.

A discussion ensued on how they would be sited and on what type of material would be used.

Grass Cutting at Tharston Meadows

No Issues reported on this.

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Highways Barrier at Hapton School

The clerk reported that Alison Thomas had approached Gary Overland the highways engineer with regards this project and getting one installed from her highway budget, but the clerk still awaits conformation when it will be done.

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

a). To agree planning for VE day 2024

The clerk commented that he had received an email regarding the beacon held in Tharston by a parishioner and that they are willing to help the parish council site the beacon and show how to work it. It was agreed we would accept the offer and the clerk would contact the parishioner by email to arrange a date and time to meet.

10. To discuss the latest pylons Information

The clerk has put the latest information on the website for all to see and the dates of the consultations of time, Places, and dates these are being held.

A discussion ensued on this and that most councillors would be attending the Tasburgh consultation day on Monday 18th July and that it was felt that the last consultation was a waste of space and this one could be just the same.

As a council we favour an offshore cable and if that were undertaken it would be easier to update offshore than onshore in the coming years.

11. To discuss Parish Projects.

- **Newsletter.**
The clerk is working on the invoices at present.
- **SAM Machines.**
The clerk had downloaded the Hapton Sam 2, and the figures are still worrying with just under 490 vehicles going through Hapton Street daily and with a speed of 70 mph recorded on 22/3/2023 at 22.20pm.
The clerk has sent the data to the police for their comments, but no reply received yet.
- **Phone Box**
Chris Hewitt sent the clerk the following information.
Tharston and Hapton Parish Council would like to provide a miniature library/book exchange in a traditional red phone box on Tharston Meadow for use by the local community. The parish council would maintain, clean, and manage the facility. It is proposed that the phone box would be located on the grassed area indicated on the plan [NPM to produce and attach plan].

The arrangement would be subject to a formal agreement with NPM. NPM would be able to terminate the arrangement if it created any insurmountable problems.

The parish council already operates a similar facility in Hapton, which is extremely popular, and they hope that this proposed new facility on Tharston Meadow will be welcomed.

It was agreed that the clerk would contact Chris to go ahead with this asap.

Proposed: Nick Potter

Seconded: Tim Ward

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

- **Surveyors Land.**

Meeting has been held with the tree warden and the chairperson moving forward regarding the planting of the trees with the size of the site being half a hectare with the trees needing a 2-metre spacing. Ken commented the whole field needs ploughing and then we could do the project next year with the possibility of 140 trees. A question was asked on the harvesting and a discussion ensued that the project would be done in the best viable way to ensure the spacing was correct. It was also noted varied species have different spacing as they grow differently. It was noted that it would be a community asset moving forward. A contractor to plough would be sought and it is hoped to get this done asap with planting in early October.
- **Parish Councillors and Clerk training.**

The clerk will has booked his national conference and the costs are shared by all his 4 councils.
- **Village Hall**

No report
- **The Vision**

Dealt with earlier.
- **New Park Fundraising Ideas**

Quiz raised money for the church and 22nd July is a parish event with the chair looking at getting live entertainment. A question was asked around flyers, but it was noted it was in the newsletter. It would go on the noticeboards, website, and Facebook page.
- **Hapton Phone Box**

The phone box continues to be well used and still very full of books.
- **Defib training**

The clerk commented that Bunwell Parish Council are holding defib training on 8th August at Bunwell village Hall from around 7pm and he had booked the councillors some places on this.
- **Neighbourhood watch**

The clerk sent the link to Graham Bleach, and the clerk will order once items agreed. Graham to forward what he needs to the clerk asap.
- **Meeting House Field**

The clerk commented that he was thanked by a parishioner that the field had been cut. Councillors had looked at more mesh to stop dogs getting out and fixed them up. Also kissing gate secured and there is a worry on the main gate to be fixed with more mesh.
- **Community Orchard**

The first berry has grown, and Chris Hewitt had produced a sign for the orchard, and it was agreed to go with the design.
A discussion ensued on hedging, and this being done from the new hedging packs coming.

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

Victor Blake commented that there had been no sessions and that he had changed both SAM batteries.

13. Green Initiatives

Already dealt with earlier in the meeting

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

14. To discuss the response from Border-Hoppa on the bus idea

Discussed earlier in the meeting although Chris Hewitt had sent a survey round from a cycling group for all councillors to see and comment directly.

The clerk commented that he is working on the plan with long Stratton town council and other councils and would report back at the September meeting.

15. Public participation

Our new district councillor Kim Carsok commented regarding the SNDC customer survey as mentioned in Alison Thomas report. SNDC staff are all moved into Horizon House but for those that cannot get there a mobile service visits most areas. The help hub is still mobile to assist and SNDC are running some mental health awareness training and if over 5 people undertake, we could become a mindful village. The next full day session is at Newton Flotman on the 19th of July. More dates will be announced soon.

Grants are freely available with a member's ward grants and other grants are available.

The chair asked if anyone had Greg email regarding the first responder's idea and it was commented that someone would speak to Greg ASAP on this issue.

To receive items for the next agenda.

Next Parish Council meeting Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.