

Meeting of THORNEY PARISH COUNCIL held in the Parish Room, Tank Yard, Thorney
on Monday 12th November 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

Chair: Councillor J E G Bartlett

Councillors: Mrs. M Long, R. Bevington, A Butt, N Simons, N. Potts, Mrs C Lewis, K. Parrish,
Mrs. D Halfhide

Peterborough City Councillor Nigel Simons, Richard Brown

8 members of the public

1395/18-19 To receive and approve apologies for absence

R. Wood, A Bunyan, Peterborough City Councillor S Allen

1396/18-19 To receive Disclosable Pecuniary Interests Declarations

To receive Disclosable Interests Declarations in any items on the agenda – If during discussion an interest becomes apparent it is declared at that time

1397/18-19 Public Discussion

Thorney looks likely to lose its current library in January when the building is put up for auction. Peterborough City Council is hoping to sell the building, along with the former community centre in Church Street, for £300,000.

In response to a question from a member of the public, Cllr Bevington said the village would not lose its library, but he couldn't say whether there would be a break in service or what the new provision would be. There had been talk of a mobile library or putting up a temporary building next to the Bedford Hall.

The future of the library seems tied up with the future of the Bedford Hall. There is a proposal to house the library in space at the back of the hall, but cost was estimated at £110,000.

A suggestion to accommodate it at the school was rejected by school governors.

Cllr. Bevington said the city council had promised the money from the sale of the Church Street premises would stay in the village and that some of it would be used to help fund a new pavilion in the park.

Residents of Park Close attended the meeting to complain about anti-social behaviour that was making their lives a misery. City councillors agreed to take up the issues with Cross Keys Housing Association to see if something could be done.

The "heritage" streets signs for Church Street and Abbey Place are due to be delivered this week and should be installed soon.

Footpath/cycleway from Causeway Lodge towards Peterborough overgrown. Peterborough City Councillor Simons to liaise with Rose Homes and Peterborough City Council.

Smithfield – complaints of poor road surface, potholes and bad reinstatement.

1398/18-19 To approve minutes of the meeting of 8th October 2018

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 8 October 2018 were confirmed and signed

1399/18-19 Matters arising from minutes

There have been 2 applications to fill the vacancy. Invite for interview at next Thorney Parish Council meeting in December

1400/18-19 Matters for Information and Reports

1. Bedford Hall Management Committee – AGM 22 November at 7.30pm

2. Bedford Hall working group – Heads of terms now received from Peterborough City Council that offers a lease with all repairs to be carried out by the tenant

Peterborough City Council has been asked if any work needs to be done urgently to ensure safety. Peterborough City Council's idea is that different groups of people should look at different aspects. Suggested that Thorney Parish Council not the best body to make final decision as it is the Management Committee that will run the hall facility and, therefore, it should be them that makes decisions

A senior officer at Peterborough City Council has volunteered to come to a meeting to discuss organisation, funding, grant applications, etc.

1401/18-19 Report from City Councillors.

Report given

1402/18-19 Finance

The following were received in October/November

Allotment rent	£30.00
Heritage sign contributions	£1,104.51
Allotment rent	£30.00
Memorial Mr Wise	£125.00
Allotment rent	£30.00
Allotment rent	£60.00
Reserve grave space 8	£100.00
Inter Mr Wigg	£150.00
Inter Mrs Limb	£300.00
Reserve S60	£550.00
Allotment rent 11	£30.00

To approve the following paid in November

Salaries		£2992.00	LGA 1972 s112, 151 / LGA 1972 s142, LGA 1972 s214(6), s215(6) Parish Council and Burial Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s1 / Highways Act 1980 s43, 50
Office, email and ISP payment		£70.17	LGA 1972 sections 111, 142
Cambs County Council		£553.01	LGA 1972 s112, 151 / LGA 1972 s142, LGA 1972 s214(6), s215(6) Parish Council and Burial Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s1 / Highways Act 1980 s43, 50
Inland Revenue		£847.10	LGA 1972 s112, 151 / LGA 1972 s142, LGA 1972 s214(6), s215(6) Parish Council and Burial Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s1 / Highways Act 1980 s43, 50
Veolia	Skip at cemetery	£84.06	LGA 1972 s142, LGA 1972 s214(6), s215(6) Parish Council and Burial Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s1.
Caloo	Gym in Park	£22486.76	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19 Public Health Act 1961, s.54
Cemetery	Fuel	£	LGA 1972 s142, LGA 1972 s214(6), s215(6) Parish Council and Burial Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s1.
RTC Plant Services	Repairs Stiga mower	£145.15	LGA 1972 s112, 151 / LGA 1972 s142, LGA 1972 s214(6), s215(6) Parish Council and Burial Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s1
Down to Earth	Cut down and spray of allotment nettles	£720.00	Small Holdings Act 1908 s 23, 26, 42, LGA 1972 s215
Veolia	Skip at cemetery	£222.26	LGA 1972 s142, LGA 1972 s214(6), s215(6) Parish Council and Burial Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s1.

