

Meeting of THORNEY PARISH COUNCIL held at the Council Chamber, Tank Yard, Thorney on Monday 13 May 2013 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Chair: Councillor: J E G Bartlett

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

Peterborough City Councillors D McKean and D Sanders
0 members of the public.

240/12-13 To elect Chairman of the Council for the municipal year until the Annual Meeting in 2014.

It was moved by Councillor Bevington, seconded by Councillor Buddle and unanimously agreed that Councillor Bartlett be elected Chairman for the municipal year 2013/2014.

241/12-13 Declaration of Acceptance of Office Chairman

Councillor Bartlett signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

242/12-13 To Appoint the Vice Chairman for a similar period.

It was moved by Councillor Sheldrake, seconded by Councillor Rands and unanimously agreed that Councillor Brooks be elected Vice-Chairman for the municipal year 2013/2014.

243/12-13 To receive and approve apologies for absence

B A Ogden, J Rowe, PCSO Webber

244/12-13 To receive declarations of interest

To receive Disclosable Pecuniary Interests Declarations in any items on the agenda – Councillor Rands item 246/12-13 item 1, Councillor Bartlett item 252/12-13 and planning application 13/00662

245/12-13 To approve minutes of the meeting of 8 and 17 April 2013

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 and 17 April 2013 (copies of which had previously been circulated to all members) were agreed and signed.

246/12-13 Matters arising from minutes

1. Bus service and damage caused by buses at The Crescent. Jonathan Woodhouse replied "I am aware of the issue. The local residents who have cars do not like the bus using their street. However I am sure those who use the bus are grateful. I attended a meeting with the local parish council and they explained concerns stating cars had been damaged. Prior to the most recent incident there had only been two issues in the last three years. As a result we felt at the time there was no need to change the route. I did omit to write to them for which I apologise, however, there are no current plans to change the route. The most recent incident is being dealt with by our insurers and it would not be right for me to comment further. We investigate any accident and this will be no different. We do not plan to attend another meeting as we know the views of some local residents. I am due to review the risk assessment for a number of our routes and this is one. We will take into

account issues over the last few months when deciding if any action needs to be taken". The most recent damage was discussed

It was agreed that Stagecoach would be made aware of Thorney Parish Council feeling in that Mr. Woodhouse would not take a call from the Vice-Chairman of Thorney Parish Council nor had he discussed any item with the Clerk. The bus does not stop in Park Crescent so there is no reason for the bus to use this road. An alternative, that was in place, is to reverse turn into Park Crescent then access Wisbech Road in the opposite direction from which the bus came.

2. Thorney Parish Council website - the host for our website recently retired and the site was transferred to another host. The changeover was not without its challenges! At the first update the site crashed deleting much information and many interlinks. The new host corrected the code that was corrupted on transfer but the Clerk was left to upload many documents and reset all the links to past minutes and other documents. After many hours this is now complete and the site is again fully operational.

3. Roadside Land near Pigeons Farm. Atkins, on behalf of the Highway Agency writes "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. Rachel Riley at the Highways Agency is currently investigating this and will come back to us with a decision in the next 31 days. As soon as I have further information I will update you".

4. Repairs to The Green. Rob Allen will start work the week commencing 20th May

247/12-13 Public Participation

248/12-13 Matters for Information and Reports

1. Crime report. Written report from PCSO Webber - Period Covered – 9th Apr to 8th May 2013 - Incidents – 24, Concern – 3, Malicious/Nuisance – 3, Rd related – 3, Suspicious – 4, Messages – 8, Animals – 2, Poaching, Alarm, Parking, Fraud, Fire. Crimes – 7, 06-09/04 Burglary – Shed – Old Knarr Fen Road, 11/04 – Criminal damage to a vehicle – Sandpit Road, 14/04 – Theft from motor vehicle – Pigeons Farm, 10-19/04 – Theft of motor vehicle – Whittlesey Road, 16/04 – Theft other– Wisbech Road, 26/04 – Theft other – Wisbech Road, 01/05 – Burglary – shed Wisbech Road.

A female has been charged with murder following the finding of the three bodies in local ditches.

There have been a number of catalytic converter thefts from vehicles in the last few days and members are reminded to garage vehicles if possible or park so as to make it difficult to access the underneath of the vehicle.

Yane is off for a little while following minor surgery and I will be doing my best to cover the area in his absence

2. Bedford Hall Management Committee – alterations - Steven Morris is awaiting the results of an optional appraisal from the growth team. The result will enable Peterborough City Council to confirm whether they proceed with the scheme.

