

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at The Community Building, Holly Lane, Hapton
On 14th December 2022 at 7.00pm.**

In Attendance: Mr Nick Potter (Chair)
Mr V Blake
Mr T Ward
Mr G Bleach
Mr D Daniels
Mr A Arber (clerk)

One member of the public. Plus, County Councillor Alison Thomas

Public participation

Standing Orders were suspended to allow the public to speak.

Alison Thomas gave the following report and at a meeting recently on the Long Stratton Bypass and the aim is to get it to planning to March so it does not get caught up in Purdah. Scoping design to enable them to get the design brought forward in time for planning. The Aim is to start April 2024 and complete around end of 2025 to allow them to combat ground conditions. Archaeological dig on going and now hampered by the ground. They have found some roman artifacts in the southern ends and the side road orders for the closures of footpaths and Parkers Lane affected and severed by the bypass and is a legal process they must go through.

Other two issues around the devolving of the county deal to aid more powers to Norfolk and comes with a significant sum of money and more powers with it too. It would also give us more powers on planning etc locally and the figure is around £20 million a year to Norfolk. Capital funding will also increase on other issues meaning that funding will increase and the proviso that we will have a directly elected leader for the whole of Norfolk.

Finally, the other challenge is the county budget with a huge shortfall and budget challenges are entering a third round to look at these asap and a decision is due soon on the county budget. Adult social care is 30% of the budget and schools are 20% which equates to 50% of the budget they are working on.

A parishioner made the comment on the Grit bin at the top of Cow Lane, and it was asked that we could contact redwings to get it filled up and if they will help by doing this.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

1. Apologies

Barry Duffin and Jenna Goodall Browne sent their apologies. All agreed to accept these

2. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 12th October 2022 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

Proposer: N Potter

Seconder: D Daniels

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

3. Declarations of Interest

Graham Bleach and Nick Potter for a payment in item 5.

Proposed J Goodall-Browne Seconded V Blake

4. Planning

- **To discuss the Planned Open space**
Nothing to report
- **Planning Application**
2022/1698
Location: Model Farm Plump Road Tharston Norfolk NR15 2YR
Proposal: Change of use of land for installation of 4no Glamping Pods with parking area.
Councillor David Daniels has looked at this application and the council agreed to no comment.

5. Finances

The following invoices were approved for payment:

- I. To approve Payments to Parish Clerk Alan Arber for Oct and Nov salary and expenses Oct £836.25 Nov £1145.26 and includes clerks' salary rise and back pay backdated to April 2022
- II. To approve payment for Clerks pension for Oct £236.94 and Nov £360.09
- III. To approve payment to Graham Bleach for maintenance £14.00 Oct payment
- VI. To approve payment to Nick Potter for Parish maintenance £80.25 Oct Payment
- V. To approve payment to Hapton Service Station for Battery £9.99 Oct Payment
- VI. To approve payment to Viking for Cabin Items £124.12 Oct payment
- VII. To approve payment to pride press for the Greeting cards £180
- VIII. To approve payment to P Riches for grass Cutting £125.00 chq No. 300038
- V1V. To approve payment to Emorsgate Seeds for wildflower project £936.00
- VV. To approve payment to Howdens for Cabin ends £11.16
- VV1. To approve payment to Viking for Sundries £206.68
- VV11. To approve payment to Toilets 2, Go for Queens Jubilee £114.00
- VV111. To approve payment to G Bleach for Keys £20.00
- VV11V. To approve payment to N Potter for pre-budget meeting items £7.29
- VVV. To approve payment to NPTS for GDPR training and D Daniels Training £116.00
- VVV1. To approve payment to Simons Landscaping for filling grit bins and gas bottle £504.76
- VVV11 To approve the payment to PWLB for loan repayment of £1100.67

The final three payments came in after the agenda was posted

The clerk produced a financial report to show the current balance before today's meeting matched the bank statement at £40,490.10 duly signed by the chair as correct and the balance after today's meeting will be £36,786.86

The clerk also commented that he has VAT reclaim to make at the end of Dec for a figure of £179.57 as detailed on your financial report

Proposer: N Potter Seconded: G Bleach

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

The clerk also gave out copies of his recent appraisal for all councillors to see plus details of his pay rise for 2023-24 including thought on a 1.75% award or a 4% award. All councillors agreed that the clerk would get the 4% rise for 2023-24

