

Meeting of THORNEY PARISH COUNCIL held at the Council Chamber, Tank Yard,  
Thorney on Monday 14 September 2009 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Chair: Councillor D. J Buddle

Councillors: R Bevington, Mrs. C Fuller, R.M. Harlock, P. Murphy, Mrs. L Sheldrake  
PCSO Webber for the item on crime. Ms. McBreen and Mr. Shelly Anglian Water.  
7 members of the public.

1. Apologies and Declaration of Interests

Apologies for absence from Mrs. S Selby, E. Gee, J E G. Bartlett, M. Amps-Woodward,  
W VanDriessche, B A Ogden

Declaration of interests declared at the item number

2. Minutes

The minutes of the previous Meeting held on 13 July and 10 August (copies of which  
had previously been circulated to all members) were signed.

3. Matters arising from minutes.

- 3.1 Councillor Harlock commented on the planning application for Hightrees, The Causeway, that  
seems to be in conflict with the application for an Operators Licence. Mr. Frisby seems either  
to have been misled or mis-informed. Councillor Bevington to investigate.
- 3.2 No meeting has yet been held with Peterborough City Council concerning the Park due to staff  
changes at Peterborough City Council (item 11.4 July minutes)
- 3.3 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (item 10 July minutes) – suggested that  
Councillor Ogden could advise on this.
- 3.4 Household Waste site – Chairman explained recent discussions. Mr. Pace has now left  
Peterborough City Council.

4. July flooding of properties in Thorney

The Chairman gave a profile of what he thought the situation was and stated this year we have  
had flooding problems on 17th July and 6/7th August. The evidence of these events is the  
flooding of homes in Gas Lane and St. Mary's Close. This occurs against a background of  
Thorney NOT being a flood risk area.

It has been claimed that the catalyst for these events has been unexpectedly high rainfall, a  
one in 30 year storm. Unfortunately there have been two of these in as many months and there  
have been many previous floods and near disasters over the past several years. It's happening  
too often for the one in 30 year storm excuse to be believed or accepted. The problem is more  
fundamental than this.

He believed that the whole of the drainage and sewerage systems of Thorney are suspect, and  
in need of survey and renewal. The evidence needs to be gathered and presented to those  
people in the City Council, Anglian Water and the companies who service drainage systems,  
who can make a difference and put things right.

Frequent huge pools of water on Wisbech Road, Woburn Drive, Russell Close, Topham  
Crescent, the Park Gate Road:- all of these point to the view that something is fundamentally  
wrong with the system. We know drains periodically have to be flushed and cleared but these  
sites are constantly flooded when there is rain.

In various places in and around the village we hear reports of foul sewage being backed up in  
gardens from overflowing drains. There is some suspicion that the contents of cess pits are  
leaking/over spilling into surface water drains. (Dyke covered over at the south side of  
Wisbech Road, No.55A near the Health Centre). Too many dykes are being "piped" and then

covered over with earth and turf. They no longer fulfil the purpose for which they were intended.

Some of our main sewers and drains are Victorian and are underneath roads that until recently had been hammered for years by A47 traffic. They need to be thoroughly inspected and repaired and replaced where necessary. We understand that some pipe work isn't big enough for purpose. The pumping station down Gas Lane is inadequate and unreliable to say the least. One pump was left to cope with all the water waste and blocked up, tripped out and left Mr Lane's property to be repeatedly flooded.

A direct consequence that the pump failure caused, beyond the traumas suffered by Mr Lane and his wife, was distrust and a questioning of the attitude of AW to its customers.

Another uncertainty and anxiety that has affected residents is the fact that some properties have been deemed "un-adopted" in terms of the services received from AW. With the support of our city councillors we should try to make sure that every property in Thorney is "adopted" and therefore treated equally.

Recently we have heard from the city council and in the press that city-wide expansion is likely to affect Thorney. We generally accept that limited growth is good for Thorney. It should lead to improved services for the village. But when more concrete and roads are laid where will the run-off water go? Where will the sewerage and waste water from 500 homes go? Who's next for a flood or a drain backing up? Where's the next nasty smell or problem going to surface?

The meeting was adjourned for public participation.

Following the Chairman's statement, Ms. McBreen and Mr. Shelly introduced themselves and their job outline. Councillor Harlock commented on the inadequacy of the Gas Lane pumps and then gave them a copy of the questions that had been raised - Ms. McBreen said she was aware of some of the questions.

Mr. Shelly stated that Anglian Water was not an emergency responder. If pumps were working to full capacity and flooding occurred Anglian Water was not liable for this or the clear up afterwards.