The Tenancy at Will for bar extension was signed by the Chairman

3. Parish Council Liaison – no meeting

4. Local Government Boundary Commission – the paper circulated by Councillor Bartlett was accepted and the Commission be advised accordingly

249/12-13 To receive reports from City Councillors

Councillor McKean response to 13/00431/FUL - Construction of eight wind turbines Gores Farm Whittlesey Road was:

“Reviewing current responses on the planning website for this application I have concerns about the points raised in

- The letter from English Heritage
- The Letter from Archaeology Services
- And the request from the Peterborough City Council Conservation Officer for View photomontages from various points in Thorney

Based on this information he requested planning officers review the respondents concerns and further investigations be undertaken as to any harm this development would have on the sites identified by the respondents before a decision is made”.

He also commented that fly-tipping in Willow Hall Lane had not been correctly cleared and he was talking to Enterprise concerning this and the tyres that had been recently dumped.

Councillor Sanders asked if Thorney Parish Council had made a decision concerning the placing of an anti-wind turbine sign on the Causeway village sign. Thorney Parish Council members agreed that they should remain neutral as not everyone in the Parish was against wind turbine renewable energy. It was proposed by Councillor Brooks, seconded by Councillor Buddle and unanimously agreed that Thorney Parish Council should also remain neutral concerning any request for monetary donations to the anti-wind farm cause as not everyone in the Parish opposed the alternative energy source and a donation to this body could also lead to a request from a pro-group supporting the wind farms (one such body does exist). A Parish poll would be needed to support any group such as those mentioned to determine the whole Parish attitude.

250/12-13 Finance

1. To approve accounts for Payments and note income

Income From	Reason		Amount
Peterborough City Council	Precept		£32,542.50
Mr. M Spridgeon	Allotment rent		£30.00
J G Cross	Memorial Mr. Fitzjohn		£50.00
J G Cross	Memorial Mr. Jeffs		£50.00
J G Cross	Memorial Mr. Warren		£50.00
H E Bull and Son	Inter Mrs Easton		£930.00
J G Cross	Memorial Mr Scotney		£150.00
Anglia Regional Coop Soc	Inscription Mrs. Dolby		£10.00
The payments paid in May			
Viking	Stationery		£115.10
Mr. A E Hovell	Postage, telephone, travel	001926	£40.70
Came and Co	Parish Council Insurance	001927	£725.30
Mr. R Wright	Internal Audit	001928	£250.00
Mr. J Bartlett	Chairman's Allowance	001929	£200.00
Glazewing	Skip at Cemetery	001930	£41.86
Northerwood Systems Ltd	Website hosting	001931	£155.00
Glazewing	Skip at Cemetery	001932	£69.23

2. Monthly bank reconciliation – presented and signed
3. To fix the Chairman's allowance – At this point Councillor Bartlett left the room. It was proposed by Councillor Bevington, seconded by Councillor Buddle and unanimously agreed the Chairman's allowance should be £200

4. Thorney Parish Council investment – It was agreed that the £22,000 invested with Yorkshire Bank should be deposited in the highest rate of return available. Clerk to look at alternative sources.
5. Clerks Salary review – left to next meeting

251/12-13 Planning Approvals and Refusals

- 13/00268 Display hoardings at Pode Hole Farm and Thorney Road for East of England Showground - approved
- 13/00275 32 Smithfield – single storey extension to rear – approved
- 13/00277 Variation of Planning application 09/01492 for 16m monitoring mast at French Farm - approved

252/12-13 Planning Applications and other matters

1. Planning Applications
 - 13/00404 Park House School, Wisbech Road – replacement vinery – support application
 - 13/00488/CTR T1 - fell Holly, T2 - fell Plum, T3 - fell Plum, T4 - Mulberry reduce weight in upper limbs by 20%, T5 - Yew cut back from house by 1.5 metres and T6 - Bay tree in front garden dying cut down by 75% to allow to regenerate at Cheriton House The Green – no objections
 - 13/00662 Thorney Abbey Church of St Mary and St Botolph, The Green – fell and remove sycamore tree – no objections

Peterborough City Council response to our letter dated 18th April 2013 concerning 13/00431/FUL Construction of eight wind turbines to a maximum height of 126.5 metres (to vertical blade tip) with ancillary infrastructure including substation, anemometry mast up to 60 metres in height, access tracks and crane hardstandings, temporary storage compound and access improvement onto A47 at Gores Farm Whittlesey Road Thorney Peterborough

“Q6. The submitted visuals are inaccurate representations of the true height of the proposed turbines. Confirmation is sought that the Local Planning Authority (LPA) will check their accuracy.

Officer response: As is standard practice with any wind turbine application, the LPA has consulted Charles Clay (Landscape Architect, Enterprise Peterborough) who will review the submitted information which forms the Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). Including the photomontages. This review will include how the LVIA has been undertaken which is set out in Appendix 4.1 of Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement 'LVIA Methodology'.

