

THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of

The Annual Parish Meeting of Tharston and Hapton to be held at Hapton Community Cabin, Hapton on Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 6.30 pm

This is a public meeting for members of the parish to meet, and to hear a summary of activities and achievements from local groups in the community.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from County Councillor Alison Thomas and District Councillor Kim Carsok and Councillor Graham Bleach who is unwell.

2. Chairman's welcome and Parish Council Report

Thanks to all the councillors for their brilliant work this year along with The clerk who continues to guide us very well and recently it was noted he had been clerk for 10 years and continues to keep up with training at all levels.

3. Approval of the minutes of the last APM on 15th May 2024

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting held on 15th May 2024

Proposed Nick Potter Seconded Tim Ward

4. County Councillor Reports

Attached as Appendix 1

5. District Councillor Reports

Attached as Appendix 2

6. . Hapton School

Attached as Appendix 3

7. Tharston Parish Church

No report Received

8. Hapton Parish Church

No report received

9. Tharston Charities

Attached as Appendix 4

10.. Footpath Warden

Hapton footpaths in good order and walked in regular order, Dog fouling continues to be a problem. The rangers recently repaired a broken bridge for us. I tend to only walk the Hapton Footpaths but am always open to respond to any problems that crop up with the Tharston Footpaths.

11. Tree warden

No report Received as we have no tree warden

12. Redwings

Lynne Cutress gave the following report Attached as Appendix 5

13. AOB

No other business

Fwd: Annual report

PC Parish Clerk <clerk@wacton-pc.gov.uk>
Wed, 07 May 2025 4:00:34 PM +0100 ·
To "clerk" <clerk@tharstonandhapton-pc.gov.uk>

for annual meeting

Alan Arber PSLCC
Parish Clerk and RFO
Wacton Parish Council
clerk@wacton-pc.gov.uk

Note: I only work part time and 10 hours a week on Monday to Thursday between 9am to 5pm and will only reply to emails when on these times

===== Forwarded message =====

From: Alison Thomas - Councillor <alison.thomas.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk>
To: "Parish Clerk" <clerk@wacton-pc.gov.uk>
Date: Thu, 01 May 2025 10:47:43 +0100
Subject: Annual report

===== Forwarded message =====

Dear Alan

As you are aware I'm away on holiday so need to send apologies for Wacton and Tharston APM. Can you please use this report for both and mention why I'm unable to attend?

A few updates from me about County Council activity over the last year

Bypass

Huge progress being made by our contractor Octavius. There will be scheduled weekend road closures for two dates in July (provisionally 4/5/6 and 25/26/27) These will be from 8pm on Fri to 6am on Mon. This will enable the roundabout at Church Lane St Michaels to be completed. Then there will be a further weekend closure Aug 1/2/3 for the Southern tie in. It is then hoped that if all has gone to plan the road will be OPEN FOR TRAFFIC!! These dates may be subject to change so please wait until the advertised closures are published before putting onto printed briefings but it is hoped that this will be the final push.

Additional work will continue after the road is open to traffic with some local road closures at Parkers Lane and near the northern compound to put in kerbing etc once the traffic volume has decreased.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation continue at pace with the County Council expected to make a firm decision on its preferred proposal for LGR once all the evidence is ready to justify that position. Final submissions go to Government in Sept with expected decision by year end. Directly elected Mayor for Norfolk & Suffolk will proceed to election on May 2026 if the decision is taken by Norfolk & Suffolk Councils to proceed with the proposed devolution deal once the contents of the devolution offer is presented by Government.

Norfolk Highways team have taken the top spot for the second year in the National Highways Transport (NHT) survey on roads and transport.

People from across the County gave the Norfolk the highest score in satisfaction with the condition of the roads. So whilst we might have some ongoing challenges with road repairs at times it is clear that we are performing well against our peer authorities.

More than 5,300 potholes have been fixed across Norfolk in the last year with 99% repaired within the agreed response times by our contractors.

Norfolk County Council have committed over £1m to help residents keep warm over winter especially those impacted by the removal of the winter fuel allowance. This is in addition to £3.6m to support given to families who are eligible for means tested free school meals with cost of living vouchers. We also allocate over £1m via the Norfolk assistance scheme to provide household items and emergency help to those in need. If you know of any residents in your community that need help please refer them to the County Council for support.

