

Meeting of THORNEY PARISH COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Tank Yard, Thorney on Monday 10 March 2014 at 7.00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Chair: Councillor: J E G Bartlett

Councillors: R Bevington, J Brooks, P Rands, Mrs. S Selby, Mrs M Long, Mrs Sheldrake, D. J Buddle,

Peterborough City Councillor D Sanders, PCSO Yane Pokhum. 1 members of the public

**435/13-14 To receive and approve apologies for absence**

Mrs. D Halfhide, E. Gee, B A Ogden

**436/13-14 To receive Disclosable Pecuniary Interests Declarations**

To receive Disclosable Interests Declarations in any items on the agenda – Councillor Bartlett, Sheldrake and Selby concerning planning application 14/00166 Chestnut Drive

**437/13-14 To approve minutes of the meeting of 10 February 2014**

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 February 2014 were confirmed and signed

**438/13-14 Matters arising from minutes**

**439/13-14 Public Participation**

Mr Gutteridge explained the main reason why the application 13/01207/FUL - 55 Wisbech Road – construction of a bungalow and why 14/00214 - 55 Wisbech Road – construction of a bungalow, should also be refused planning consent. The main refusal was: “The proposed bungalow would, by reason of its cramped siting, be detrimental to the character of the immediate area which is characterised by detached dwellings within very spacious curtilages. Therefore it would be contrary to policy PP3 of the Peterborough Planning Policies DPD”. He asked why Thorney Parish Council should allow Peterborough City Council to decide the characteristics of Thorney and would Peterborough City Council change its mind with another application

Councillor Bevington explained that Thorney Parish Council and Peterborough City Council planners often disagreed but Peterborough City Council decides the outcome. Thorney Parish Council believed that the site was a building plot not a garden. Each application is judged on its merits.

Mr. Gutteridge was opposed to development changing the character of the village, suggested that major structures were missing from the submitted plan and that site visits should be made. He asked if Thorney Parish Council considered this infill to alter the character of the village, asked Thorney Parish Council to support the planning officer’s points on the previous application and reflect these in the present application. Flooding from run-off is a problem with this site because of water logging.

**440/13-14 Matters for Information and Reports**

1. Crime report – Police Crime Report – 32 calls to service – 3 burglaries, 2 thefts, 1 GBH. Speed watch signs to be installed to monitor traffic speed. 2 padlocks required. Speed gun operation in Station Road – prosecutions pending
2. Bedford Hall Management Committee – ramp to museum complete and wall in front of main entrance repaired. Pot holes around centre filled. Funds for damp and subsidence works applied for from Peterborough City Council - out of remainder of this year’s funds.
2. Parish Council Liaison meeting - Peterborough City Council is to remove the remaining discretionary funding, and also to remove the council tax support grant in full from Parish Council for the financial year 2015/2016. Peterborough City Council contribution to

2014/2015 budget was £7000. To maintain our budget, at which we just break even, will increase the Parish precept.

3. Strategy Team Meeting 21 February 2014 (Parish Room)

Councillors Bartlett and Bevington attended. To date no decisions on Bedford Hall, Church Street or other PCC assets have been made. However Cate Harding is attempting to ensure that S106 type funds are more evenly distributed and that, therefore, there may be monies available to carry out works to footpaths in the Park this year. Parish Council need to reconfirm their approval that funding should be spent on this item as it would be of benefit to a large sector of the community. CLF money would be put toward the funding. Thorney Parish Council agreed this to be the case.

4. Children's Centre Meeting 7 March 2014 (Parish Room)

Pre-School, Duke of Bedford School, Peterborough City Council attended and all agreed that Pre-School could be relocated in the Children's Centre which will be run and managed by the Duke of Bedford School. Number of issues to be resolved in detail but move can hopefully be achieved by mid-August in readiness for next year's intake.

New home will be required for 2 hour monthly meeting of a post-natal clinic so it would be useful if Bedford Hall Committee member could attend next meeting (provisionally planned for some time in May). The agreement reached was discussed and Thorney Parish Council is pleased to reconfirm their support for the relocation.