Ms. McBreen explained the 3 types of sewage systems – foul, surface water, and combined. Surface water systems can be owned by Anglian Water or Peterborough City Council. Foul water sewers are either adopted (and therefore Anglian Waters responsibility) or private (and not adopted by Anglian Water). Government intend to change the system so that all foul sewers in this area become the responsibility of Anglian Water but it is unlikely that this will be retrospective.

If problems occur with private sewers and cannot be satisfactorily resolved by joint owners then Environmental Services should be contacted.

Ms. McBreen explained exceptional circumstances – 1 in 30 year occurrence for example. The 3 occurrences in Thorney in 2009 were mentioned. Anglian Water Customer Charter states that in exceptional circumstances **no** compensation will be paid. There is a register for regularly flooded properties but this does not apply to the exceptional circumstances.

It appears Thorney does not normally flood - only in exceptional circumstances. Mr. Shelton disputed this as standing water occurs in Woburn drive after every rainfall.

Mr. Lane explained the third flooding incidents where tanker pumping and pump failure occurred.

Mr. Stimson explained flooding in his area and the lack of connections of surface water drainage.

Mr. Shelly said there were two pumps in Gas Lane and these have been replaced in recent years. Pumps trip to protect their motors – “rag” causes pumps to trip most often. Pumps have now been placed on order to replace those in Gas Lane and they will cope with rag. “Rag” is moist toilet wipes, cleaning wipes, sanitary items -- a standard leaflet is to be placed in the local village magazine explaining this.

Surface water -- this is discharging into the foul water system. Mr. Shelly tried to explain the different responsibilities. Ms. McBreen said that block paving adds to the surface water problems in streets. She said people must make their own assessment of flood risk and take their own precautions.

Anglia water will develop an inspection program for surface water drainage and work in conjunction with Peterborough City Council - will look into the systems right to the outfall and highlight deficiencies.

Councillor Harlock explained the plans in 1999 that were never carried out. All of the village foul systems go through the Gas Lane pumps and other outlets to the sewage works should be considered.

Mrs Richards explained that broken pipes near St. Botolphs Way had been investigated by CCTV by Anglian Water. Mr. Shelly said he knew nothing of this and Ms. McBreen disputed Mrs Richards statement that a report would be complete by the end of August. Anglian Water would look at ponding at the junction of Woburn drive and Wisbech road.

On questions of village development Mr. Shelly stated that Anglian Water are not a statutory consultee for future developments in the village.

At this point the Anglian Water representatives left the meeting.

Mr Shelton and residents of the village presented a petition concerning the flooding in the village after heavy rain that contained over 400 signatures. Anglian Water did not seem interested.

It was agreed that Anglian Water be invited back to the November meeting to confirm their work carried out since this meeting. Useful links concerning flood protection for homes is at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/105963.aspx> and [http://www.ciria.com/flooding/advice\\_sheets.html](http://www.ciria.com/flooding/advice_sheets.html)

At this point the meeting was reconvened.

## 5. Reports

5.1 Crime report by PCSO Webber covered a 2 month period. 25 incidents with 20 crimes that included burglary, theft, criminal damage and 1 wounding with intent. Many of the incidents were vehicle related.

At the Panel Meeting held on 2nd September the priorities were agreed as speeding in Thorney, speeding on Thorney Road and Werrington Bridge Road Newborough, ASB in Eye and motor bikes in Thorney

Stuart Mather having difficulty booking a venue for youth work – to liaise with Councillor Sheldrake.

Councillor Harlock commented on volunteers for speed measuring. PCSO Webber to raise profile of this activity.

Parking around Discount Stores, Wisbech Road, becoming increasingly difficult.

Cars still being washed down on road in front of Classic Cars.

- 5.2 Bedford Hall Management Committee – Councillor Fuller – The Peterborough City Council Condition Survey Report - awaiting the final release of the documents. Recently completed Energy Audit of the building (by Cambridgeshire ACRE). The findings of that report are now being integrated by Peterborough City Council into the three to five year development plan, all of which will be dependent upon discussions about funding. Should know more about that in the next two to three weeks. In addition there is a meeting with the Project Officer from WREN early in October. We are specifically hoping to talk to her about the upgrade of the toilets and the hall ceiling/secondary double-glazing.
- The lounge wall has been dealt with and we shall than refurbish the rest of the lounge. The Hard Wire Test of the whole of the building has been done. The report from Wings will be going to the City Council. Nothing on the report will delay us in carrying on with the kitchen refurbishment. We will be redecorating the lounge and refurbishing and re-carpeting it.
- The Clock Tower has been physically inspected by the Peterborough City Council and it is confirmed that it is in an acceptable order.

