

# THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at  
The Community Building, Holly Lane, Hapton  
On 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7.00pm.

**In Attendance:** Mr N Potter (chair)  
Mr T Ward  
MR V Blake  
Mr D Daniels  
Mr A Arber (clerk)

2 members of the public.

1. **Public Participation**– County and District Council reports can also be received during this time. (10 minutes maximum).

Both County and District Councillors sent their apologies as they had nothing to report.

2. **Apologies** – To consider accepting apologies for absence.

Graham Bleach and Jenna Goodall-Browne sent their apologies for illness. All agreed to accept these

3. **Minutes** – To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2025

**Proposed Cllr Potter**

**Seconded Cllr Daniels**

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

None declared

5. **Planning**

- Planning applications

2024/3816 Series of 13 ponds designed to intercept surface flows and designed to be part of work created off-site biodiversity units

Land east of High Road Ashwellthorpe Norfolk

The clerk gave the councillors all the info he had from this planning application to assist councillors, and it was agreed to support this application.

- To discuss the Planned Open Space Land
- To discuss Planning Applications and any received after the agenda is posted

6. **Governance** –

To adopt AI policy

**Proposed Cllr Blake**

**Seconded Cllr Potter**

7. **Finance** –

- To note receipts in January

**To approving the following invoices for payment February**

- To approve Payments to Parish Clerk Alan Arber for Jan salary and expenses £827.86
- To approve payment for Clerks pension for Jan £285.60
- To approve payment to HMRC for Tax and NI £318.93
- To approve payment to handyman for salary and expense £289.00
- Payment to Wensum print for new Community area sign £48.00

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- To approve payment to Parish online for Annual Subscription £163.20
- To approve payment to NPTS for Clerks Spring Seminar £56.00
- To approve monthly payment for Wi-Fi in the cabin £55.20
- To approve payment to 3 mobile for  
Direct debit for security sim cards £72.94
- To approve Monthly bank charges £6.00
- To approve Monthly credit card charge £3.00
- Payments on credit card  
CPRE Membership £60.00  
Ryobi Tools for Strimmer and batteries £259.99
- To receive the financial position of the council  
The balance on  
the 1<sup>st</sup> of Feb for the council was £15,482.18 and after today's payments the  
balance will be £13036.46 meaning the council are a down on last year's  
figure due to the community project but still have around £201.62 to  
reclaim in vat at present with march figure to be added before submitting to  
HMRC.

**Proposed Cllr Blake**

**Seconded Cllr Potter**

**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  
Nothing to report
- Footpath Issues  
Nothing to report
- Maintenance

The handyman had sent his report for his work in Jan 2025 which was down due to the poor weather, and he will be carrying over 9.5 hours to his Feb work  
The main jobs to be done are the Notice board on the Street Hapton and the Tap in the orchard.

The camera has been moved from meeting house field, and this will be moved to a suitable location with other moved into more suitable locations.

The clerk is still awaiting a meeting with the community payback team on their assistance moving forward on larger projects

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

- To discuss the possibility of installing wi-fi in the cabin  
This has been installed but there are some power issues that are being resolved asap.

- To discuss Vandalism in the community project  
This still continues which is concerning but the clerk will add another piece in the newsletter on this issue

- New Disabled Friendly compostable toilet

The clerk had discussed this with a company at his recent conference and the costs are very high and it was felt if the clerk could look at the disability grants to see if they could help moving forward.

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## 11. To discuss the pylons information

The clerk had received the recent slides received by SNDC on this today and will send round to all councillors asap.

The clerk commented that he had received the feedback questionnaire that needed completing with our comments but requested a councillor do this due to his impending leave.

The chair requested the councils support to contact Nigel Farage on this moving forward. The chair would like to keep this in the public eye.

It was agreed that if the chair would like to contact him personally, he can do that.

## 12.To note our comments to East Pye solar on Scoping report

The East Pye Solar environmental scoping report had been sent round requesting a response by the 12/2. It was agreed our response would be as follows.

There are 5 Solar Panel farms in the area. The council feel it was appropriate to object to the scheme on many fronts using these details from a recent meeting at Hempnall Parish council.