In addition to our regular footpath network we have over 1,500miles of Norfolk Trails which offer a rich and diverse network of walking, cycling and horse-riding routes. Further information can be found at www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/42852/Norfolk-Trails There is a great interactive map available.

Lots more happening but this is a flavour of some of the work undertaken this year on your behalf.

Thanks
Alison

County Councillor for Stratton Division
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
Alison.thomas.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

As a county councillor acting on your behalf it will be necessary to collect, use and share you or your family's personal information. When I use personal information for this purpose, I am a "data controller" and must give you a privacy notice.

To access the privacy notice please enter the following in your search tool to access

<https://bit.ly/2TKrXRj>

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To see our email disclaimer click here <http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/emaildisclaimer>

District Councillor Annual Report

Cllr Kim Carsok

May 2025

Council Tax – The District Council has raised its share of Council Tax by £5 per Band D property, representing a consistent policy for several years now. Although the council remains committed to identifying structural savings that may allow for further freezes in the future.

Environment & Waste – The Government has mandated the rollout of food waste services from April 2026, to meet this deadline, South Norfolk is making significant investments into new fleet and depot infrastructure to support the new requirement.

Concurrently, the Council has launched a new campaign focused on fly-tipping, which has achieved a high media profile; the ‘WTF’ campaign (Where’s the Fly Tip). The campaign has the goal of both encouraging people to report incidents of fly-tipping, whilst also making perpetrators more aware of the risks of prosecution.

The Council also launched a **new grant for the upcoming year** for nature recovery, where organisations can bid for grants of up to £10k to support projects that meet the goals of carbon sequestration, promoting biodiversity, and enhancing public access. Examples could be mini-forests, new pathways, or restoring ponds. Please get in touch directly if you want help applying.

The Council has also indicated it’s desire to identify one large scale project that meets the above requirements, and it actively exploring opportunities across South Norfolk.

Economic Development – The Council continues it’s successful projects to promote SMEs, including its Business Builder programme. In addition, it has helped to joint fund the initial stages of a new lab facility at the Norwich Research Park alongside the County Council and private contractors. More information will be forthcoming over the coming year.

Planning, Housebuilding and Energy Infrastructure – You will be aware that last year the Greater Norwich Local Plan was passed, protecting the five year land supply in South Norfolk, the practical impact of this was to protect sites that had not been allocated for development from speculative planning applications. However, the government late last year made a number of changes to the planning system, and housing targets, which means this protection from speculative applications has now been lost. SNDC is currently exploring a range of options to tackle this, the most public of which has been the option to build a new town.

This is only one option, and to be clear, the advantages of it would be to avoid development of land in existing villages and towns where infrastructure is strained. A new town would allow us to focus development in one area, and ensure the correct infrastructure is installed from the start.

In parallel, South Norfolk is receiving vast amounts of interest for solar farm and energy infrastructure development. Whilst not opposing the development of renewable energy, the council feels these have to be channelled to the most appropriate sites, and that a strategic approach to their development needs to be taken. As such we will be publishing further guidance on this over the coming year and will continue to challenge the government on their approach.

Health and Leisure – Work continues on the new building for the Humbleyard practice in Hethersett, and we are hopeful of having workers on site early next year. Existing facilities in Cringleford and

Mulbarton will remain, and the goal of the new development is to reduce pressure for doctors' appointments across all three villages.

In January, the Councils renovated swimming pool in Diss re-opened, with average footfall levels now above pre-closing numbers. Work is now underway to create a new Community and Leisure Centre on the old John Grose site south of the Mere and public consultation is currently open for comments on the plans. It is proposed to include a gym, fitness studios for group exercise, a room for community hire, soft play, a café and outdoor seating area. Public consultation is currently ongoing.

