

# THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at  
The Community Building, Holly Lane, Hapton  
**On 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.00pm.**

**In Attendance:** **Mr N Potter (chair)**  
**Mr T Ward**  
**Mr G Bleach**  
**MR V Blake**  
**Mrs J Goodall-Browne**  
**Mr A Arber (clerk)**

1 members of the public plus County Councillor Alison Thomas and District Councillor Kim Carsok.

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

Alison Thomas report

Kim Carsok reported

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

Sue Waredale and David Daniels sent their apologies, all agreed to accept

**3. Minutes** – To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2024.

2 minor amendments were made to the minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the chair

**Proposed: Nick Potter      Seconded: Graham Bleach**

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

Tim Ward for a payment in item 8

Nick Potter for a payment in item 8

## 5. Planning

- To discuss the Planned Open Space Land  
Nothing has been received on this.
- 2023/3241 Location: Greenmantle Fundenhall Road Hapton Norfolk  
Proposal: Replacement of dwelling to provide continued use for adapted mobility requirements  
The clerk had produced the plans, and the councillors discussed the application, and it was noted that the application was already approved with conditions on the planning portal which is disappointing as the clerk had requested an extension to allow the council to discuss this.
- To discuss Planning Applications and any received after the agenda is posted

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## 6. Governance – No new governance this month.

## 7. To agree the Appointment of a Parish handyman and agree salary and contract

The clerk introduced Simon Delaney to the Councillors, and they agreed the following tasks for Simon to undertake asap.

Rabbits issue on community project with holes in the field.

Plants in the community garden to be looked at for planting

Strimming the community project

A strimmer is needed asap.

New hedge line the thistles need taking down

Gate of meeting House field needs refurbishing.

On Picton Road at T junction we have a noticeboard that need refurbishing over time

Bus shelter on Forncett road need cleaning

Simon will work on a self-employed basis at an hourly rate of £15.45 on a six-month trial basis.

**Proposed Nick Potter**

**Seconded Vic Blake**

## 8. Finance –

- To note receipts in October

None Received

- **To approving the following invoices for payment:**

1.To approve Payments to Parish Clerk Alan Arber for Oct salary and expenses	£783.11
2.. To approve payment for Clerks pension for Sept	£275.54
3.To approve payment to HMRC for Tax and NI	£229.25
4. To approve payment to Viking for stationery	£51.46
5. To approve payment to Nick potter for Shelving in shed	£74.39
6. To approve payment to Hapton Meadow working group for grass Cutting	£75.00
7. To approve payment to Tim ward for maintenance	£40.51
8. To approve payment to 3 mobile for Direct debit for security sim cards	£95.94
9. To approve payment to Plan to Garden for Planting and bench	£6096.00
10. To approve monthly payment for Credit card, charge	£3.00
11. To approve payment to toilets to go for event toilet	£114.00

### **To approve payment to Lloyd for Credit card Purchases as detailed below**

12. To approve payment to Ubox for Cloud storage for new cameras £56.17

**Proposed Nick Potter Seconded Vic Blake**

13. To approve any payments that come in after the agenda is posted.

None

14. To discuss the proposed budget document and the works done by the clerk.

The clerk had done a lot of work on the proposed budget and the councillors discussed this and agreed to the final precept rise to be agreed in January meeting once the Tax base figures are known. The clerk was thanked for his work on this

15. To discuss the clerks, pay rise detailed on the new pay agreement from the government back dated to April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

The clerk submitted a paper to the councillors detailing the rise that equated to 0.63 per hour and meaning the clerk is due £275.94 subject to tax and Ni and the paper also

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detailed the rise in the pension payments for the council and the clerk. All councillors agreed to this being paid in the December pay for the clerk.

**Proposed Nick Potter Secounded Jenna Goodall-Browne**

16. To receive the financial position of the council as of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024

The clerk reported that the council was in a good position and that a VAT refund of £1170.89 would be reclaimed at the end of November as normal. The council started off the month on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November with a balance of £28,350.98 as detailed on the bank statement and after today's payments we would have a balance of £20,456.61 which brings the council more in line with the JPAG figure of only having 75% of your precept left at the end of the year.

8. **Highways** – to receive any updates regarding highways and footpaths.

- Highway issues

Signs on Picton Road and Bungay Road needs cleaning. Clerk to report.

