

Meeting of THORNEY PARISH COUNCIL held in the Parish Room, Tank Yard, Thorney on Monday 14 December 2015 at 7.00 p.m.

Chair: Councillor: J E G Bartlett

Councillors: P Rands, Mrs. D Halfhide, N Simons, Mrs. M Long, D. J Buddle, J Brooks, Mrs. Sheldrake, R Bevington, D Jones,

1 members of the public - Mr. Steve Allen, PDE Consulting Mr. David Marsh

Before the meeting started, the Chairman asked if anyone present was recording the proceedings - no recording

779/15-16 To receive and approve apologies for absence

Peterborough City Councillors D Sanders and Richard Brown

780/15-16 To receive Disclosable Pecuniary Interests Declarations

To receive Disclosable Interests Declarations in any items on the agenda - none declared

781/15-16 To approve minutes of the meeting of 9th November 2015

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 9th November were confirmed and signed

782/15-16 Matters arising from minutes

Footpath between Sandpit Road to St Mary's Close - conifers on private land obstructing access - Lee Moore asked to assist.

783/15-16 Public Participation and discussion with pde consulting ltd concerning mineral extraction Pasture House Farm

Councillor Bevington explained Thorney Parish Council were not opposed to the quarry but were against access and egress from Willow Hall Lane. This would necessitate tree removal from the coppice, virtually destroying it.

The batching plant is also very visible even though a bund will be provided. Both access and the batching plant would be better near the farm itself.

Mr. March explained why the access was designed to use Willow Hall Lane. There would be a footpath/cycle way further encroaching on the copse. It had not yet been decided if vehicles would be allowed to turn towards Thorney from Willow Hall Lane.

Vehicles through the village of Thorney should not exceed those agreed with Pode Hole Quarry. The existing limit should be shared between both quarries.

Visual impact of the site should be shown as a photomontage

Mr. Marsh will provide Thorney Parish Council with a CD containing all documents

Councillor Bevington said that Thorney Parish Council were most concerned by the copse destruction and the batching plant was an industrial unit in a rural location. Councillor Jones said that in the Fens, any copse is valuable. Councillor Bartlett asked about the cycle way extension - this has not been considered by the developer or Peterborough City Council.

Councillor Halfhide said that Thorney and Eye were in the same Peterborough City Council ward but there is no safe cycle way between the two villages.

Councillor Buddle said there had been an arrogance that said "this is the plan and we keep to it no matter what".

784/15-16 Matters for Information and Reports

1. Crime report. No Police presence. - **Update and emerging crime trends** Hare coursing: continuing to get reports of suspected hare coursing across the County - reported increases from our cross border forces. For our rural areas the area of Newborough, Newborough Fen and Thorney - Willow Hall Lane and Thorney Dyke continue to be repeat reports of activity. Operation

Dornier, the hare coursing operation, has now been activated and daily two police patrols go out north and south of the county and report directly to Stefan and Ellen from Countryside Watch -

this means landowners and farmers who see hare coursers in operation can text or ring them and patrols can be directed more timely. So far this month there has been a reduction in reports. This year just over 400 front line officers undertook rural crime training out on farms and in spring next year a programme will roll out to the Force control room and police service centre. We are hopeful this will help staff understand better the needs and impact rural crime has on its population.

Diesel and heating oil theft: Awareness and prevention advice continues - we have shift officers on late and night shifts patrolling rural areas late at night and early in the morning. Please pass on the message to report anything suspicious so we can react and check things out.

Crimes - afternoon of 3rd November - break in reported Thorney rugby club on Crowland Road - two containers on site broken into but appears nothing taken - thieves may have been looking for tools and equipment. - theft of fuel overnight 26th November farm premises on Sandpit Road. Overnight 28th November - theft of vehicle Northey Road - taken without owner's permission and crashed into ditch - local recovery

4th December - morning - theft of cabling from Wind Farm site on New Cut

Between 5th and 7th December - damage caused to vehicle parked off road on Wisbech Road - no witnesses

Calls for service to 10 reports of poaching (hare coursing). Several vehicles and persons have now been reported for coursing - police vehicles are dispatched daily and work with the local farmers and countryside watch - with the continuing mild weather hare coursing incidents across the county continue.

