

# THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at Church Rooms, Hapton  
On 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 7.30pm.

**In Attendance:** Mr Nick Potter (Chair) Mr Alan Arber (clerk)  
Mrs Jenna Goodall Browne  
Mr V Blake  
Mr T Ward

County Councillor Alison Thomas, District Councillor Barry Duffin was in attendance along with two members of the public.

## Public participation

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

Alison Thomas gave the following report.

Long Stratton bypass and housing planning application is delayed till around end of Feb to beginning of March

Flood Authority need to do more work and some lobbying of government on legislation as this is quite weak

Budget is being discussed and it is noted that the increase is around 2.99% but a 3.99% was discussed but has not been accepted yet.

Free Trees will be discussed with the clerk when round three comes up.

Barry Duffin made the following report.

Village clusters has been put back by three of months and Barry will report back once he has more information. The accommodation review is back out for consultation and he urged everyone to put their comments in ASAP. Clerk will put link on website.

Barry wished everyone a happy Christmas and prosperous new year.

A parishioner asked that we keep an eye on the maize field from near the church and brown water is running down cow lane to the street.

*Standing Orders were reinstated.*

## 1. Apologies

Chris Hewitt sent his apologies and everyone agreed to accept.

## 2. Minutes

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> November and were duly signed by the chair.

**Proposed Nick Potter. Seconded. Tim Ward All Agreed to accept.**

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

None

## 4. Planning Applications.

- To discuss the Planned Open Space Land Adoption.  
**Nothing Received**
- Planning Application.  
**Nothing received**

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## 5. Highways.

- **Highways Issues.**  
No issue reported
- **To discuss the proposed long Stratton development and the adoption of the open space.**  
No report

## 6. Finance

- To approve Payments to Parish Clerk Alan Arber for Nov salary and expenses £427.44
- To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Fund for Clerks Pension in October £219.08
- To approve Payment to Gary Bentley for Parish Maintenance £156.00
- To approve payment to Pride Press for the newsletter £378.00
- To approve payment to CAS business Services for uplift in insurance for play area £55.11
- No new payments came in after the agenda posted.

### **Proposed Nick Potter Seconded Jenna Goodall Browne**

The clerk took the council through the latest financial position and reported that the council was in fine financial condition. The Chair also initialled the bank statement to show it balanced with the financial report.

**Budget** – Budget was agreed at a meeting held after this meeting concluded and will be reported at the Jan meeting.

**Unity Trust Bank Change** – The clerk commented that the bank account is up and running and from the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan 2022 we will change to fully automated internet banking and The clerk will collaborate with Councillor Tim Ward to get him on the system asap for internet banking.

## 7. To receive an update on Current Issues and to consider any necessary action.

### **Tree Warden's Report**

Two walnut trees that need planting now at the new field and the chair asked how much protection is needed from animals and ken replied that if you put the tubes round these should be okay. Ken reported that he had two more Walnut trees and he will donate to the council.

### **Footpath Wardens Report**

FP18 Long Lane through to the Street as it was reported that crops are planted across the footpath and the path is impassable due to the maize regularly planted across the path. The finger post and steel gate is lying on the verge. It was discussed that we need a new finger post in the valley along with a new one at the top of long lane due to the crossing a stream and the pointer is in then wrong direction (pointing left when you should go straight ahead).

### **Village maintenance**

Gary Bentley wants to cut the new laid hedge but is struggling to find a parking spot and it was asked that the clerk contact GLS to put some type 1 down on BR16 to ensure a safe area for parking.

- **Tree Species**

The Clerk forwarded the details to Graham Bleach.  
Alison Thomas will support our application on this once round three comes out

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## 8. To receive and update on the Long Stratton Neighbourhood Plan

Steering group is disbanded. To be removed from the agenda.

## 9. To discuss the options on adopting the open space land at Tharston Meadows

No update since the last one and the chair has visited and it is still being maintained. New title to be made for this to maintenance of the open space at Tharston Meadows.

