

Meeting of THORNEY PARISH COUNCIL held at the Council Chamber, Tank Yard,
Thorney on Monday 10 October 2011 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Chair: Councillor: D. J Buddle,

Councillors: E. Gee, Mrs. S Selby, Mrs. L Sheldrake, J Brooks,
B Ogden, P. Murphy, J E G Bartlett

Peterborough City Councillor R Dobbs and D Sanders. PCSO Webber for item on crime.
Mr. and Mrs. Brookes, Village Post, Mr. W VanDriessche

Mr. Tim Thory (P J Thory Ltd), Alexandra Barter and Lucy Booth GP PLANNING LTD, Willow Hall
Sand & Gravel Extraction

94/11-12 To receive and approve apologies for absence

R Bevington, J Bellamy

95/11-12 To receive declarations of interest and declare vacancy created by 6 month non attendance by a Councillor

To fill vacancy created by resignation Mrs. Fuller. The notice for the vacancy and the elector's rights to call for a ballot has been displayed resulting in no request for a ballot. Thorney Parish Council is now able to co-opt to fill the vacancy.

One application has been received from Mr. Jonathan Rowe.

It was proposed by Councillor Brooks seconded by Councillor Murphy and unanimously agreed that Mr. Jonathan Rowe be co-opted to Thorney Parish Council. Mr. Rowe then signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

a) Personal interest –

b) Personal and/or prejudicial interest in any items on the agenda – Councillor Gee for planning items particularly the Nutsgrove Windfarm development.

96/11-12 To approve minutes of the meeting of 12 September 2011

Minutes of the Council meeting held of 12 September 2011 were confirmed and signed

97/11-12 Matters arising from minutes

98/11-12 Public Participation

Mr. VanDriessche gave a resume of the life of John Masters who dies on 5th September. John was Parish Clerk for 18 years up to December 1995.

Mr. and Mrs. Brookes, editors of the Village magazine, explained that the newsletter was getting larger and more costly to produce. They were gradually running out of finance. Meeting to be held if situation does not improve.

Sarah Joyce and Sam Wright from the Duke of Bedford School explained how they had set up a gardening club that has now been running for the past 12 months. They were seeking funding to progress the project further. Garden centres have not responded well and the chairman gave them a sheet with possible funding sources.

Chairman said that Thorney Parish Council was not, at present, granting any donations but will be in the future.

Discussion and presentation from Willow Hall Sand & Gravel Extraction

The proposal is the extract sand and gravel from Willow Hall Quarry and transport materials to a nearby processing plant, prior to exporting to market. The site is 53 hectares and would be a phased extraction of approx 2.5 million tonnes of sand and

gravel at 200,000 – 250,000 tonnes a year over 10-12 years. This would equate to 100 Lorries a day from the quarry in 20 or 30 tonne loads. There would be an impact on the B1040 although the existing site will finish before the new one begins. Only 10% of vehicles should pass through Thorney. Thorney Parish Council has not yet seen the scoping plan which Ms. Barter said would be forwarded on.

Range of ecological studies carries out – no items of interest found

Modelling of how quarry will work and the restoration details given. Public display sometime in November

Councillor Rowe asked who benefitted from the extraction – Messes Stephensons and Thorys.

Processing will be south of Thorney Dyke. There will be a crossing in Willow Hall Lane controlled by traffic lights

Public right of way to be diverted to a new wildlife area.

New inert material will be imported for backfill

Councillor Sanders did not receive a reply to his question as to whether sub-contract lorries would be used. He also asked if wheel washers would be used to limit the amount of debris' on the road – wheel baths would be used.

Councillor Ogden asked if further sites were envisaged – not to GP Planning knowledge.

99/11-12 Matters for Information and Reports

1. Crime report – 21calls to service and 9 crimes. Four related to farms (diesel), fraud, criminal damage and damage to fuel tank at Abbey.

Two residents have been trained in speed-check and have carried this out on Whittlesey Road. A very high proportion of vehicles were exceeding the speed limit. Enforcement Officer to be asked if house in New Cut needs change of use is needed to board young adults.

2. Bedford Hall Management Committee – Councillor Sheldrake – new Chairman W VanDriessche, Treasurer H Fuller, booking agent Mrs. Sheldrake
3. Neighbourhood Council – now called Neighbourhood Committee. Enterprise representative Councillor Lee.

Thorney Parish Council awarded £2500 grant that can be banked and put to a larger project. Presentation on wind farm project.

Councillor Ogden said that there was very little benefit for rural communities in the information given out

100/11-12 Report from City Councillors R Dobbs and D Sanders –

Councillor Dobbs – no reply from Highways Agency concerning display signs on bypass roundabouts advertising village facilities.

