

Meeting of THORNEY PARISH COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Tank Yard, Thorney
on Monday 14 July 2014 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Chair: Councillor: J E G Bartlett

Councillors: R Bevington, P Rands, Mrs M Long, Mrs. D Halfhide, D. J Buddle,
Peterborough City Councillor R Brown, 1 member of the public

517/14-15 To receive and approve apologies for absence

Mrs. S Selby, Mrs L Sheldrake, J Brooks, PCSO Mary Webber, Peterborough City Councillor
D Sanders

518/14-15 To receive Disclosable Pecuniary Interests Declarations

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

519/14-15 To approve minutes of the meeting of 9 June 2014

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 June 2014 were confirmed and signed after
modification to item 496/14-15

520/14-15 Matters arising from minutes

1. Jim Daley asked to include centre building in Cemetery to list of Thorney's important buildings
2. Causeway Lodge – PCSO Webber reported that building now secured
3. Notice board Wisbech Road – notices have now been pinned in the board and wind and rain has not caused a problem. Agree to leave un-glassed for present time
4. Councillor Sanders liaising with Peterborough City Council concerning problems of getting grass cut in several areas in Thorney. These are near Borrow Pit (the other side of the hedge), the footpath towards Pode Hole and the junction of Bukehorn Road (B1443) and Station Road (B1040).

521/14-15 Public Participation

Mr. O'Neil was concerned about overgrown hedges obstruction footpaths at 85 Wisbech Road, 35
Wisbech Road, alleyway St.Mary's/Sandpit Road, 1B Sandpit Terrace, Gayport. Also Willow tree
overhanging footpath in Park

522/14-15 Matters for Information and Reports

1. Crime report – 30 calls to service and 11 crimes (criminal damage, theft, burglary)
2. Deregulation Bill for Taxis - Police and Crime Commissioner to lobby Government
Cambridgeshire's Police and Crime Commissioner supports a campaign to lobby Minister without Portfolio
Ken Clarke over the Deregulation Bill currently going through Parliament.
Plans to cut red tape for taxi and private hire drivers risk increasing incidents of people being raped and
sexually assaulted after a night out, Police and Crime Commissioners across England and Wales have
warned. The concerns are backed by licensing officials, police, the taxi trade and organisations that work
with victims of rape and sexual assault.
Thorney Parish Council supports the campaign to lobby against the Bill
3. Bedford Hall Management Committee – roof of the bar area still to be repaired after window
from the tower "speared" the roof, water is dripping on to "electrical cables in the bar area.
Councillor Sanders liaising with Peterborough City Council.
4. Other reports – Parish Council Liaison - Rob Henchy, Interim Commissioning Manager for Adult Social
Care at Peterborough City Council provided an update on the Dementia Resource Centre. Councillor Henry Clarke,
Peakirk Parish Council provided a presentation on the Ward Boundary Review, from A Rural Parish Perspective. The
key points raised were:
 - The aim to have three Councillors per Ward did not make sense in rural wards which had lower
population density.
 - Following these guidelines, there would be two 'super wards' of 20 by 15 miles.

- The Peterborough City Council proposal was to have two Wards (Newborough, Eye & Thorney, and Northborough, Glinton & Wittering) with three Members and to leave Barnack as a one Member Ward.
- Councillors should know their Ward communities and be able to travel around the Ward easily.
- An alternative would be to combine Newborough and Northborough to make a new two Member Ward.

Feedback on the draft recommendations before 6 October 2014

Parish Council Conference 27th November in Bedford Hall

523/14-15 Report from City Councillors

Arranging ward walk with Amey for early August

Wren – money available for village facilities. Local contact for WREN is Sarah Gosling, Grant Manager for area 01953714987 sarah.gosling@wren.org.uk. To be invited to October meeting to clarify funding process

524/14-15 Finance

1. To note income and approve Payments

Midlands Coop	Memorial Mr Thompson	£50.00
Midlands Coop	Memorial Mr Goude	£50.00
Smiths Funeral Directors	Inter Mrs Filby	£550.00

Viking Direct	Stationery	£161.18
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The following Cheques were drawn and signed:-

Glazewing	Skip at Cemetery	001992	£69.23
Shaw and Sons	Burial records book	001993	£117.88
The Columbaria Company	Memorial Mrs Filby	001994	£90.00
Howsafe	Refuse sacks	001995	£30.00
Smith of Derby	Clock maintenance Tank Yard	001996	£223.20