Police are continuing to urge all residents to sign up to our Ecops email alert system - takes only a few seconds to register but really helps the Police in getting key messages out - site is at www.ecops.org.uk

Rural operation held on 2nd December along the A47 between Thorney and Wisbech with following result:

27 x vehicles stopped and tested 3 found to contain illegal fuel and seized until fines paid. 2 x arrests for immigration offences after short fail to stop and decamp.

1 x arrest for drug driving section 5a RTA

1 x vehicle seized section 165a RTA no insurance

2 x reported for use of mobile phones while driving

2 x reported for defective tyres

1 x report for no MOT

2. Bedford Hall Management Committee - Peterborough City Council and Honeywell now say they cannot carry out an energy audit on Bedford Hall. Now looking for a private company to carry out inspection. Hall passed recent fire inspection

3. Response from Simon Webber - ongoing - Councillor Bevington said that a full survey of Bedford Hall would be completed. Preschool in Church Street will close shortly

4. Wrydecroft Windfarm - minutes of November meeting circulated

CCF Fund webpage: <http://www.cambscf.org.uk/wryde-croft-wind-farm-community-fund.html>

The dates for 2016 panel meetings were agreed as - to be held at the Parish Rooms Thorney
Thurs 10 March, Thurs 8 Sept 2016 18.30 start

Wryde Croft Wind Farm Community Fund for the purpose of supporting CHARITABLE projects which will: enhance the quality of life for local residents; contribute to vibrant, healthy, successful and sustainable communities; and promote community spirit and encourage community activity.

Who can apply?

Constituted not for profit groups

Organisations must have three or more independent people on their management committee, an up to date Equal Opportunity Policy, a bank account with two or more independent signatures and a Safeguarding Policy if working with either children and/or vulnerable adults.

If the group is an unincorporated voluntary body or not-for-profit Limited Company with an annual income over £5,000, it will need to be one of the recognised not-for-profit structures we support listed below, before applying for a grant.

Registered Charity, Exempt Charity, Excepted Charity Parish Council, Community Interest Company (CIC), Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), Community Amateur Sports Club, If the group is a registered charity its submissions to the Charity Commission must be up-to-date.

Project

Must be charitable (note - not statutory responsibility)

The Charities Act 2011 defines a charitable purpose, explicitly, as one that falls within the following list of thirteen descriptions of purposes and is for the public benefit:

The prevention or relief of poverty, The advancement of education, The advancement of religion
The advancement of health or the saving of lives, The advancement of citizenship or community development, The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science, The advancement of amateur sport, The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity, The advancement of environmental protection or improvement, The relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage, The advancement of animal welfare

The promotion of the efficiency of the armed forces of the Crown, or of the efficiency of the police, fire and rescue services or ambulance services

Any other purposes currently recognised as charitable and any new charitable purposes which are similar to another charitable purpose.

Beneficiaries Must reside in the Area of Benefit (interpreted to be 80-90% of beneficiaries)

Grants - £250-£5000, although in exceptional circumstances grants above £5k may be considered

Grants will not be made retrospectively so no commitment for expenditure should be made before the date of the grant offer letter.

Funding will not be provided to support projects promoting political or religious views, for sponsored events or to cover expenditure considered to be a statutory responsibility.

Grants will not normally be given to projects primarily concerned with animal welfare, medical research and equipment, or overseas travel.

