

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at Church Rooms, Hapton
On 16th March 2022 at 7.30pm.

In Attendance: Mr Nick Potter (Chair) Mr Alan Arber (clerk)
Mr V Blake
Mr T Ward
Mr C Hewitt
Mrs J Goodall Browne

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.

Barry Duffin provided the following report
Community Action fund will be doubled £100,000 for the whole area and the council was urged to look at projects for when the grants become available
Village Clusters going through the motions at present with no further information available at present. The district councillor gave a run down of how the scheme works in various ways and with some examples of how decisions are made.
Long Stratton bypass planning application with South Norfolk and its hope that if approval comes it will open around 2024.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

1. Apologies

Graham Bleach and Alison Thomas sent their apologies All agreed to accept

2. Minutes

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting of 16th February and were duly signed by the chair.

Proposed Nick Potter Seconded. Vic Blake 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.

No Declarations declared

4. Planning Applications.

- To discuss the Planned Open Space Land Adoption.
Nothing Received
- Planning Applications.
2022/0296 No Comment made from Parish Council
2022/0322 No Comment made from Parish Council

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5. Highways.

- **Highways Issues.**

A road sign at Parkes lane/ Long Lane junction and has been reported and a new sign requested from Highways. No reply as yet on this issue and The clerk will chase

- **To discuss the proposed long Stratton development**

No report.

6. Finance

- To approve Payments to Parish Clerk Alan Arber for Feb salary and expenses £728.58
- To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Fund for Clerks Pension in Feb £219.08
- To approve Payment to SLCC for Clerks attendance at SLCC Norfolk Conference £39.00
- To approve payment To Gary Bentley for maintenance work in the Parish £60.00
- To approve payment to HMRC for Tax and NI £110.40
- To approve payment to SNDC for annual dog bin charge £535.68
- To approve payment to Pride Press for the newsletter £378.00
- To approve payment to Dunster House for Compostable toilet £979.99
- No new payments came in after the agenda posted.

Proposed Nick Potter Seconded Vic Blake

The clerk took the council through the latest financial position and reported that the council was in fine financial condition.

Unity Trust Bank Change – The clerk commented that the bank account is up and running and we are now fully automated on internet banking. Councillor Tim Ward is now an authorised signatory on the account too.

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

Tree Warden's Report

No report

Footpath Wardens Report

BR1 finger post to be reported asap.

Village maintenance

New sign Gary Bentley has erected looks good and the old hedge cuttings on meeting house field needs clearing.

8. To discuss the purchase of The Old Village Hall site by Tharston PCC and other options

The clerk commented that he had sent the letter agreed at the last meeting to the PCC and they will discuss at their next PCC meeting on 30th March

9. To discuss the purchasing of a mobile internet dongle for the clerk to use at meetings and at the new cabin.

The clerk produced a report on this issue for all councillors to look at around monthly costs and contract lengths and it was agreed to keep on the agenda to look at all options in the future.

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10. The maintenance of 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.

11. To receive an update on Hapton Community Project/Queens Platinum Jubilee project

The clerk reported that the new community project would be opened by a local TV personality and this had all been agreed and it would also coincide with the queens Platinum jubilee celebrations on Sunday 5th June where the Parish council would host an event and this was detailed below under its own heading. A discussion ensued around the issues around the pad moving and the worry is the water is laying in the area we least need it which could cause the feet on the raft to rot. The chair will look at this issue and report back with looking at the possibility of a new drain being put in or the problem area being dealt with.

- To approve quote to Kent Blaxill for Paint for new building £600.86 all agreed to go ahead. It was agreed to get quotes to do the works.
- To approve quote to Hapton Building Services for new path at Community Building £7940 + vat. It was agreed to get another quote on this project and the chair will look at all options around local companies.
- To receive quote for table and chairs and agree which ones to purchase. It was agreed to purchase 20 Dynamic Chairs and 4 Gopak contour tables once the painting is completed. It was agreed to look at the possibility of using recycled chairs and tables.