Councillor said that the RAF were still a player in ant wind farm applications
Speeding in Whittlesey Road to be raised at Police Liaison meeting.

101/11-12 Finance

1. To approve Payments and note income

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| H E Bull and Son | Inter Mrs. Kilham | £30.00 |
| J G Cross | Memorial | £17.00 |
| Peterborough City Council | Precept | £32,633.50 |
| A K Lander Ltd | Memorial Mr. Jeffs | £17.00 |
| Mr. Peel | Allotment rent | £30.00 |
| J G Cross | Memorial Mrs. Flack | £17.00 |
| Mr. C Harlock | Allotment rent | £60.00 |

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------|
| Mr. Patman | Allotment rent | £30.00 |
| Mr. Owen | Allotment rent | £30.00 |
| Mrs. Bradbury | Allotment rent | £30.00 |

The following Cheques were drawn and signed:-

| <u>Payee</u> | <u>Reason</u> | <u>Cheque No.</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Mr. A E Hovell | Postage, telephone, travel | 001805 | £40.48 |
| Smith of Derby | Maintain Bedford Hall Clock | 001806 | £205.20 |
| The Columbaria Company | Memorial Mrs. Coward | 001807 | £90.00 |

1. Monthly bank reconciliation - presented and signed
2. Thorney Website – Councillor Sheldrake to obtain cost to modify
3. Determine way to allocate Peterborough City Council community money
 - a. Village shop frontage improvement. Peterborough City Council in course of preparing a plan and costing. £2500 can be used from Neighbourhood Council fund and £5000 from CLF.
 - b. Seat at cross roads. To be considered at a later date
 - c. Extra litter bins at MUGA and outside village shop – cost of bins and emptying costs to be discussed at Neighbourhood Committee.
4. Investment account at Yorkshire Bank. Our term deposit of £8000 will mature on 1st November and needs to be reinvested and Yorkshire Bank is offering an 18 month bond paying a guaranteed 0.25% above the personal retail 12 month term rate. It was proposed by Councillor Bartlett seconded by Councillor Murphy and unanimously agreed that the bond be taken out for an 18 month period.

102/11-12 Planning Approvals and Refusals

11/01167 17 Kingsline Close – rear extension and additional parking space - approved

103/11-12 Planning Applications and other matters

1. Planning applications

11/01483 Chestnut House, Northside – fell one Horse Chestnut Tree – It was proposed by Councillor Buddle seconded by Councillor Bartlett and unanimously agreed that Thorney Parish Council objects to this application because insufficient justification has been given for its removal.

11/01480 47 Wisbech Road – internal and external modifications no objections

11/01494 Removal of Conditions 2, 3 and 4 of appeal reference APP/J0540/A08/2083801 Nutsgrove Windfarm development, Scolding Drove – Thorney Parish Council objects to this application because:

1. We are constantly reminded in the press and on TV that windfarms are inefficient, that they rarely reach 50% capacity and are recorded as low in their production as 20%.
2. Windfarms are by their very nature unreliable. They are dependent on wind and this is unpredictable, often blowing too little and on occasions too much.
3. Placing wind turbines near properties is the equivalent of building a hundred metre high industrial complex next door. It wouldn't be tolerated in towns so why is it acceptable to do this in the countryside?
4. Windfarms are much more efficient when they are built on higher ground. Flat fenland is not the place for them.
5. Off-shore windfarms are much more efficient so build them there.
6. Nuclear Energy is vastly more efficient and reliable, and in spite of all the hype to the contrary it a clean energy when it is properly controlled as it is in this country.

7. The fenland countryside has a beauty all of its own. 100 meter high towers and blades ruin the whole vista. These turbines would be visible over a great distance and to be frank we find them ugly and they are a blight on the landscape.
8. Some communities are already surrounded by small wind farm developments.
9. If windfarms are built there should be compensation for the resulting drop in property values and the shattering of livelihoods. To ignore this surely infringes on people's rights.
10. The blades of a turbine have several effects on the immediate vicinity some of which are related to public health. There is a constant noise issue when the blades are turning. Sleep patterns can be interrupted. Light flicker can affect residents living and working within range of the turbines.
11. A referendum of the whole community should be held under the terms of the new Localism Bill. It is only right that a community should be heard and expresses its view.
12. Thorney lies close to a number of RAF stations and whilst there is a reduction in the flying of Harrier Jets from Wittering, this base and others are still in use with Typhoon aircraft and others. Wind turbines do interfere with electronic signals and it would be short sighted of the MOD to waive the conditions it has previously set on wind farm development as in the case of Nuts Grove Farm.
13. The ground in this part of the fenland is unstable. Recent road and bridge building displays this. The height of these masts, the movement of the blades and the vibration which is inevitably caused may result in instability of the units.
14. We are concerned about the traffic that would be generated by both schemes. Fenland roads in this area are notoriously unstable and liable to subsidence. The haulage of materials from local sources might lead to a huge increase in through traffic in the village centre before it reaches the bypass. We already have concerns about vibration caused to listed properties in the village centre from current haulage contracts.