1. To approve accounts for Payment – approved. The payment to Caloo of £42600 was discussed. Peterborough City Council section 106 contribution to the gym equipment in the Park will be paid when Peterborough City Council via Amey has agreed to take on the insurance and future maintenance responsibilities. So far, the Community Project has £22486.76 in the bank and it was agreed to pay this amount until all faults are rectified with the installed equipment
2. Monthly bank reconciliation – approved
3. Mandate to match fund Architectural Heritage Fund Project Viability Grant – delayed to next meeting. Still awaiting some costing figures
4. Heritage street lights around Abbey conservation area - discussed the large increase in the cost, notified by Peterborough City Council, of enhancing the street lights in the historic centre of the village. Peterborough City Council has notified us that the cost would now be £22,120.88 and not the original agreed amount of £10,450.00 This is because nine of the 11 light fittings due to receive embellishment are not capable of being fitted with the new equipment. Our request that Peterborough City Council should be responsible for funding the difference between the original and the increased cost has been referred to Senior Highways Officer. Peterborough City Councillor to chase
5. WW1 structure of soldier
Park Farm is willing to get 5 sheets of 16mm plywood cut out the shape of “Tommy” and then paint them black and put mounts of them, so they will stand up.
Two “Tommys” would stand either side of the Abbey entrance West door, two more would stand at the Bedford Hall, and one would stand on private land in the middle of Thorney. He would also store them for future Commemorations.
It was agreed that Thorney Parish Council would finance the cost of £200.00 for the plywood and £100 donation to Thorney Society
6. The interest account at Yorkshire Bank matures in December. It was agreed that this should be transferred to the current account on maturity.

140318-19 Planning Approvals and Refusals

18/01543 3 Beech Close – extension – permitted

1404/18-19 Planning Applications and other matters

Enforcement report from Peterborough City Council

1. 18/00256/ENFBCN - Thorney Golf Club. - We are having to consider what to do with this one. The owner is not going to take any action to remedy the matters that we have approached them about. I will be formulating a report with options for action in the next couple of weeks.
2. 18/00403/ENFOTH - Land Rear Of 160-162, Wisbech Road - I have opportunely met with the tenants of the site who have advised that they will be using the land for the parking of a couple of vans that they use for they business. They have been made aware that we consider that planning application is required.
3. 18/00401/ENFBCN - Land Adjacent To 39-41 Station Road, Thorney - The developers are refusing to carry out the upgrades to the vehicle crossover. I am in discussion with the Highways department to find a way to sort this matter out.

The Chancellor included proposals to give parish councils the power to allocate land and grant permission for homes for sale at a discount, as well as to strengthen the role of neighbourhood plans.

The Autumn Budget 2018 report states, “New discounted homes in up to 500 neighbourhoods – The government wants to see parishes and communities provide many more homes for local people to buy, at prices they can afford. The Localism Act allows the people who know their area best to come together to prepare neighbourhood plans and development orders, to ensure they get the right homes, in the right places. The government will provide £8.5 million of resource support so that up to 500 parishes can allocate or permission land for homes sold at a discount.

Neighbourhood plans and orders are approved by local referendums, and the government will update planning guidance to ensure that these cannot be unfairly overruled by local planning authorities. The government will also explore how it can empower neighbourhood groups to offer these homes first to people with a direct connection to the local area.”

Councillor Bevington has summarised Thorney Parish Council views

We know that a form of this already exist in respect of the City Council's 'Exception Sites' scheme but that has never gathered any support in Thorney. It means that a site is offered by a landowner to the City Council free of charge on which subsidised housing can be built as Affordable Housing with first offers going to local people and then reserved for local people in perpetuity.

We would need to have a Neighbourhood Plan in place. Achieving that is no mean task. The 'Village Design Statement' took a considerable amount of time as did the Neighbourhood Investment Plan which the Parish Council completed with considerable input from the City Council in 2009. The Neighbourhood Investment Plan took over a year which included somebody working on it as part of a full-time job they had at the City Council. A Neighbourhood Plan it is a kind of masterplan for the village and would, therefore, require consultation with and acceptance by all residents.