010. Thorney Parish Council disagrees with the conclusions in the Cultural Heritage Section of the Environmental Statement Volume 1 regarding the impact of the development upon Thorney Abbey being 'negligible'. Confirmation is sought that Jim Daley will be consulted.

It is felt that only English Heritage can determine whether or not their own guidance has been correctly interpreted. Confirmation is sought that they will be consulted on the development.

Officer response: Both the 'City Council's Conservation Officer (Jim Daley) and English Heritage have been consulted on the proposed development and their specialist comments will help to inform the Officers' recommendation to the Planning Committee.

Q13. It is considered that at best, the ES can only be considered predictive. Assurance is sought that the assessment will be reviewed by a team of experts rather than just regular planning officers.

Officer response: As is standard practice with any planning application, the LPA consult with all relevant bodies as part of the application process. All comments, including those of the Statutory Consultees, which are received will be used to inform Officers' recommendation (in this case to the Planning Committee).

014. The RSPB in their letter dated 16th April 2012, 'strongly recommended' that options to mitigate the impact of the scheme be considered, including 'amending its location'. The justification as to why this recommendation appears to have been ignored is questioned.

Officer response: The RSPB comments referred to in this query were in response to a Scoping Opinion request made to the LPA by the developer. The Scoping request sought an opinion as to the scope of assessment that should be included within the Environmental Statement. As part of the response to the Gores Farm wind farm, the LPA consulted with a number of relevant bodies, including the RSPB. These comments were included within the Scoping Opinion response issued and all individual comments were forwarded to the developer for their information.

The current scheme has been amended from this original Scoping Opinion request however the decision to submit a formal planning application ultimately rests with the developer and the LPA cannot question the justification behind this. The Applicant believes that any potential harmful impact upon wildlife can be mitigated and their assessment will be fully reviewed. As with all wind farm applications, the RSPB, Natural England, The Wildlife Trust and the City Council's Wildlife Officer have all been consulted as part of the application process and I await their comments.

Q15. Concern has been expressed that vibration from the turbines could be transferred into the foundations and then on to the Conservation Area / Thorney, putting historic buildings at risk. Assurance is sought that this risk does not in fact, exist.

Officer response: The document 'Planning for Renewable Energy: A Companion Guide to PPS22' (2004) remains relevant guidance in the determination of wind farm developments. Paragraph 14 of Chapter 8 of this document provides advice, stating *'Modern wind turbines also continuously monitor their own performance and if atypical vibrations caused by component imbalances are detected, or if connection to the local electricity grid infrastructure is lost, all turbines must be capable of emergency stops. Most modern wind turbines undergo test certification procedures, which must conform to the guidelines laid down by the International Electro-technical Commission (IEC);* In addition, paragraphs 45 and 46 go on to state that *'There is no evidence that ground transmitted low frequency noise from wind turbines is at a sufficient level to be harmful to human health. A comprehensive study of vibration measurements in the vicinity of a modern wind farm was undertaken in the UK in 1997 by ETSU for the DTI (ETSU W/13/00392/REP). Measurements were made on site and up to 1 km away — in a wide range of wind speeds and direction. The study found that:*

- Vibration levels 100m from the nearest turbine were a factor of 10 less than those recommended for human exposure in critical buildings (i.e. laboratories for precision measurement).

Tones above 3.0 Hz were found to attenuate rapidly with distance — the higher frequencies attenuating at a progressively increasing rate.'

Q18. Thorney Parish Council does not feel that the application can be judged on its own and has to be considered in respect of the cumulative impact with other potential wind farms in the parish. There is genuine concern that the village may eventually become surrounded by wind farms. What policy do planners have in place to ensure that this does not happen?

Officer response: The current application for Gores Farm wind farm can only be assessed

in cumulative terms, with wind turbine developments that are at the planning application stage or beyond (i.e. at appeal, consented or operational). As such, the potential developments at Willow Hall Farm and the French Farm wind farm extension can only be considered should they come in as formal planning applications.

There is no specific policy which sets a limit on the number of turbines which are acceptable in the locality. However, the cumulative impact in landscape character and visual terms is a material planning consideration and will be thoroughly assessed. Ultimately, there will be a time at which the landscape is at capacity in terms of acceptable wind turbine development however at this stage, we cannot determine when this will be reached.

In addition to the specific queries you have asked for response to, I note you raise the point in comment number 23 that noise, shadow flicker and aviation concerns are not grounds for objecting to the development. These are in fact material planning considerations which will be fully assessed and objections on these areas can be considered.