If planning officer is minded to approve Thorney Parish Council requests application to go before committee. If the application is approved Thorney Parish Council to be involved in negotiation for the community fund contributions from the development to be used for the benefit of the Thorney Parishioners locally.

104/11-12 Burial Authority

1. Wildlife grant 2011 – Thorney Parish Council has to decide on priorities for this year. Suggested that work in Whittlesey Road cemetery continues with planting of berries shrubs and honeysuckle on eastern boundary or small bird nest boxes in cemetery adjoining the park.
2. Mr. Lucken has asked to carry out maintenance of his equipment rather than send it to PGM. He has already found one major fault that PGM has missed. It was agreed that Mr. Lucken should carry out the servicing and keep a log of all maintenance completed. He will be paid extra for this but will save a large amount of money by doing the work in house.

105/11-12 Roads and Footpaths

1. Street lighting – to be reported.
2. Area outside village shop. Meeting arranged for Tuesday 18th October 2011 at 11:00 with Peterborough City Council engineers to discuss further
3. Parking restrictions Thorney

Following an investigation by Peterborough City Council at the current parking restrictions in Thorney Peterborough City Council is seeking Thorney Parish Council views on the possibility of removing the areas of Limited Waiting (green areas) in Abbey Place and along Wisbech Road and making unrestricted parking.

Councillor Bevington expressed the view that "Parking in this area is difficult for locals and, as everywhere, the number of private car owners has increased. I think one space should be retained as restricted for the Post office but the other two should have the limitation lifted. During most of the day resident's cars are not here anyway so there is generally plenty of space for Post Office users to park. Lifting the restriction might also reduce the number of cars which park outside the Abbey which at times causes a problem for funerals and/or weddings.

However, the area outside the village store is different but only because there is the risk of Classic Cars accommodating this lay-by even more than now for their vehicles.

4. B1167, The Causeway and B 1040 Station Road – severe splits appearing in road surface that are becoming dangerous.

5. Peterborough City Council proposes to carry out refurbishment works to Portsand Bridge, a listed brick arch which carries the French Drove over a tributary ditch adjacent to New Cut Drain. The work involves refurbishing the parapet railings and minor stone work repairs. To enable the works to be carried out safely, two full road closures will be required but will be restricted to 3-4 days at a time to minimise disruption to road users. The first closure will be w/c 10th October (signed on site for exact details), the following closure to complete the works will be signed on site which should be approx a week later. The diversion route will be signed via New Cut, English Drove, Black Drove, Green Drove, Bell Drove and vice versa.

These works will follow on from the refurbishment works to the Old Wryde Drain Bridge on New Cut Road which have progressed well and should be complete ahead of programme by the end of next week

6. Road drains in Woburn Drive blocked and need cleaning out.

106/11-12 Allotments

1. Best allotment winner is Mr. Christen on allotment 24.
2. Invoices sent out for allotment renewals

107/11-12 The Park

1. Meeting with Mr. Exley – not yet arranged as Mr. Exley cannot be contacted
2. Maintenance of the Park is the responsibility of Peterborough City Council but following the meeting with them (now Enterprise) it was agreed that the area near the Abbey wall would be cleared of trees and shrubs that have in the past damaged the historic wall. Mr. Lucken and Mr. Reed have put in tremendous effort, mostly in their own time, to make this area look good. It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to them.
3. Two out of the three signs erected by Enterprise asking dog owners to keep control of their pets have been destroyed. Enterprise to be asked to replace with stronger material.

108/11-12 Correspondence

1. Request from young persons of the village for Thorney Parish Council to provide a skate park. Mr. Doswell and other youngsters invited to December meeting to discuss further.

109/11-12 Matters as agenda items for future consideration

Tree planting in village
Jubilee celebrations 9/10 June 2012

110/11-12 Any other business

Dead tree on Causeway still to be removed
Loss of public house in village causing concern
Cherry picker needed to access Bedford Hall Clock

110/11-12 Date of next meeting

Parish Council Meeting 14th November 2011.

The meeting closed at 9.21pm