## 10. To receive an update on Hapton Community Project

The balance beams are not seen as safe and the clerk will contact Vale Sport on this. It was thought the stopper needs moving. And again, the clerk will contact vale Sport on this. The toilet is still on site and this also needs removing and again the clerk will contact vale sports on this. The amended pad and a BBQ area will be installed once the chair gets the final details asap. Awaiting the final quote for the pad and the materials plus the contractor will install the BBQ also. It was agreed that a working party would meet at the new play area to build the benches and locate them

## 11. To receive an update on flooding in the parish.

No update

## 12. To discuss Parish Projects.

### • Newsletter.

The latest edition of the Newsletter been circulated and many good comments have been received regarding how local it was and the information was excellent in the newsletter. The clerk was thanked for his work on this

### • SAM Machines.

The SAM machine update had been done and the clerk reported that there was one speeder on 18<sup>th</sup> September at 7.20pm at 65mph which was worrying. Other than that, the information showed the main times for peak in the village was 8-9 am at around eighty vehicles an hour and 4-5pm at 70 Vehicles an hour. And the average speed on the street was around 34.1mph. the SAM 2 in Tharston is not reading correctly and the clerk will chat with Westcotec on this.

### • Phone Box

Awaiting a reply from the diocese on the letter sent and from The Heal family on the toilet proposal. A new site is needed in Tharston Meadows for the phone box

### • Surveyors Land.

Notice has been served to the Tenant who is slightly sad to be losing the land but understands the reasons why.

### • Parish Councillors and Clerk training.

New Chairman's training is required by Tim Ward and an update for Nick Potter and The Clerk reported that it is hoped this will take part at Wacton Village Hall on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January starting at 7.00pm. Training for Chris Hewitt is being looked at to get Chris an evening course as a day course is not really working for him.

### • Village Hall.

No comments made

### • New Play Area/Hapton Community Project

Dealt with earlier in the meeting.

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- **The Vision.**

Dealt with under Village Hall.

- **New Park Fundraising Ideas**

The chair commented that he had seen a scheme on the television regarding taking pictures around the parish and making them into Christmas cards and selling them to raise monies for the parish. Also, calendars were discussed. It was agreed that this will go in the newsletter in March.

- **Hapton Phone Box**

The bookshelves and lights are all in place and look fantastic but it was agreed to speak with the contractor to ensure the lights stay on to show the Defibrillator sign.

- **New Defibrillator Training**

The Clerk has contacted London Hearts and is looking at dates for the new Defibrillator Training to take place in the new year. It was a worry that there was no quick response member available and it was thought that there was one on Tharston Meadows and The clerk will contact the ambulance service on this subject. The clerk also reported that there is a new system called the Circuit for our defibs in the parish and he had logged all three onto the system this week and this feeds directly to The Ambulance Service

- **Neighbourhood watch**

The Clerk has forwarded the link to Graham for him to log on and create his own account to work with this. The clerk to purchase fifteen signs from the Neighbourhood watch scheme.

- **Meeting House Field**

The clerk reported that he had received a quote of £1020.00 including Vat from GLS to do the works on Meeting house field to make it dog friendly and it was agreed the work should go ahead

**Proposed. Tim Ward      Seconded. Jenna Goodall Browne**

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

Three dates need arranging for the training in mid Jan to mid Feb and once the final date is agreed training can take place on a Friday afternoon, so it is hoped the speed watch group will be up and running in 2022

## **14. To discuss Green Initiatives for the council moving forward**

The Clerk commented that a parishioner was looking to start a community action group for green issues and the chair hoped to speak with the parishioner to form a working party to look at the issues we have. The chair commented that the parish council are looking at forming a working party to look into this to assist the groups and the chair asked what sort of funding is available via county and district councils to assist the group. It was thought that we should contact the environment agency in the first instance to make our thoughts known on rivers such as The Tas. The clerk commented that a few parish councils are writing a green policy and he will look into this to bring to the next meeting. The clerk would look into the Internal Drainage Board to see if it covers our area and it was thought to look at Norfolk Wildlife Trust to see what schemes are available.

## **15. Public participation.**

None

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

**Policies Update**

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## Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Next Parish Meeting Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.**