

At a meeting of THORNEY PARISH COUNCIL held at the Council Chamber, Tank Yard, Thorney on Monday 10 December 2007 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Chair: Councillor D. J Buddle

Councillors: J E G. Bartlett, R Bevington, P.A. Rowe, E. Gee, P. Murphy, R.M. Harlock, Ms. M Herdman, M. Amps-Woodward and C Evans
Sgnt. Bradshaw, Mr. J Daley and Ms. E Chimanga, Peterborough City Council.
12 members of the public present.

Before the meeting 10 minutes was allowed for public discussion.

1. Apologies and Declaration of Interests

Apologies from W VanDriessche

There were declarations of interest from Councillor Rowe concerning the Wind Farm planning application as his firm makes components for the turbines.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the previous Meetings held on 12 and 20 November (copies of which had previously been circulated to all members) were signed.

3. Matters arising from minutes.

3.1 Redundant Farm buildings – redevelopment for residential use. Peterborough City Council has replied to Thorney Parish Council letter and copies of this were given to each Councillor. If a building is near a town or village it is far more likely to be given permission for redevelopment than one that is not. Mr. Rossington to be asked if this policy needs looking at in view of the Government targets to provide housing.

At this point all members of the public left the room whilst the next item was dealt with.

4. Co-option of new member

Presentations by applicants for vacant members' position were given by Mr. Alan Bothamley, Mrs. Susan Knight. Mrs Jayne Sheraton withdrew her application before the meeting

After the presentation a paper ballot was taken and Mrs. Knight is to be asked to fill the vacancy.

5. Village Conservation report – Visit by Mr. Daley

Mr. Daley reported back on the public consultation that had been carried out. The next stage is to get the document accepted as “material planning consideration”.

He explained the reporting document he had produced from the comments received from the consultation. He made special mention of the “allotments” attached to the properties in Wisbech Road as these were significant to the original model village.

Some money may be available for improvements in future years.

Mr. Daley will keep Thorney Parish Council informed of progress.

6. Integrated growth Study – Visit by Ms. Elizabeth Chimanga

Ms. Chimanga updated the Council on key issues. Opportunity Peterborough and Peterborough City Council are working together with consulting firm Arup to produce an Integrated Growth

Study which will provide the basis of plans for the city to grow bigger and better. The views of residents are crucial to this process.

The study focuses on housing and employment growth and seeks to integrate this with transport, resource efficiency, and utilities initiatives. This work will inform the city council's core strategy, which will be subject to consultation in spring 2008.

There are three prime objectives to achieve a sustainable growing community.

- Economic growth to bring additional jobs through growth of new and existing business and by encouraging and aiding businesses to relocate to Peterborough.
- Housing growth to ensure that there is a wide range of housing available in the city, with quality facilities to make each community an attractive place for people to live.
- Regeneration of the area around the city centre to provide retail, leisure and residential space in the heart of the city consistent with a leading European city.

In terms of future development, brown field land and existing communities in need of regeneration should be redeveloped as a priority before green field land is brought forward. Whilst development should be concentrated in a few key locations across the district, plans for growth and redevelopment should not neglect rural areas, as a notable percentage of the existing population live in the outlying rural and village neighbourhoods. With regards to housing, it is particularly important that it is accommodated in a number of smaller developments, rather than one or two large urban extensions.

Peterborough's natural environment is one of its major strengths. The quality of the environment in Peterborough must therefore be protected and enhanced to the highest environmental standards, as it is an integral part of Peterborough's Environment image. Environmental development has been selected as the way forward.

Regeneration of the city should be undertaken as a priority, before issues in the surrounding villages are addressed. In particular, the city centre must be redeveloped to create a useable and attractive multi-cultural centre.

There is for example currently a lack of affordable housing in rural villages. New developments should therefore play a key role in the creation of balanced and sustainable communities. Similarly, there is a need for increased employment opportunities in rural areas in order to provide local employment and reduce the levels of commuting from these areas. However, growth in the villages will be restricted by the local school capacity.

She outlined the various core strategies and the policy of inviting notifications from land owners of sites suitable for development. Most of the core strategies related to the City of Peterborough rather than the surrounding outlying areas.

Further changes to the planning system are proposed and may effect the timing of the core strategies.