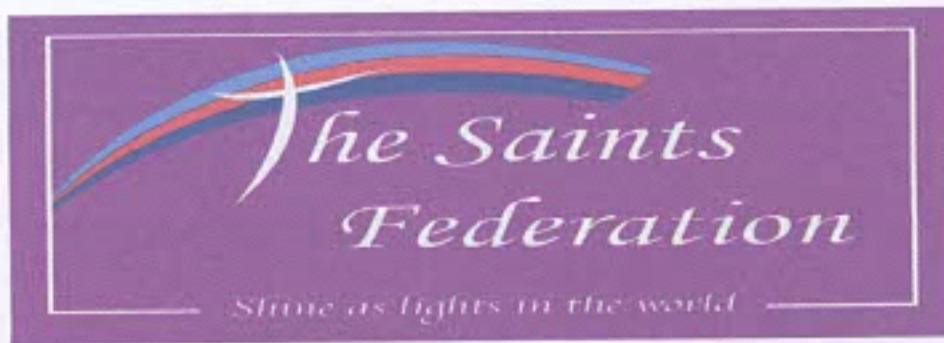
Local Grants – In my time as Councillor for this ward, I have been pleased to have helped get the following grants awarded in the area:

- Tacolneston Village Hall disabled toilet - £11,000 SNC Community Action Fund Grant
- Tharston & Hapton Community Field - £10,000 SNC Community Action Fund Grant
- Fornett Village Hall - £19,980 SNC Electric Vehicle Chargepoint (EVCP) and Solar PV
- Tacolneston Village Hall - £19,399 EVCP and Solar PV grant
- Tharston & Hapton Community Field – £25,000 Pride in Place grant
- Fornett Friends of Primary School - £1000 Members Ward grant for storage shed
- Tacolneston £500 Members Ward grant for village hall outdoor patio area improvements
- Tharston & Hapton £300 VE Day Celebrations Grant
- Wacton £300 Members Ward grant for 'books and buses' shelter planter
- Tharston & Hapton £200 Members Ward grant for security cameras at recreation area
- £300 grants for all wards via Pride in Place Clean Up & Bloom programme

Local Government Re-organisation and Devolution – In November the government invited applications for applicants to enter the new Devolution Priority Programme. The goal of this is to devolve new powers around infrastructure, adult skills, and economic development to a Mayoral body that will sit across Norfolk and Suffolk.

Concurrently, the government has asked Councils in Norfolk to submit proposals for re-organizing local government on a single tier basis (creating new authorities that have the powers of both District and County Council). It is anticipated these will come into effect in 2028, with elections to these 'shadow' bodies in 2027. No proposal for what this would look like has yet been agreed.

However, the other six district councils are supporting plans for a three unitary proposal, which would include a 'Greater Norwich'. South Norfolk is opposing any proposal that breaks the Norwich Travel to Work area, fearing it would be an unsensible economic geography, not have the tax base to deliver social services, and would leave communities on the edge of Norwich in an authority where there concerns would play second fiddle to the urban core. Three unitary councils in Norfolk would also be the most expensive option. As such, South Norfolk is proposing an East-West Norfolk Two-Unitary model. The County Council is exploring options for both one and two unitaries.



All Saints CEVA School

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Hapton CEVA School

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Norwich, Norfolk. NR15 1AD
01508 489395
office@hapton.norfolk.sch.uk

St. Andrew's CEVA School

The Street, North Lopham,
Diss, Norfolk. IP22 2LR
01379 687253
office@st-andrews-pri.norfolk.sch.uk

April 2025

Executive Headteacher's Report

This term has begun with three days of collapsed curriculum. Across the Federation, the children have celebrated Earth Day and on Wednesday they enjoyed a surprise scruff day, which involved a whole day of outside learning. During our collapsed curriculum, the children participated in a range of activities designed to foster deep thinking about the importance of caring for our world, its inhabitants and the realisation of their role in ensuring the world is cared for in the manner it was created.

VE Day Celebrations

On the 8th May we will be celebrating VE Day at Hapton Primary School. We will mark the occasion with a Collective Worship at 2.30pm, where all members of the community are welcome to join us on the school field for a moment of reflection followed by refreshments. The children will be coming to school in red, white and blue to mark the occasion.

We will also be creating bunting and paintings for the Hapton Parish Council Celebration. We will include details of this on our newsletter to parents.

Minibus

We are delighted to share that we have purchased a minibus for the Federation.

Although our schools are small in size we work hard to ensure they access the same opportunities as those pupils in larger schools. Our new bus will enable us to transport the children to different sites to enjoy their learning in larger groupings. Subjects such as PE will be enriched by allowing the children to experience team games in a bigger cohort. In addition, we hope to bring the federation together for other celebrations and events through the year. The first event of this kind will be our annual sports day.