**441/13-14 Report from City Councillors**

Reported on recent crimes in Newborough.

French Farm Windfarm called in by Secretary of State. Councillor Buddle queried funding of sports centre at Hampton. Brown bins – costs of collection can be shared with neighbours.

Policy not yet formalised concerning payment. Councillor Selby asked for signs advertising roadside cafes to be investigated by Enforcement Officer.

**442/13-14 Finance**

1. To note income and approve Payments

Peterborough Methodist Church	Donation to war memorial relocation	£300.00
E. Gee (Thorney) Ltd	Donation to war memorial relocation	£250.00
Mr and Mrs Ladds	Donation to war memorial relocation	£300.00
Anglia Regional Coop Soc	Inter Mr Whelan	£110.00
Anglia Regional Coop Soc	Inter. Mr Hargraves	£55.00
Anglia Regional Coop Soc	Intern Mrs Stachin	£55.00
Anglia Regional Coop Soc	Inter Mrs Jeffs	£75.00

The following were paid in March

Mr. B Lucken	Salary	£837.24
Mr. A Hovell	Salary	£1,286.90
Mr. A Hovell	Office and ISP payment	£45.17
Mr. M Stimson	Street cleaning and other duties	£376.15
Cambs County Council	Superannuation Employer	£786.30
Cambs County Council	Superannuation Employee	£169.30
Inland Revenue	Income tax	£444.60
Inland Revenue	National Insurance	£213.81
Mr. B Lucken	Petrol for mowers	£29.00
Mr. B Lucken	Salary - Year end adjustment	£78.70
Mr. A Hovell	Salary - Year end adjustment	£109.47
Mr. M Stimson	Street cleaning - Year end adjustment	£15.35
Cambs County Council	Superannuation Employer- Year end adjustment	£19.88
Cambs County Council	Superannuation Employee- Year end adjustment	£4.43
Inland Revenue	National Insurance- Year end adjustment	£89.46
Colemans Stationers	Stationery	£221.54
Progreen Weed Solutions	Herbicide	£182.15

The following Cheques were drawn and signed:-

Glazewing	Skip at Cemetery	001978	£118.15
Cambridgeshire Acre	Payroll services	001979	£61.56
Mr A E Hovell	Travel, postage, telephone	001980	£68.10

2. Monthly bank reconciliation – signed
3. Salary review of employees. It was proposed by Councillor Buddle seconded by Councillor Long and unanimously agreed that employee's salaries would be increase by 3% from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

#### **443/13-14 Planning Approvals and Refusals**

- 13/01665 Land south of French Drove at Wrydecroft – earth bunds around wind turbines - approved
- 14/00007 55 Wisbech Road – fell 3 leylandi trees - approved
- 13/002627 14 Houses on Station Road given Outline Planning Approval by Planning Committee

#### **444/13-14 Planning Applications and other matters**

##### 1. Planning applications

14/00166 21 Chestnut Drive – single storey side extension – visual impact on sight line  
Councillor Bartlett, Sheldrake and Selby declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or vote.

14/00010 Priors Fen Farm, North Bank – demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 3 bed dwelling – no objections

14/00214 55 Wisbech Road – construction of a bungalow –

1. Thorney Parish Council agree, having reviewed this revised application, with the City Council's view that by reason of its cramped siting, this bungalow would be detrimental to the character of the immediate area which is characterised by detached dwellings within spacious curtilages. This is even more apparent when the site is visited as the application drawings do not show all the buildings on the adjacent site at 55A Wisbech Road (existing double garage is not included)

2. We feel that in 'flipping' the plan over the long east elevation is too close to the site boundary and that this puts further emphasis on it looking as though the proposed building is being 'shoehorned' into position.

3. We are not clear whether the windows on this east façade constitute an overlooking problem with the property at 55 Wisbech Road but assume this will form part of the City Council's assessment of the application.