- To discuss the Proposed Long Stratton new development and Land west of Long Stratton.

David Daniels dealing with this

9. **To receive an update on the following current issues and to consider any necessary actions:**

- Tree warden's Report

Nothing reported

- Footpath Issues

Nothing reported

- Maintenance

Our new handyman Simon Delaney has started, and we will be allocating the jobs to be done in order of importance as detailed earlier in the meeting.

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

The council were looking at holding an Xmas party with the following ideas and thoughts proposed but the date is too close and put forward to next year.

The clerk also commented that the final sign off for the community pride in place grants would take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 11,30 am with Andy Sexton pride in place manager and Kim Carsok District Councillor).

- **To discuss the possibility of installing wi-fi in the cabin**

The clerk has looked into this even more and the use of a mobile dongle, but the prices were around £50 per month plus vat and he had spoken with a company recently at the SLCC National Conference regarding a more stable solution but the costs were £75 per month plus vat and it would provide full wi-fi coverage to the cabin allowing us to make the cabin better for hirers with stable internet and to aid more youth events too.

The proposal was discussed, and it was agreed to continue to get more info on this and other quotes. To be further discussed in January meeting.

- **To discuss Vandalism in the community project**

We have now got the new cameras installed and linked to the cloud as requested, plus the new signs for the CCTV and for local residents to see that which areas are covered by the cameras and as, yet they have proved a deterrent as nothing has been noted to have happened since they were installed

- **New Disabled Friendly compostable toilet**

The council would look at the other options for this as they are unable to justify the costs of purchasing a new one. The clerk to look into this with local disability charities and grant providers

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## **11. To discuss the latest Pylons information**

No further information on this but our new local MP Mr Goldsborough has an office locally which the clerk is aware of.

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

Dealt with already.

## **13. To discuss Parish Projects.**

- Newsletter**

The Christmas edition has been started and it is hoped it will be ready to deliver in early December at the latest

- Sam Machine**

All recording fine.

- Tharston Phone box**

Still no reply from the management company so unsure what we do next, but the clerk will contact them again to set up a meeting asap

- Parish Councillors/Clerk training/Personal development**

The clerk attended the Town and Parish summit today and it was a good event with lots of ideas and information shared

- New Defibrillator and Defib Training dates to be fixed.**

Nothing to report on this at present

- Surveyors Land**

More trees have been received and some will go to The Orchard and a contractor is needed to put the new hedges in on a dangerous road.

- Hapton Phone Box**

All good and still well used by all parishioners.

- Neighbourhood watch**

Nothing to report on this for now.

- Meeting House Field and new dog lead signage**

The security camera was now in use and as, yet no issues have been reported, the clerk will get Keep dogs on a lead sign for the community project asap.

- Parish Orchard at Old Village Hall site**

Trees are good and fruit bushes need replacing and around 12 hedge plants need replanting.

- Gov.uk Councillor email accounts**

All councillors are on the new system.

- Dog mess in the village**

Continues to be an issue and it was agreed if any parishioners have seen this happen, we would report to environmental health at SNDC and request they are fined

- V E Day celebration 2025**

A new grant is available for £500 for the VE day celebrations and the clerk was tasked with applying asap. It was thought we should also include VJ day.

## **14. To receive a report from the Speed watch Group**

Nothing to report as nothing done since last meeting and the numbers are very low and it was requested that we have a recruitment drive to help. Dialogue with the police on holding a site visit.

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

Tim went to Norfolk wildlife habitat plan and Tim is starting to write one and will bring to the next meeting for our 4 parcels of land. This has been written and sent to all councillors with as yet none responding but a local parishioner has come up with some great ideas that will be added to the plan.

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- **Green recycling of blister packs and razors**

It was thought we should contact the doctor's surgery on having them near their premises with us providing the bins. One also in the phone box in Hapton.

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

The clerk commented that he had spoken with Alana Chaney on becoming our youth representative to work alongside her Gold D of E qualification, A few ideas were discussed along with the prospect of setting up a youth council, organising events, making our social media involvement better to name a few items discussed.

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

**Finalise Budget and precept request for 2025-2026**

**Clerks Appraisal**

**Mobile internet for the cabin**

**East Pye Solar**

**Youth Councillor reports**

**Next Meeting Weds 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

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