Proposed. Jenna Goodall Browne

Seconded Tim Ward

The event would be held on Sunday 5th June at the community park with the details being agreed at the next meeting and on a round robin email to all councillors

12. To receive an update on flooding in the parish.

The clerk commented that he had received some information on a partnership Anglian water were embarking on and he would put the details on both the website and noticeboards asap. There was worries on the kerbs being the same level as the road and the clerk was asked to contact highways on this issue.

13. To discuss Parish Projects.

• **Newsletter.**

The latest edition has been completed and The clerk has distributed the copies to the various volunteers that deliver the newsletter but he also commented that he would like to thank Chris and Helen Lawson and Tim Gammon for delivering the all the newsletters to Tharston. This is a huge help.

• **SAM Machines.**

The SAM machine has been downloaded and the findings make for worrying reading with a definite increase in the Traffic using Hapton street with the figures being 45,985 one way in a three-month period a daily average taken over the 82 days the machine was up of 557 cars. The peak times being 8am to 9am when we have seventy-eight cars an hour and, in the evening, 4pm to 5pm when we average eighty-seven cars in that hour. The maximum speed on the report is 90 mph on 12/1/2022 at 19.25 pm and the figures show that the

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average speed through the village is between 32 and 40 mph which is not a good figure. The clerk will forward the figures to The Police.

- **Phone Box**
No change on this subject
- **Surveyors Land.**
Hedge has been trimmed
- **Parish Councillors and Clerk training.**
The Clerk is booked on the SLCC Conference at Norwich City FC on Monday 25th March. Need to rebook Chris Hewitt Training.
- **Village Hall.**
No comments made
- **New Play Area/Hapton Community Project**
Dealt with earlier in the meeting.
- **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**
Nothing to report except the book library is flourishing
- **New Defibrillator Training. Community Responders**
The Clerk has now received the new Defib pads for the defibs for Hapton and Tharston street and he will install them in the correct defibs. Chris Hewitt commented that the first responders in Long Stratton to include Tharston and Hapton.
- **Neighbourhood watch**
The Clerk reported that no information had yet been received and he will keep chasing
- **Meeting House Field**
The clerk reported that the work on meeting house field has been completed but a little more work needs doing to finalise the project
- **Firework Display**
It was hoped to have one at Halloween with an event at the new field and we would contact Redwings before the event would be held. A discussion was held on this and it was agreed to not do one this year but look again next year.

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

Victor Blake commented that the speed watch group was up and running and that on the two occasions they had been out they had noted fourteen speeders at 2pm and 16 speeders at 4pm in that time which again is a worrying figure. Most speeders were over forty mph. It was also noted that not a lot of heavy goods vehicles were noted at the times the speed watch was active.

15. To discuss Green Initiatives for the council moving forward and Active Travel

Local walking and infrastructure plans are being looked at along with active England with Norfolk County Council doing a whole study on active travel. Chris will look at this. The access from Tharston Meadows to Long Stratton is not the best due to a lack of paths across Long Stratton Recreation Ground and Chris attended the

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Long Stratton Town Council meeting on this issue and was met with some support and will look at this along with funding if possible.

Google maps have refused to designate Hapton Street as a C road. A complaint has been made to Google user community.

Fornsett nature matters group will come back to after their upcoming meeting on how we can get involved and look at how we can work together. Tim Ward had done an article for the newsletter and it was agreed to get more information from agencies on how our waste is recycled and publish this in the next newsletter for all parishioners to see what is expected of them with regards to recycling and how we can all get better moving forward and had contacted NEWS recycling in Costessey were approached about a visit but this request was declined and Tim contacted Biffa and is awaiting a reply to try and arrange visit there.

16. Public participation.

None

17. To receive items for the next agenda.

Policies Update

Internal Control report

Opening Hapton Project and Queens Platinum jubilee celebration details to finalise.

Meeting dates for 2022-2023

Next Parish Meeting Wednesday 13th April 2022

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.