

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at
The Community Building, Holly Lane, Hapton
On Wednesday 11th June 2025 at 7pm.

In Attendance:

Mr N Potter (chair)
Mr T Ward
MR V Blake
Mrs J Allen
Mr D Daniels
Mr A Arber (clerk)

1 member 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).

County Councillor Alison Thomas said a couple of things to report with Long Stratton Bypass Road closures that will be in place whilst they finalise all the last parts of the roundabouts and road into Long Stratton. These will be weekend closures and will be advertised. A family event will also be held for all to see the new bypass before the actual opening with many groups having stalls for all to enjoy on the 2nd of August. The road will not be officially handed over till the autumn as there is still lots to do on verges etc.

County Council have commented that the preferred option for the local government review as to one unitary authority. The document is quite lengthy, and, in the document, they have put all three options together for all to see.

It was also commented that by 7 years all the parishioners in the same area would all pay the same harmonised council tax figure. This is causing issues but as, yet nothing is known on this.

Lots of housing with care schemes are moving forward in many areas such as Harleston and next is Swaffham.

District Councillor Kim Carsok gave the following report

Temporary accommodation properties have been sourced and with South Norfolk we are 1% in credit on these and are moving forward. Consultation on new Diss Leisure centre has just finished and has been very positive with the planning application going in later this year

CAF fund deadline is 30th August 2025 which Alan is aware

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2 nominations for the community awards

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

Jenna Goodall-Browne sent her apologies. All agreed to accept

3. **Minutes** – To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 14thMay 2025

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting of 14th May and were duly signed by the chair as agreed by all

Proposed Nick Potter Seconded Tim Ward

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

Graham Bleach for a payment in item 7

5. **Planning**

- Planning applications
- 2025/1501

Location: The Orchards, The Street Tharston Norfolk NR15 2YP

Proposal: Single storey extension to side and rear, with associated alterations. Works to include demolition of existing utility and lobby.

The council discussed this planning application, and all agreed to support it.

- To discuss the Planned Open Space Land
No report
- To discuss Planning Applications and any received after the agenda is posted
None received

6. **Governance** –

Polices update for the July meeting

7. **Finance** –

- To note receipts in May

J Smy for cabin hire £80.00

To approving the following invoices for payment June

- To approve Payments to Parish Clerk
Alan Arber for May salary and expenses £1004.46
- To approve payment for Clerks pension for May £323.80
- To approve payment to Handyman
for salary and expenses May £347.05
- To approve monthly payment
for Wi-Fi in the cabin £55.20
- To approve payment to G Bleach
for Hose for watering community garden £198.97
- To approve payment to Wensum print

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for VE/VJ day flyers	£30.00
• To approve payment to 3 mobile for Direct debit for security sim cards	£76.18
• To approve Monthly bank charges	£6.00
• To approve Monthly credit card, charge	£3.00
• Payments on credit card	
Yearly domain payment	£15.24
Compost Bin	£31.84
Items for VE/VJ day	£66.49
Water Pump and tap for community area	£44.84
TEN notices for events for Hapton and Tharston PCC	£42.00
PWLB loan payment carried over from May meeting	£1023.17
• To receive the financial position of the council	
The clerk commented that we started the month of June off with £23,520.76 and after today's payments of £3264.24 the balance on the account is £20,256.52 and a VAT refund of £366.51 is due for collection at the end of June 2025 which the clerk will undertake.	

Proposed David Davies Seconded Nick Potter

7.1. To receive the internal control Report for quarter 1

Councillor Jeanette Allen had carried out the first quarter Internal Control and found no issues and the report will be placed on our website as required by the transparency code.

7.2 To receive the Expenditure v Budget report for Quarter 1

The clerk produced the first quarter budget v Expenditure report and was thanked by all for his work on this and it showed the council in a healthy way at present.

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

• Highway issues

The bus shelter on Forncett Road was reported as in a bad way and after discussions with the community payback team regarding cleaning it, they are unable to do this as it is so close to the road and as such will be given to the parish handyman to undertake and strim the area at the same time asap.

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

• Tree warden's Report

No report

• Footpath Issues

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BR1 was reported last month but nothing has been received back

- Maintenance and Handyman's report

The handyman's report was given to all councillors to see and all he is carrying his work out diligently and to a good standard and it was agreed to make his position permanent to which the clerk will inform him

Proposed Tim Ward Seconded David Daniels

Passing signs have gone from the passing places on Picton Road and they are very dirty which we can get Simon to clean and work on these.

- Community Payback

Various meetings have taken place with the community payback co-ordinator, and it was agreed they would start work at the Community project on Monday 16/6 and Tuesday 24/6 to get the field looking tidy for the upcoming event on 28/6. This will include strimming the area, painting and replanting the little planter, Weeding the mound of the slide and the community garden and this will be with the help of Richard Martens of plan to garden. They will also undertake the works of weeding at the orchard, Fixing the damaged fence post and hopefully planting the new hedging plants

10. To receive an update on the Hapton Community Project

- New Disabled Friendly compostable toilet and to discuss the plans to install ourselves and costings

The clerk is working on this and will submit our grant application within the next two weeks due to the deadline for submission of 30/6 he has many of the quotes required just needs to write the Community Action Fund grant paper asap which he will get done in the next 7 days.

The article in the clerk magazine on the community project will come out in early July and the clerk commented that all councillors will get their own copy of the magazine once received.

11. To discuss the latest Pylons information

The clerk had received details of a new consultation that he will put on the website for all to see

12. To note our comments to East Pye solar

No further information has been received by the clerk, but District Councillor Kim Carsok will forward details to the clerk on the upcoming 2nd phase consultation

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

Nothing to report

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14. To discuss Parish Projects

- V E Day celebration and grant

The plans are now in place for the event; Flyers have been circulated and new leaflets on all noticeboards.

Another meeting will be held to finalise the last points with a meeting on 23rd June at 6pm.

- Newsletter

This has been started, and it is hoped that it will go to print in early July after the big VE/VJ day event so we can get pictures in of the event and a write up.

- Sam Machine

Nothing to report

- Tharston Phone box

Nothing to report except

- Parish Councillors/Clerk training/Personal development

The clerk will be attending the upcoming SLCC Norfolk Annual conference as well as clerk networking and is hoping to start studying for FILCA as there are bursaries to help with this.

- New Defibrillator and Defib Training dates to be fixed.

Still awaiting date of training in Wacton

- Surveyors Land

We are awaiting the outcome of whether we are successful in the first round of grants to develop the area, and the clerk is looking at another grant to aid this project.

Hedge needs cutting and the graham will contact Julian Bunn to get this done at the end of August with the height we require to be sent to Mr Bunn before he cuts.

- Hapton Phone Box

Still full and well used

- Neighbourhood watch

Nothing to report

- Meeting House Field and CCTV Issues

Still, lots of dog mess and it was agreed that due to this we would again put the trail cameras up to stop this and the new cameras for the community project and it was agreed to purchase 3 new cameras at a cost of £150 plus vat.

Proposed Nick Potter Seconded Graham Bleach

- Parish Orchard at Old Village Hall site

Meetings have been held with community payback as detailed earlier in the meeting to help with the weeding etc

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- Dog mess in the village

Still remains an issue especially in meeting house field as detailed in a previous minute under meeting house field.

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

- Green recycling of blister packs and razors

Nothing to report except the blister packs are getting full.

16. Public Participation (10 minutes)

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

A parish may want to purchase the old compostable toilet if we sell it.

16. To receive items for the next agenda.

Policies update

Newsletter

Next Meeting Weds 16th July 2025

Meeting finished 7.50pm