Our minibus will be stickered to advertise the schools and Federation as a whole. We have incorporated a QR code into the design to enable potential parents to find out more. The bus will also offer us the ability to cover absence within the federation staff, meaning consistency in the quality of education for our pupils.

Camera

We have recently purchased three cameras to enable a wider federation approach to teaching and learning. The cameras come with a zoom and travel feature to enable the teacher to focus on areas of the classroom and/or specific children and resources. We have trialled the use of this camera at North Lopham, and it has been helping us to teach interventions for our year 6 children across the Federation. Pupils have been benefitting from three 30-minute sessions in core subjects, being led by experienced staff from across the federation. Pupils have taken to this approach well, themselves stating that it was 'just a normal lesson, but the teacher is in the other school'. Recent governor monitoring saw this in action and we will be rolling out across the federation during the next term.

Summary

In the current climate, new and innovative ways of working are key to the sustainability and growth of small schools. At the Saints Federation, we are committed to developing these techniques, to enable our children to 'Shine as Lights in the World'. In addition, through using the minibus and camera system, this prepares our children as they move on to bigger high schools and gives them all experiences outside small school settings which fit within the wider social aspects of learning in the modern world.

Governance

We continue to seek additional governors across the Federation to support strategic oversight. We are keen to encourage members with experience within and outside the education sector, but with skills which will complement our vision across a variety of areas. Please do encourage people to contact the school office if they would like more information.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2025

THARSTON POORS' ALLOTMENTS CHARITY

This Charity was formed in 1804, and its income is derived from 2 small parcels of land in Tharston, which produces a rent of £300 each year.

The land continues to be rented out on an annual basis, and the proceeds can be distributed to households in the village on application.

From time to time we remind the parishioners of the village that this Charity exists, and also that students may apply for a contribution from this charity if they are embarking on further education.

There are 4 Trustees, whose appointments are for a 4 year term.

The current Trustees are Gerald Barnes, Jimmy Mills, Sue Hubbard and Helen Lawson

May 2025

Tharston & Hapton APM: Update from Redwings Horse Sanctuary (May 2025)

South Norfolk

Our work following our Planning application, to fence off and plant on our 26-acre field in Tasburgh adjacent to the east of the A140 and immediately north of Boudica Way, is now almost complete with the aim of using it for summer grazing to take pressure off some of the rest of our land. Following concerning incidents over recent months and in the light of that the paddocks will be used for summer grazing we have are needing to have pergola type sun screens rather than full shelters; shelters for ponies rather than for people to loiter.

National landscape

With pressure on the public purse impacting on donations alongside rising costs, our Trustees had to make the difficult decision to close one of our centres – our newest centre (in Chepstow) as the cost-per-horse kept there, together with the need to invest in facilities, meant that the funds are better spend on horse care closer to our horse hospital and resources in Norfolk. We were able to move the horses to some of our other sites, and continue their care.

As per any employer, we have been impacted by the National Insurance increase in employer contributions, we are having to make a number of changes to reduce our expenditure. One of these changes is to keep to 4 day a week opening at our Norfolk Visitor Centres; increasing to 7-day opening across the summer did traditionally bring in more income, but with rising staff costs and less applicants for in-person jobs on a rota (when increasingly people want to work from home and on hours to suit them), we felt this is the year to stick to 4 day opening.

Being closed for the other 3 days a week at the Caldecott Visitor Centre will mean more time for rehoming. During these tough economic times, it makes even more sense to loan a horse from a rescue centre rather than buy; our horses out on loan remain in our ownership so can be returned if circumstances change. Do spread the word as rehoming not only saves us costs but benefits the guardians of our ponies giving them peace of mind.

Our joint work with the University of East Anglia (UEA) on the story of Black Beauty book continues and we have been able to work with educational colleagues at schools to support the curriculum. Our book festival is returning this year at our Caldecott Visitor Centre on Saturday 14th June.

For clarification our Hapton site is not open to visitors. The only out of hours visitors should be our veterinary team and welfare check team, any of which would be fine to be questioned on who they are and would be by vehicle. Should any suspicious activity concern you do phone our Head Office at Hapton on 01508 505246 or email info@redwings.co.uk

Thank you, Lynn Cutress, Chief Executive