Proposed N Potter

Seconded Chris Hewitt

Nick Potter was agreed as the Internal Control Officer

Proposed Tim Ward

Seconded David Daniels

2023-24 Budget agreed

Proposer Nick Potter

Seconded Chris Hewitt

6. Highways

The clerk is still awaiting the two road signs that have still not been installed and he will contact highways on this urgently

Long Stratton New Development

No report on this item

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

Tree Warden report

No Report from Ken

Footpath issues

Sue and Ken walked the Hedge line on the new field, and all looks good with the hedge. Tim and Sue will be cutting back overhanging trees by the gateway of the new field asap. It was also agreed that the trees can be managed, and all agreed this was correct. It was agreed that Tim and Sue will be covered by the Parish Council Public liability.

Parish Maintenance

The clerk reported that he had asked for two bins to be delivered to Hapton Meadow and as, yet these have not been, but should be after the Christmas break. The clerk was also aware that the grit bins around the parish needed filling up due to the harsh weather and he contacted highways to get these done only to be told it is our responsibility and he contacted Simons Landscaping who immediately came out and filled all the grit bins. The clerk reported that the laptop is running slow and had approached 1-2-1 computers at Diss to discuss an SSD upgrade rather than buy a new laptop. The cost to upgrade would be around £230 including the latest issue of Office 365 on a yearly subscription.

Proposed N Potter

Seconded Graham Bleach

Grass Cutting at Tharston Meadows

Not relevant at present

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

8. To receive a report on the Hapton Community Project

The cabin now has a heater that really works well and heats the cabin well. Graham Bleach had a bottle that we could swap over, and the cost was £25, and it was agreed to reimburse Graham for this cost of the bottle.

Proposed N Potter

Seconded T Ward

9. To discuss Parish Projects.

- **Newsletter.**

The Christmas Edition has finally been printed and distributed to all who helps get these out. The late print was due to the printer's machine breaking down and the part being held up in the postal strike. The edition is now out and has twenty-four pages and we have received a number of good comments to its contents
- **SAM Machines.**

The clerk and Victor Blake had downloaded the Tharston Sam, and the figures will be uploaded onto the website in the coming days for all to see. It was noted that in the 4 months since we downloaded the Sam that the average speed along chequers road was 34.3 mph which is disturbing as it is a 20-mph road. The document has been sent to The Police for their comments
- **Phone Box**

No change on this subject
- **Surveyors Land.**

We need to arrange a working party meeting before the spring to work out what will happen with the land and what project will be done with the land.
- **Parish Councillors and Clerk training.**

Any new training will be booked in January
- **Village Hall**

It was asked if the land could be made into allotments on the land, but it was felt that the covenants would not allow this.
- **New Play Area/Hapton Community Project**

Dealt with earlier in the meeting.
- **The Vision**

No comments made.
- **New Park Fundraising Ideas**
- The photos have been printed and look fabulous and they are being
- **Hapton Phone Box**

The phone box continues to be well used and getting full up with books and a lady will take books away and it was agreed she could take what she wants.
- **New Defibrillator Training. Community Responders**

The training will take place at the new building and the clerk will book this asap
- **Neighbourhood watch**

The clerk will look at speaking with Neighbourhood watch to get some new signs.
- **Meeting House Field**

The bins are now being emptied which is great news.

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Victor Blake commented that they have been given news that they may be able to do the speed watch in the 20 mph areas. Victor also commented they have had a couple of sessions and during term time makes it easier to get good readings as the group are slightly hidden and they did one as part of the county council campaign which the police were due to attend but they did not. It was reported that they will try and do one over the next couple of weeks without the cars in the way. Everyone that is recorded twice do get two letters.

11. Green Initiatives

The Wildflower area seeds have been ordered and have been delivered to Tim Ward and it is hoped when the weather is better that the planting can begin. Tim will also collect the trees from Norfolk Wildlife trust on 15th December.

12. To discuss the response from Borderhoppa on the bus idea

No response has been received and the clerk will follow up in early January

13. Public participation

No Public participation

To receive items for the next agenda.

Precept Request

SAM Data for Hapton

Set up What's App Group for councillors

Allotments in Tharston

Coronation and events on Hapton field for 2023

Next Parish Meeting Wednesday 19th January 2023

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.