2. Monthly bank reconciliation – signed

3. Footpaths in Park. It was proposed by Councillor Buddle, seconded by Councillor Bevington and unanimously agreed to contribute £2500 to footpath extensions in the Park to be paid on completion of the works. The additional cost of the inclusion of footpath 'C' instead of footpath 'D'. We will therefore have footpath 'A', 'C', 'F' and the part of 'B' which links 'F' with 'A'. Mr. Healy, on behalf of Red Kite Network Limited, has confirmed they will proceed with obtaining quotations based on this. The proposed works are subject to contractor availability so may not be able to commence prior to the football season. They will try and get things organised as soon as possible.

4. Audit report. Mr Wright suggests:

1. Mr Lucken has update training on knapsack spraying and chainsaw use. (Mr Lucken has agreed to this update training).
2. Grounds Maintenance certificate of insurance and H&S documentation needs to be checked again. Clerk to request
3. Risk assessment needed on Clerks office – Chairman to complete on next visit

5. Employer Discretions Policy and Entitlement Award. Updated spread-sheet to the policy agreed in 2008 circulated. New policy agreed

525/14-15 Planning Approvals and Refusals

14/00632/PRIOR for Agricultural prior notification - Livestock building at Crowtree Farm Thorney Dyke – Permitted

14/00729 38 Park Crescent – single storey toddler playroom – permitted

14/00784 1 Jamerstone Close – single storey side extension – permitted

14/00722 Thornberry Lodge, New Cut– conversion of garage to home office space – permitted

14/00707 46 Topham Crescent – extension to front porch and side extension - permitted

13/01636 Land To The East Of The Fire Station Gas Lane - Erection of 5 dwellings -
Decision: - Withdrawn/Finally Disposed Of

526/14-15 Planning Applications and other matters

1. Planning applications

14/01136/FUL - Willow Hall Farm, Willow Hall Lane - Construction of 5 wind turbines to a maximum height of 130 metres (to vertical blade tip) with ancillary infrastructure including substation, access tracks and crane hardstandings, temporary construction compound and improvements to access on to A47

Public Exhibition is held at the Bedford Hall next Thursday 10th July 2014. Officers from Planning Services on hand to help view the information, and the opportunity to submit comments on reply slips provided at the venue.

Councillor Bevington formulated Thorney Parish Council response as:

WILLOW HALL FARM WIND FARM - THORNEY PARISH COUNCIL'S OBJECTIONS TO THE APPLICATION FOR 5 NO. WIND TURBINES AT WILLOW HALL FARM, THORNEY REF 14/01136/FUL

1. We are opposed to the change of use from agricultural land to an industrial use.
2. We agree with the National Trust who oppose wind farms when they believe they are 'destroying the countryside' or undermining a 'heritage setting' which we consider to be the case with this application.
3. The finest approach to the village and the one that shows it most favourably in a rural setting is the approach from the direction of Whittlesey along the B 1040. This historic route in its splendid and ancient rural setting will be completely spoilt by the intrusive presence of the Willow Hall Farm wind turbines.
4. There are dwellings, including a number in the Conservation Area of the village, whose habitable rooms will have clear, uninterrupted views of the turbines and we consider this an unacceptable impairment of their amenities.
5. We are alarmed by how visible we believe the wind turbines will be from the village. We are equally alarmed by their high visibility from the A47 when moving in either an easterly or westerly direction. We consider that the high visibility of the turbines from both within and without the village demonstrates how inappropriately located they are. We find it difficult to believe that in pre-application discussions the Planning Department could in anyway have considered this a suitable location for a wind farm.
6. At times when the trees are without foliage the turbines will be even more visible and unacceptable. We assume that any visuals showing the turbines in context will be checked for accuracy by the City Council.
7. We do not consider this to be an appropriate location for a wind farm because this is an outstanding area of fenland countryside which should not be blighted by this intrusion on the landscape or skyline.
8. The turbines are totally out of proportion to any existing natural feature or development in the area.
9. There is no way the visual impact of wind turbines can be reduced or screened by the planting which is often a planning requirement of other developments in a rural landscape. These turbines completely dominate and will be an eyesore from miles around.
10. There are listed buildings within a few hundred metres of this proposal, not least amongst them being Thorney Abbey. We believe the proposed development undermines the historic rural setting of these buildings and their status as heritage assets. We absolutely reject any statement that implies that the effect these turbines will have on these assets is "negligible". We trust, but would like confirmation, that the Planning Department will consult with Jim Daley of the Conservation Department in their deliberations over this application.
11. We believe that only English Heritage can determine whether or not their guidance documents regarding the settings for wind farms has been correctly interpreted and we therefore assume, but again would like confirmation, that English Heritage will be consulted by the Planning Department in their deliberations over this application. We are of the opinion that this development leads to 'substantial' harm to heritage assets and that as this harm is not outweighed by any public benefit from the development it should, therefore, be refused consent.
12. One of the only, and certainly the most popular, public walks in the Parish is alongside Thorney River. The walk starts at the Causeway, takes you alongside the river to Toneham and from there across the old Cricket Field to the Whittlesey Road and back into the village. This walk will be spoilt entirely by the wind turbines which will be visible for the greater part of this walk. We therefore oppose this application as it undermines the quality and pleasure of this important public amenity.
13. We consider that any Environmental Assessment which forms part of an application can at best only be predictive. Can we be assured that any such assessment will be reviewed by a team of experts rather than just regular planning officers?
14. As with the Gores Farm application for 8 turbines (13/00431/FUL) in respect of birds we trust that the RSPB "strongly recommend" that options to mitigate the impact of this application be considered including "amending its location".