### **Suggested amendments to BEPS 3 Page doc: "Proposed Scope of the East Pye Solar EIA"**

I suggested some text changes to the full BEPS Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping

Report in regard to references to lighting impacts and impacts on rural tranquillity. Annetta Berry

is incorporating these changes into this document although they are not included in the version

you received via email. In order for the 3-page Proposed Scope document to be consistent with

the re-worded longer report the following references to lighting need to be re-worded:

- 1) "Impacts of any lighting, including temporary lighting on wildlife and communities should be scoped in"

Replace with:

"Impacts of any lighting employed during the construction phase, on flora, fauna ,

dark skies, dark landscapes and residential amenity should be scoped in"

(\*)

*Reason for the change – light pollution concerns extend beyond impacts on ecology and all the negative consequences of introducing artificial light into an area of rural dark landscape need to be fully assessed.*

- 2) "Impacts of permanent motion sensor lighting on wildlife and communities should be scoped in"

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Replace with:

“Impacts of any lighting employed during the 40 to 60 years operational period, on flora, fauna, dark skies, dark landscapes, and residential amenity should be scoped in”

*Reasons for the change – A) as for 1) above (\*) and B) In light pollution terminology the use of*

*the phrase permanent lighting usually refers to the employment of dusk to dawn lights. Light*

*pollution campaigners advise that when lighting is deemed necessary as part of a development, motion*

*sensor lights are used rather than permanent nighttime dusk to dawn lighting. We do*

*not want to give the impression that dusk to dawn lights would be acceptable.*

I also suggest that impacts on users of PROW is scoped in as an entirely separate to pic. These impacts will be huge, and an initial study shows that over 22km of PROW will have solar fields

along one side or both sides and many more sections of footpaths will have views ruined by the presence of solar panels and the associated infrastructure. I advise each parish council to identify

one or more viewpoints from footpaths where the visual impact would be substantial and to ask for the production of photomontages from these locations to be scoped in for inclusion in the ES.

And finally in addition to requesting that cumulative impacts resulting from this scheme together with other renewable projects in the wider area (both built and proposed) are scoped in there is a case for the impacts resulting from the sheer size of the East Pye scheme to be scoped in as a separate topic. No mega solar farm has yet been built in the UK and therefore the overall impact of all the various aspects of this kind of project has yet to be observed. The sum total of all impacts (on PROW, ecology, landscape, etc) over a large area of countryside really should be scoped in and assessed – these combined impacts cannot be covered under individual subject headings.

## **Advice from the planning officers at SNC (Claire Curtis) and NCC (Stephen Faulkner) overseeing NSIP projects on what to include in a scoping response**

Both advised that responses should be limited to stating which topics should be scoped in that are not already in the list.

This can of course include a request to scope in topics that East Pye want scoped out.

As well as identifying a topic / issue to be scoped in Claire and Stephen said it was important to provide a brief explanation as to why you want this topic covered.

Below are 2 examples of how you could phrase your responses – I have chosen Lighting and rural Tranquillity as these are topics on which I have done a considerable amount of work for CPRE both nationally and locally.

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**Lighting** should be scoped in as a separate topic because most of the countryside covered by these proposals is located in an area of Rural Dark Landscape as defined in Norfolk County Council's Environmental Lighting Zones Policy.

Residents and visitors alike appreciate the local rural dark landscape and dark skies. The impact of any form of nighttime artificial lighting on these treasured assets, ecology and residential amenity needs to be fully assessed.

**The impact on Rural Tranquillity** should be scoped in as a separate topic because most of the countryside covered by these proposals is defined on the CPRE Tranquillity Map of England as "Most Tranquil" and East Pye admit that: *"this is an undeveloped area with a valued sense of remoteness and tranquillity. It has stayed historically intact and unspoilt because it avoided the effects of the Industrial Revolution."* It is important that these few remaining untouched areas of rural England should be protected from development to preserve their integrity for future generations. The vast scale of this scheme and the distances it stretches across the landscape, some 15 KM, would have a significant impact on the area's *"valued sense of remoteness and tranquillity"* and these aspects should be scoped into the Environmental Impact Assessment.

NB Tranquillity is not just about an absence of noise it also covers an absence of artificial structures, lighting etc.

## **13. To discuss the Norfolk Homes land and what next steps are**

Norfolk Homes are requesting a date to meet with the management company asap. The date agreed was 14/7 between 8-10 am and the clerk will inform Norfolk Homes asap of this to set it up.

## **14. To discuss Parish Projects**

### • V E Day celebration

This needs moving forward asap and the chair has spoken to Simon Delaney to have availability for the date for the event with all relevant people organisations with the date being 28/6 starting at 2pm till 6pm clerk to get the licence in place. The event will bring your own drink and there will be a BBQ.

Police to be contacted, Ice Cream Van, singers already organised and maybe a dancing lindy hop troupe. All events to be looked into urgently.

### • CPRE Membership

The clerk has applied for this and should be all set up now to move things forward and help us with information on both the Pylons and East Pye Solar

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

### • Green recycling of blister packs and razors

Tim is close to doing an update to the biodiversity plan and will bring to the march meeting

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

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

CPRE membership was asked about and the council described this to the parishioners

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

**Year-end probability**

**Biodiversity**

**Norfolk Homes**

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**Speed watch**

**18. Next Meeting Weds 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025**