Councillor Bevington said that in parallel with the IGS, Thorney Parish Council are involved with Community Planning initiative – what Thorney would like. He asked how ARUP's came to their proposal decisions. Had they considered the infrastructure of the village as the document did not substantiate this.

Ms. Chimanga said the final report would address this. The Chairman highlighted the points brought out in a recent meeting at Eye. Thorney Parish Council was not confident a complete assessment had been made in relation to village life.

Ms. Chimanga seemed surprised that Thorney Parish Council was already working with Mr. Rob Smith on the Community Planning initiative but said she would liaise with him.

7. Planning

7.1 Planning Applications

07/01808 21 Chestnut Drive – side extension – no objection (Councillor Bartlett took no part in the discussion as the property is close to his)

07/01600 Toll Hose, The Causeway – fence and access – no objections

07/01756 French Drove 2 Wind Turbines – Thorney Parish Council were concerned that this development would have a detrimental effect on wildlife, health impact on nearby residents, effect on landscape, effect on nearby property prices, deeply unpopular with those nearby who are directly affected, loss of agricultural land. Thorney Parish Council objects to this application and if it is the Planning Officers intention to recommend approval Thorney Parish Council wishes for this application to go before committee. The number of units at present proposed means that people that live in this area will be surrounded by them in close proximity.

Members of the public were allowed to comment on this application

7.2 Planning Applications Passed/Refused/withdrawn/before committee

07/01046/FUL Thorney Post Office, 5 Abbey Place – internal modifications – passed

07/01120 Willow Hall Farm and Briggs Farm mineral extraction – passed

06/00464 Willow Hall Farm and Briggs Farm – construction of reservoir - passed

07/00579 Cheriton House internal and external modifications - refused

07/01357 Poplar Farm, Willow Hall Lane – rear conservatory – passed

07/00288 Stone Bridge Farm Bungalow, Thorney Dyke – replacement bungalow – passed.

07/00580 Cheriton House, The Green – internal alterations – referred to Planning Committee 11 December

07/01296 Monument, The Green – Peterborough City Council request that Thorney parish Council gauge the views of villagers and feed back the information to them – after discussion it was agreed that a question be placed on the Community Planning questionnaire to be sent to every household in the parish and then a public meeting sometime in February. Mr. Rossington to be asked if the application is time constrained.

Gas House Development, Gas Lane – Mr. Loveday has been out to site and can confirm that much of the site has been cleared. The 2 walnut trees remain and some of the boundary trees. The walnut trees were the only trees identified to be saved. However, there is mention on file of a 'TPO'd' apple tree. This has gone and he will investigate further

7.3 The Chairman outlined the points made at the recent Parish Council Liaison meeting. He produced notes that were handed out.

A group of Parish Councils will visit Peterborough City Council to see what support they will give. Thorney Parish Council needs to determine what projects we need that will be supported by section 106 funds.

8 Household Recycling Centre

Site now closed. Notices displayed on gate, in the Village magazine and on the website. Peterborough City Council will removed their containers and Councillor Harlock agreed to get removed the lorry body and wooden hut. The Concrete Company to be asked to remove

the metal skip.

9 Crime Report

9.1 Sgnt. Bradshaw gave a report and details of recent crimes

9.2 The Chairman gave a report of a recent meeting he had with Sgnt Bradshaw where continued sponsorship PCSO Vehicle was discussed. He compiled a set of notes that were given to the meeting.

PC Dave Williams has taken responsibility for policing in Thorney.

The Chairman is to contact Eye PC Chairman to see if they wish to join the sponsorship scheme. Councillor Bartlett expanded on this.

Councillor Harlock said withdrawal of the car would not make the situation any worse because we did not have a PCSO at present. He believed Thorney had a second class service from the Police.

Sgnt. Bradshaw agreed to produce the vehicle log book for inspection.

Councillor Harlock said the car should be returned to Newborough and Thorney until a replacement PCSO was operational. Councillor Bevington asked the frequency of PC Williams visits to Thorney. Sgnt. Bradshaw hedged the question – villages were patrolled when crime in other areas allowed.

Councillor Bartlett said that Inspector Rogers had told him that PCSO Brader would not be replaced.

It was proposed by Councillor Harlock, seconded by Councillor Rowe that the car is returned to Thorney. There were 3 for and 7 against so the proposal failed.