15. We would like to report that there is some concern amongst some Parishioners about vibration. They feel that vibration transferred into the turbines massive concrete foundations could, due to the make-up of the land in this area, be transferred to the Conservation Area of the village and put historic buildings such as the Abbey at risk. In any assessment of the suitability of this project we would like assurances that this risk does not in fact exist.

16. We do not feel this application can simply be judged on its own. It has to be considered in respect of the cumulative impact with other potential wind farms in the Parish. In particular with the immediately adjacent Gores Farm application which is currently being considered by the Planning Department. There is genuine concern that the village may eventually become surrounded by wind farms especially if they are dealt with on a piecemeal basis. What policy do the planners have in place to ensure that this does not happen? Due to the immediate adjacency of the 8 Gores Farm turbines with the 5 at Willow Hall we would be grateful for your confirmation that the Willow Hall Farm application will be determined in combination with the Gores Farm application.

17. We believe that the City Council's desire for residential growth in the village would be jeopardised if this wind farm is approved. It is known that wind farms can have an adverse effect on the value of property and the village would, therefore, be less attractive to potential developers.

18. As the site and surrounding areas are very important regionally and nationally as an Archaeological site we are of the opinion that it is not a suitable location for any form of development and that this application should be refused.

19. Whatever other objections there may be to this project we believe the unacceptable visual impact of these turbines is more than sufficient reason for this application to be rejected by the City Council

20. In the event that planning officers recommend approval of this application, Thorney Parish Council request that it is referred to, and goes before, the Planning and Environmental Protection Committee.

21. We understand that noise, light flicker, output inefficiency, absence of compensation for de-valued properties, MOD navigational concerns etc. are not planning grounds for objecting to the Gores Farm application. We are not, therefore, including them in the above list of our objections to this development. We are, however, of the opinion that they should be taken into account as valid reasons for wind farms not being given approval.

22. With regard to our request that the Gores Farm/ Willow Hall Farm applications are given your consideration in parallel we wonder if both applications should be under the control of the same planning officer rather than different officers as at present

These notes raise a number of queries (nos.6, 10, 11, 13,15, 16 and 22) to which the Parish Council would be grateful for your early response.

14/01221/PDNOT Communication Station Site 06714 Dairy Drove - Replacement of 3 x antennas with 3 x antennas, the removal of 3 x 0.3m DIA dishes and the installation of 1 x 0.3 DIA dish and ancillary development – no objections

14/01182 81 Wisbech Road – replacement garage – no objection

Pre-school in discussions with D of B School to move onto their site

Peterborough City Council Solar panels. The Recommendation of the Peterborough City Council Working Group is as follows;

The Working party, having reviewed all the evidence and particularly the financial elements of the Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic (Pv) Panels (Solar Farms) and Wind Turbine Project, referred to them in their Terms of Reference by Sustainable Growth and Environmental Capital Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities report back that they consider, by majority, that the scheme should not go ahead as they conclude the financial returns are not viable and the risks unacceptably high.