4. It has been brought to our attention that there is some history of the proposed building plot becoming waterlogged and we question how suitable this makes the site for new construction. We realise this problem can no doubt be dealt with but we would wish to know how this would be achieved as there is a general problem of waterlogging in this vicinity, including the lower lying ground on the north side of The Wisbech Road opposite.

5. We are not completely opposed to the making of a new point of access through the existing hedgerow but we would much prefer that this did not happen and that the existing frontage is left intact.

We understand that this revised application is attempting to address your reasons for refusing the previous application but, as we do not feel the revised application in anyway overcomes your objections, we are of the opinion that this application should also be refused.

14/00150 Barroway House White Hart Farm English Drove - rear extension – no objections

14/00203 Land Rear Of 8 And 9 Church Street - Proposed detached dwelling, parking and removal of garden wall – design is for 3 floors in an area that comprises of 2 floors. VDS clearly states that in a conservation area maximum should be 2 floors.

13/01636/FUL - Land To The East Of The Fire Station Gas Lane - Erection of 5 dwellings – site must be de-contaminated before building work commences.

13/00933 French Farm Windfarm – Secretary of State will now investigate this planning application and then either pass or refuse it. Thorney Parish Council to send their objections to the application to the Secretary of State.

#### **445/13-14 Burial Authority**

In the cemetery right in the centre near the building there is a fir tree that has leaned over in

the wind and the ground around has also heaved. There is some disturbance to a grave memorial. Councillor Ogden to inspect

#### **446/13-14 Roads and Footpaths**

1. Street light – report by Councillor Bartlett.
2. Flashing beacon South side Wisbech Road outside school out
3. Blocked gully at the top of Station Road adjacent to the Rose & Crown Public House, on the eastern side of the carriageway
4. New proposed waiting limits near shop and takeaway with resident permits. Peterborough City Council's reason behind the proposal is to provide the residents of the cottages adjacent to the layby with the ability to park in the layby during the day. Whilst they used to park at the rear of their properties the land is privately owned and landowner has threatened them with legal action should they continue to park their vehicles on his land. Thus they currently have no option but to park some considerable distance from their properties during the day given the amount of double yellow lines that exist in this area. The proposed restriction is a combined one that allows:
  - anybody to park, free of charge, for up to 30 minutes at a time such that they can visit the local shops
  - any resident of the adjoining cottages who has purchased a permit from the City Council to park there.This proposal would mean more street furniture and parking permits are inappropriate in a village. Peterborough City Council Officer to be requested to attend next meeting to explain the application further.
5. The Causeway Western end – road repairs still to be carried out by the Highways Agency. To be reminded of this outstanding work
6. B1040 Thorney/Crowland Road, near white house – large pot holes appearing in road surface
7. Concern was again raised about traffic merging from the dual carriageway into single line working where vehicles combat for position. Highways Agency to again be requested to investigate and place appropriate signing.

#### **447/13-14 Allotments**

#### **448/13-14 Village Matters**

Tree on Village Green - the tree will not be removed although does require a fairly substantial reduction. The failure appears to be the result of extensive decay within the main stem and it is likely that this decay has spread beyond its visible confines and is causing a similar extent of decay within the scaffold limbs making the tree vulnerable to further failures. Due to the significance of the tree Peterborough City Council will be looking to carry out works in the coming weeks to reduce the crown a further 25-30%, which they feel will be sufficient to retain the tree however a regular (3-5 year) cycle of pruning will be required to maintain the tree at its reduced dimensions.

#### **449/13-14 Correspondence**

Request from Thorney Abbey Church to use village green for flower festival on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Agreed

Request from Running Club to use Parish Room for race day 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Agreed

#### **450/13-14 Matters as agenda items for future consideration**

#### **451/13-14 Any other business**

Tree Officer at Peterborough City Council states that Alder trees on entrance to Chestnut Drive should remain

#### **434/13-14 Date of next meeting**

Meeting of the Parish Council 14 April 2014 starting at 7.00pm with Annual meeting of the electorate immediately before the Parish Council meeting. The meeting closed at pm