10 Allotments

The rents outstanding are being chased.

11 Roads and Footpaths

Pode Hole Quarry – light and centre road bollards now illuminated. It was considered that better signage should be provided warning of the centre reservation and Mr. Povey to be asked for his comments.

Hightrees Farm, The Causeway - farm buildings & farm house are fenced off and patrolled by a resident security guard, who lives on site in a large mobile home. The Highways Agency acquired Hightrees Farm and rented it to Birse for use as a site compound. There seems to have been some confusion around the handing back but HA are now funding the security and are taking steps to put the property on the market in the very near future. Smiths-Gore are acting as agents for the sale

Footpath outside Cheriton House, The Green. Peterborough City Council state they do not maintain this footpath as it is not theirs. As Thorney Parish Council owns the land either side of this footpath it must be Thorney Parish Council that is responsible for maintenance. The flags are very uneven and there are some that are broken. Mr. Pask has quoted for relaying and replacement broken slabs. However, because of the historic nature of this path Mr. Daley is to be asked to assist in determining the process we should adopt and additional quotations will be needed before a decision is made.

Trees and shrubs still overhanging footpath in Station Road and near 58 Topham Crescent – Mr. Ewing again asked to action

Following a conversation between Councillor Bartlett and Mike Povey he has checked the Land Reference schedules for Thorney Bypass and it appears that the superseded length of road in front of Pigeons' Off Farm and Corner Farm at the eastern tie-in remains part of the A47 trunk road, although the access track to it off the B1167 south of the roundabout is a private access. Land issues always take a long time to conclude so Mr. Povey is not quite sure what the formal legal position is at the moment. However, he has forwarded the Parish Council's concerns about travellers to his area colleagues for comment and will also look into the issues of drainage at Mr Adcock's property and replacement of dead trees in the landscape areas.

Street lamp PCC6 St. Mary's Close out

Drain at junction old A47 and Woburn Drive blocked and floods in wet weather – Councillor Bartlett to liaise with Peterborough City Council

12 Burial Board

Removal of conifer tree near graves 455A – Mr. Lucken has completed this work

13 Christmas Lights 2007

Councillor Herdman updated the meeting – lights in operation. Peterborough City Council responded very well to Councillor Herdman's request for assistance.

14 Thorney Park – considerations from Mr. Shuster to modify existing pavilion Mr. Shuster and Councillor Bartlett have met with Peterborough City Council and agreed the work necessary to improve the facilities.

15 Correspondence/Any Other Business

15.1 Acre circulars, CALC information- circulated

15.2 Various Countryside Agency publications – circulated

15.3 Possibility of Youth Club reopening in Thorney.

16. Finance

16.1 Agreement of Precept for 2008/2009

The Clerk gave an up to date account of the income and expenditure for the current year and explained the differences in next year's precept makeup. Up to date accounts were given to each Councillor. The increase in precept, because of the additional items that were considered beneficial to Thorney, was discussed at length. The village street scene will become a major issue and will need extra revenue to develop it in a satisfactory fashion.

The Parish Room needs new furniture and redecoration.

With the implementation of e-planning in the near future this will need additional communication equipment.

It was proposed by Councillor Harlock, seconded by Councillor Rowe and unanimously agreed that the considerable extra work being carried out by the Clerk should be recompensed. It is unlikely that this workload will decrease as the implementation of e-planning will bring its own work load.

It was proposed by Councillor Harlock, seconded by Councillor Rowe and unanimously agreed that the precept for 2008/2009 be submitted at £55,000.00

16.2 The following sums had been received:-

<i>From</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Amount</i>
J G Cross	Memorial Mr. Harris	£17.00
Yorkshire Bank	Interest	£2.04
Mr. Coombs	Inter Mrs.Coombs	£400.00

The following Cheques were drawn and signed:-

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mr. A E Hovell	Telephone, postage, etc	001522	£34.77
Shanks Waste Management	Cemetery skip	001523	£91.84
BCPE Ltd	Update to manuals	001524	£65.45
Mr. J Dufeu	Household waste site management	001525	£516.66
Columbaria Co	Inscription tablet Mrs. Whitwell	001526	£78.73
Grounds Maint. Services	Grass cut Abbey	001527	£47.00

The next meeting will be held on 14 January 2008. The meeting closed at pm