Museum Ramp. Thorney Parish Council welcomed the news that the ramp is approved and that construction can proceed. Damp in museum discussed

1. We inspected the sample piece of wall outside the museum and have the following comment; We would much prefer if the brickwork for the Museum ramp matches the brickwork of the ramp to the Bedford Hall main entrance which was constructed a few years ago. Otherwise there will be three types of brick; the original building, the main entrance ramp and the new museum ramp which we thought would not seem to be the best solution. We assume the brickwork will be approved by Jim Daley in the Conservation Department before construction proceeds.
2. In respect of planting we would prefer a simple scheme of flowering shrubs to minimise the impact of the ramp. We would prefer if no new trees are planted as we have always felt these obstruct views of this fine building.
3. The museum is now open on Sunday afternoons through the summer and there is the occasional guided tour on other occasions. Access can be gained from the rear of the building but we would obviously wish for disruption to the frontage to be kept to a minimum. We would be grateful if you can let us know your proposed start date and your anticipated completion date for the works.

Woburn Drive development. Exhibition held. Local residents to coordinate report in past drainage problems. Outline planning application imminent.

French Drove wind turbines – work to start but not be completed until 2014 when MOD restrictions are lifted.

Willow Hall wind turbines – REG requested to talk to Thorney Parish Council.

253/12-13 Burial Authority

1. Date of inspection – 3rd June at 7pm. Meet at cemetery
2. Grass cutting Churchyard – resolution to continue to maintain. Councillors Bartlett declared a personal interest and took no part in the voting. It was proposed by Councillor Buddle, seconded by Councillor Selby and agreed to continue with the grass cutting at the Churchyard.
3. Review of fees – it was agreed to raise fees by 10%.

254/12-13 Roads and Footpaths

1. Street lighting – report faulty lights
2. Surface of A47 west of Podge Hole Farm breaking up. No action yet on road east of Pigeons Farm following the letter from Mr. Parish. MP to be asked to investigate
3. Brown indication signs for Pigeons Farm – no objections
4. Corner Park Crescent and Wisbech Road cars parked on pavement.

255/12-13 Allotments

1. Date of Inspection – 3rd June after cemetery inspection
2. Review of fees – left as at present at £30 per allotment
3. Access road now levelled off by Mr. Ingram

256/12-13 Village Matters

1. Summer fair 10 August - the first planning meeting for this will be at the Bedford Hall, Committee Room on 15th May at 7.30pm. The purpose of the meeting is to plan what we will be doing on the day and to ascertain what support there will be, and designate roles. Thorney Parish Council to be represented by Councillor Halfhide. It was agreed that Thorney Parish Council would not donate to this function.
2. Use of The Green for Sue Ryder charity event - agreed

257/12-13 Committee/area specific members

1. Burial and Employment - Councillors Gee and Selby
2. Allotments - Councillors Gee, Selby and Sheldrake
3. Planning - Councillors Bevington, Selby, Buddle
4. Countryside - Councillors Gee and Long
5. Street lighting - Councillor Bartlett
6. Podge Hole Liaison - Councillor Bartlett, Brooks and Rands
7. Finance – Councillors Buddle and Rowe
8. Thorney Park – Councillor Ogden, Bevington
9. Police Liaison – Councillors Bartlett and Brooks
10. Complaints – Councillors Sheldrake, Ogden and the Chairman
11. Health and Safety/Risk Assessment – Councillors Selby, Gee, Brooks, Bartlett
12. Peterborough City Council committees – Parish Liaison – Councillors Brooks, Bartlett, Bevington, Buddle, Ogden.
13. Flood Warden – Councillor Bartlett
14. Planning committee – Councillor Bevington as Chair with all members

258/12-13 Correspondence

1. Letter from Sally House Valuation and Estates Surveyor, Strategic Property, Peterborough City Council states “In view of the concerns of residents and potential health and safety and insurance issues the council agrees that Thorney Park is not suitable for use as a takeoff site. I have been instructed to ask legal services to send an appropriate letter to the operator..... I propose a copy is sent to you as chairman of Thorney Parish Council which can be kept on record in case the park is used again in the future for the same use.

2. Letter from CPRE who recently published a Housing Policy Guidance Note which they believe may be of interest to councillors. In the national context of a growing and changing population it is important to meet the need for new housing. The document outlines how CPRE believes this can be done without unnecessarily damaging the countryside.

259/12-13 To fix the date and times of the Meetings of the Council for the new municipal year: 10 June, 8 July, 2 September, 14 October, 11 November, 9 December, 13 January 2014, 10 February, 10 March, 14 April, 12 May

260/12-13 Matters as agenda items for future consideration

261/12-13 Any other business

Porta-cabin in Park – placed by Enterprise as Referee Changing Room

Complaints of empty bottles and tape left on ground after senior football matches

Councillor Buddle thanked the Chairman for getting the balloon take offs from the Park stopped

262/12-13 Date of next meeting

10 June. Close of meeting 9.02 pm