527/14-15 Burial Authority

Conifer tree near centre building leaning with some ground movement. Mr Ogden to be asked to give an opinion

Centre building – Mr. Daley to investigate

528/14-15 Roads and Footpaths

1. Street light – report by Councillor Bartlett.

2. Street naming - Lucy Asplin, LLPG and Street Naming and Numbering Custodian

Asset Management Team, Peterborough Highways Services writes: "I cant tell you how annoyed I am with myself for forgetting to consult with the parish council on this. I have a list of areas which request a

consultation on new street names and I must have checked it every time I've created a new street name except for this time. Please accept my apologies. I did consult with The Emergency Services and with Royal Mail, as per standard procedure.

The name itself was put to me by the developer, a Mr Alan Bedford".

3. Waste bins on footpaths – Chairman to liaise with Mike Robb (Peterborough City Council)
4. Chairman has told Highways the best time to resurface Church Street was during the school holidays, the work will be carried out by Aggregate Industries, the surface will be black in colour for 4 weeks, it is then shot blasted to reveal a more suitable colour, all this info will be relayed to local residents before the work commences. Some trees will need trimming.
5. Triangular piece of land east Pigeons Farm, owned by Highway Agency. In May 2013 Atkins wrote "Apologies for the delay in coming back to you about this land issue, but there is currently no straight forward answer! Having reviewed this with our environment team, we have now escalated this for investigation by the Highways Agency as landowners. The Highways Agency will need to determine what they wish to do with this land, before we are told how/if we are to maintain it for them longer term". Chairman has asked MP Stewart Jackson to chase with Highways Agency
6. Michael Dolan, Parking Manager Commercial Operations, Peterborough City Council, to instruct parking officers to Thorney as soon as they are available
7. Peterborough City Council - cycle parking facilities stands 1. at 30 degrees to carriageway outside shop near Rose and Crown 2. Two stands near Hang Lok Garden on the highway build out. Thorney Parish Council has requested that the build out where one proposed park is to be placed be much reduced in size as it causes a bottleneck to village traffic. Peter Tebb was at our meeting earlier in the year and looked at this. Thorney Parish Council are therefore against a cycle park being placed on the build out
8. Road to Whittlesey to be closed for resurfacing – no prior notification from Peterborough City Council.
9. Councillor Long asked if there were plans for any roads in Lincolnshire that were to be modified/upgraded to allow access for the wind turbine construction. Chairman to contact Lincs County Council
10. Mr. Marshall has requested a seat be placed in the bus shelter The Causeway. Previous seats in shelters have been vandalised and misused.
11. Footpath past nursery upto west bypass roundabout impassable because of weed growth. Corner Buke Horn Road/Station road overgrown and needs cutting

529/14-15 Allotments

1. Best allotment judging – to next meeting

530/14-15 Village Matters

1. Overhanging hedge 35 Wisbech Road – Councillors Bartlett and Sanders liaising.
2. Thorney Park. Muga fence in park has been cut and is dangerous. One tennis net post broken. Willow tree overhanging footpath and is dangerous to visually impaired.
3. High speed broadband is due to be rolled out in Thorney in mid 2015
4. Football club to be asked if they know if pavilion to be upgraded
5. Notice board Wisbech road to remain unglazed.

531/14-15 Correspondence

532/14-15 Vacancies on Thorney Parish Council

It was proposed by Councillor Buddle seconded by Councillor Long and unanimously agreed that Thorney Parish Council should fill the vacancies by cooption.

533/14-15 Matters as agenda items for future consideration

Update Bank Mandate

534/14-15 Any other business

Deputy Head of Duke of Bedford School leaving

Present Chair of Governors Duke of Bedford School to remain

Potted oak tree from Mrs Underhay to be planted in Cemetery

American flag from cemetery stolen. It was proposed by Councillor Bevington, seconded by Councillor Buddle and unanimously agreed New flag and lanyard to be purchased and erected.

Anti dog fouling notices and bins needed at eastern end of village

535/14-15 Date of next meeting

Meeting of the Parish Council 1 September 2014 starting at 7.00pm. The meeting closed at 8.10pm