785/15-16 Report from City Councillors

786/15-16 Finance

To note income and approve Payments

Mr Tipton	Allotment rent and key deposit	£40.00
Mr Compton	Allotment rent and key deposit	£40.00
J G Cross	Memorial	£125.00
Anglia Reg Coop Soc	Inter Mrs Wilson	£150.00
Mrs Molesworth	Allotment rent and key deposit	£40.00
Community Association	Donation	£1154.85

The following were paid in December

Peterborough Grass Machinery Ltd	Plastic rake	Bacs	£13.87
SLCC	Membership fee	002050	£187.00
Howsafe	PPE Mr Stimson	002051	£71.56

Cambridgeshire ACRE	Payroll services	002052	£61.56
Mr A E Hovell	Postage,travel,telephone since last April	002053	£103.56
Mr B Lucken	Petrol for mowers and travel	Bacs	£42.02

Monthly bank reconciliation – signed

Precept considerations. It was proposed by Councillor Buddle, seconded by Councillor Bevington and unanimously agreed to accept the budget proposals for 2016/2017 to give a total income of £65085. The figure set was exactly the same as the past 3 years that is turn was below the level set in 2011/2012

Donation from Community Association. An account with Cambridge Building Society has been opened with £17000.00 and will be ring fenced for Community use. It was noted a second donation of £1154.85 had also been received and placed in the Cambridge Building Society

787115-16 Planning Approvals and Refusals

15/01361/84 Wisbech Road - Proposed roof extension, alterations and associated works including new railings and gates to the front boundary - approved

15/01705/CTR for Ash - Fell at Holmlea The Causeway. Decision: Permitted

788/15-16 Planning Applications and other matters

Planning applications

15/01839 Mineral extraction Pasture House Farm – Councillor Bevington composed a response to this application that was circulated to all members and is

We are not opposed to this site becoming a quarry although we regret the loss of agricultural land and the important rural setting this provides on the A47 approach to the village.

We are, however, completely opposed to two aspects of the proposals;

a) Access to the site being from Willow Hall Lane

b) The location of the Batching and Processing Plant

We fail to understand why access to the site is from Willow Hall Lane rather than utilising the existing entrance at Pasture House Farm.

The Pasture House Farm access point would extend the distance between the existing Pode Hole Quarry exit/entrance to the east, and we feel this should be a consideration in respect of road safety.

Using Pasture House Farm as the access point would avoid the widening of Willow Hall Lane, which, we understand is necessary even though none of the documents we received show or mention this. This widening is on the western side of the road where there exists a very beautiful copse of mature trees. Widening the road will ravage and brutalise this copse, and we believe the wilful and unnecessary felling of trees is totally unacceptable when there is an obvious alternative that would not affect the landscape or mature trees and vegetation.

If Willow Hall Lane is indeed to be widened and thus affect the copse the planning submission documents at point 15 should definitely require a Tree Survey.

We also note that there is no indication of quarry traffic control at the Willow Hall Lane/A47 junction. Will lorries be permitted to turn both left and right at this junction or will they be restricted to making a left hand turn only as do the Pode Hole Quarry vehicles? If it is a left hand turn only for quarry vehicles how will this affect other traffic using this junction - will they still be permitted to turn left or right?

What, regardless of where the access to the site is, will be the limitations on the number of vehicles entering the village?

We assume the limitations imposed on Pode Hole will be shared with Pasture House Farm by which we mean there will be no increase in the existing number of vehicles entering the village.

We are informed that alternative access points have been discussed with Highways but they are insisting on Willow Hall Lane being utilised for this purpose. We would be grateful if we can be informed by the City Council of their reasons for this and their rejection of alternatives.

Locating the access off Willow Hall Lane seems to generate the location of the Batching and Processing being placed in a position where they will be visible from the A47. The implication that a 'screening bund' will overcome their being visible seems unlikely to us and we would like to see visuals that give accurate views of this.

We believe the Batching and Processing Plant will be a blot on the landscape and will unacceptably change a rural agricultural setting to an industrial one.

We are of the opinion that this plant should be located immediately behind the farm house and related farm buildings. In this location it will read as an integrated part of the collection of buildings rather than just being stuck somewhere out in a field. It will also be well hidden from the A47 and would work well with site access at this alternative location. Furthermore it would be in a location central to the whole site which could seem to be an efficient place to locate it.