Councillor Harlock enquired about bookings and integration of associate members. Recent music festival led to a long discussion.

## 6. Planning

### 6.1 Planning Applications outcome

- 09/00717/FUL For Proposed workshop extension and change of use workshop to office at Heritage Motors Gas Lane – Decision: Permitted
- 09/00418/FUL for Installation of three double-glazed windows at side and rear at 126 Wisbech Road - Decision: Permitted
- 09/00518/FUL for Construction of an industrial building for the storage and maintenance of contract hire forklift trucks and for the manufacture of signs; and ancillary LGV parking at Hightrees The Causeway - Decision: Withdrawn
- 09/00669/R3FUL for Demolition of the existing children's centre and construction of a new facility including creation of temporary new access, temporary accommodation, landscaping and temporary boundary fencing at Duke Of Bedford Primary School Wisbech Road - Decision: Permitted
- 09/00695/FUL for Replacement garage - retrospective at 132 Wisbech Road - Decision: Permitted

#### Current Planning Applications

- 09/00814 The Concrete Company, Station Road - use of machinery for crushing and screening waste materials - same concerns as voiced before - concern about noise levels and site should have improved screening by additional planting. Would welcome trial period so that noise impact could be assessed.
- This application was further explained by Councillor Bevington.
- 09/00938/FUL For Two storey side extension at 95 Wisbech Road – no objections

### 6.2 Buildings of Local Importance – reply to be sent to Mr. Daley

### 6.3 Other planning matters

The Park – Councillor Bevington said that Peterborough City Council was in favour of the footpath link and children’s activity area but could not fund it. Councillor Bevington will obtain quote for footpath.

7. Allotments  
Some allotments still to be cleared by Councillor Harlock who will also look at renumbering them and insert boundary markers.
8. Roads and Footpaths
- 8.1 Street lighting - units already reported that needed attention
  - 8.2 Update on Shambles Footpaths – site meeting held 14 September with Peterborough City Council contractor. Work should start very shortly
  - 8.3 Update on Causeway Bridge – email from Paul Green circulated. Clerk still holding cheque for Thorney Parish Council contribution and will not release it until firm start date given.
  - 8.4 Kerbstone on the Causeway near western roundabout out of position and dangerous.
  - 8.5 Complaints of workmanship on recent repairs to Whittlesey Road.
9. Burial Board
- 9.1 Request for seat on cemetery boundary near grave of Mr. Horne – agreed that Mrs. Horne could provide a seat.
  - 9.2 Complaint from Mr. and Mrs. Llewellyn concerning tree management near their son’s grave. After viewing the tree Thorney Parish Council did not uphold the complaint. Tree management was done for health and safety reasons and is a Thorney Burial Authority responsibility. It was also pointed out that the memorials in the front of the headstone are totally against Thorney Burial Authority rules for the lawn cemetery and Mr. and Mrs. Llewellyn have so far not been asked to remove these because of the sensitive nature of their son’s memorial.
10. Christmas Lights – Councillor Fuller  
It was agreed that Thorney Parish Council would purchase lights to be placed on the top of Bedford Hall Tower from Festival Lighting at a cost of £2058.80 plus vat. It is expected that the Bedford Hall Management Committee will make a contribution to these.
11. Correspondence/Any Other Business
- 11.1 Request from Ed Palmieri MRICS, ie Homes & Property Ltd, Birtwick Park, Old Bungay Road, Kirby Cane, Bungay, to come and talk to the Parish Council concerning possible future development in Thorney – Thorney Parish Council do not wish to meet any developers until Peterborough City Council has published its preferred sites.
  - 11.2 Letter of thanks from Thorney Running Club for use of the Parish Room at the race day in August.
  - 11.3 Safer Peterborough wishes to increase the number of Community Crime Fighters and free training is available.
12. Finance
- 12.1 The following sums had been received:-

<i>From</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Amount</i>
HM Custom and Excise	Vat refund	£1,840.62
Buckle and Co	Inter Mr. Fitzjohn	£106.25
H E Bull and Sons	Inter Mrs Peacock	£55.00

10.2 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, Travel, telephone	001668	£130.99
Peterborough Grass Machinery	Maintenance items for mowers	001669	£150.51
Smiths of Derby	Clock maintenance	001670	£190.90
Grounds Maintenance Service	Cut Abbey Lawns	001671	£46.00
The Columbaria Company	Memorial Mr. Page	001672	£86.25
Anglian Water	Water charges allotments	001673	£170.18

The next full meeting will be held on 12 October 2009. The meeting closed at 9.40 pm