There is no evidence in the documents we have received that any sound tests have been carried out in respect of the impact this plant may have on residences in the vicinity. We would imagine this to be a critical component of this type of application.

We believe interventions of this kind into a rural landscape should be of the most subtle, sensitive and least intrusive design and these proposals exhibit precisely the opposite of that. They are intrusive, they have little respect for the existing copse and they are insensitive over the siting of the batching plant. We trust that the planning department will request a more appropriate solution to these aspects of the proposals before giving them their full consideration.

Unless the Access Point and Plant locations are reconsidered we confirm that Thorney Parish Council are totally opposed to these proposals which they consider to be extremely ill-considered and inappropriate in respect of a rural landscape and in their disregard for the established landscape feature of the copse.

We request that this Planning Application be put before the Planning Committee

Notes:

a) These proposals do not include any visuals as to how the modifications to Willow Hall Lane or the Batching Plant and Processing Plant will look. We are left with having to judge this from plans alone and this in itself would seem to be sufficient reason for rejecting this application or for calling for more information. In the documents we received there is no mention of archeological matters or the wildlife on the site and in particular in the copse.

b) As it is beyond the expertise of Thorney Parish Council to assess whether or not this quarry is actually needed they would be grateful for the view of City Council on this. The adjacent quarry appears to be fully operable with approval to expand so we are uncertain why a further quarry is needed at this time.

c) In discussion with the Agent for this application when he spoke to the Parish Council earlier this year it was put to him that there should be a community benefit arising from this application should it be successful. In particular we referenced the continuation of the Cycle Path from Thorney to Eye. This is partly completed from the village going west but needs to continue along the frontage of the application site. We believe, in keeping with policies on safe cycle routes and community benefits that provision of this Cycle Path extension this should be made a condition of any approval of this application.

15/01957 Goldyke Farm, Scolding Drove – agricultural building – no objections but environmental statement should be checked closely as all "no" seems unlikely

15/01944/LBC Internal and external alterations at Lodge Farm House Black Drove - no objections

789/15-16 Burial Authority

Fence repair - material ordered

790/15-16 Roads and Footpaths

- Street light - report by Councillor Bartlett.
- Podge Hole Quarry - central reservation keep left bollards not illuminated
- B1040 and other backroads from Crowland area. Ongoing liaison taking place
- Road near Park Entrance/Take-a-way shop – contact made with Peterborough City Council concerning progress with alleviating "pinch point". Mr Tebb writes

"My recollection from our site meeting was that given the nature of the works, then these would be considered as a scheme should there be a shortfall in projected expenditure within our capital program.

This did not occur last year but I will enquire if this is likely to be the case this year"

791/15-16 Village Matters

- Children's Centres - ongoing
- Causeway Lodge - dumping of black plastic bags of rubbish

792/15-16 Allotments

793/15-16 Amendment of Thorney Parish Council standing orders

1. Amendment to Standing Orders to incorporate signing Thorney Post cheques - discussed and agreed to implement new standing orders
2. Amendment of Financial Regulations to take into account modern Bank practices - discussed and agreed to implement new financial orders

794/15-16 Correspondence

Request for a skate park in Thorney - as previously discussed finance and position is something that Peterborough City Council should implement. Clerk to respond to Mr. Behoo

795/15-16 Matters as agenda items for future consideration

Discuss implications of City ward boundary changes and how this affects Thorney.

796/15-16 Any other business

Letter of thanks to be sent to Editor of Thorney Post on the recent edition

Recent Parish Liaison meeting suggested consideration should be made concerning insurance if key workers were of work with illness

Next issue of Thorney Post will carry an article to advertise the Community Fund

797/15-16 Date of next meeting

Meeting of the Parish Council 11th January 2016 starting at 700pm. The meeting closed at 8.46pm