We suggested to the City Council at the time Neighbourhood Plans were proposed that they should accept our Neighbourhood Investment Plan as an equivalent. They would not accept it as the format for the new plan differed slightly. Once the Neighbourhood Plan is complete it must be adopted/ratified by the City Council as being suitable as a reference document within the terms of their Local Plan.

Two things the Neighbourhood Plan would need to include, and which are critical to progressing any housing are; Demonstration of what our local housing needs are and Identification of sites on which housing could be located. Without establishing these two things working on a Neighbourhood Plan would have little purpose.

Apart from the allotments the Parish does not own any suitable development land in Thorney. The allotments are within the high flood risk area along with all other land north of the Wisbech Road which probably means any land in that part of the village may not be acceptable. Sites that may be considered appropriate would probably need to be found to the south of the Wisbech Road but most of this land is allocated and already has planning permission for housing.

There are Rural Housing Enablers which is a salaried role. They could help guide anyone wanting to provide affordable housing through the list of issues that have to be considered - local housing needs, Identification of sites, pre-application advice from planners, designs and layouts, planning applications, procurement etc.

It would need a very dedicated team over a fair period to produce the Neighbourhood Plan, to see the plan through ratification by the City Council and then to progress the housing which would take time from an initial scheme through planning permissions, etc to the day when people could move in.

Planning forum – National changes to planning services – many items being considered
Environmental Officer being appointed by Peterborough City Council

1405/18-19 Burial Authority

New cemetery area now seeded

email complaint that a grave has not had donated turf laid

1406/18-19 Roads and Footpaths

1. Street lighting faults – to be reported.
2. Chairman and Councillor have met with Highways Inspector and were driven around the Parish in the City Council's electric car and their report is below:

Highways Inspector is aware of the problems that we raised with him as he makes frequent road checks himself. The main problems are related to shrinkage following the extremely hot summer. Peterborough and Cambridgeshire are the two most badly affected areas in the country, particularly the eastern part of Peterborough.

Peterborough City Council already had a full programme of work and this has been compounded by the shrinkage. In the next few weeks they will be deciding which works should be given priority - those on their existing schedule or those due to shrinkage which may be more urgent.

The basic problem is funding. Over the last several years Peterborough City Council has received various amounts of funding for road repairs ranging from £1M to half a million and a quarter of a million. This year they received no funding so they are in the process of making an application to Central Government for monies for the additional work that needs to be carried out. Even if this is successful it is unlikely that the money will be forthcoming before next April.

In the meantime, signage has been put up to warn of bad areas of cracking and slumpage and other additional measures may be necessary e.g. reducing the speed limit to 30mph on, for example, The Causeway, Knarr Fen Road and other badly affected roads in the fen.

We also discussed progress on resolving the problem of water spraying onto and damaging Abbey Field Wall. This is in hand and costs for an integrated drainage scheme are being sought.

As we were in an electric car we asked if there was any programme for charging points to be installed in the village. There is no programme at present.

Heritage wall, Whittlesey Road – water splash damage -

The City Council has agreed an acceptable solution. This is to install two drainage gullies that will link to a large underground soak-away. This is to be installed alongside the stretch of wall that seems, from photographs they have taken, to get the wettest during heavy rainfall.

They are currently putting this work out for costing after which it will be programmed into their works schedule. No date as yet has been set for the work to be carried

1407/18-19 Allotments

Nettles and trees cut back

1408/18-19 Village Matters

Speedwatch report presented - Of the surveys executed it demonstrates that Station Road, is the worst, at least for traffic travelling northward.

3.7% of vehicles are exceeding the speed limit and that the majority are travelling at 39mph or less. Measures certainly need to be taken to overcome the speeding there is in the village.

Village signs – alternative options being investigated to replace the existing signs that are rotten and beyond repair.

It was suggested the current signs would need to be changed as the Abbey was much too short and squat. New signs should get the scale right. Another suggestion was for a silhouette design, which might be substantially cheaper.

However, some thought that the sign should remain the same as at present

A decision was deferred until December to get more quotes.

Gates Kingsline Close – Cllr Parrish said the suggestion had been put to him for the gates to be repaired in Cllr Bunyan's workshop. Agreed in principle – further discussion at meeting in December

1409/18-19 Youth Activity in the Village

Report given

1410/18-19 Facebook Posts

Comment given. Some posts replied to.

1411/18-19 Correspondence

1412/18-19 Matters as agenda items for future consideration

1413/18-19 Any other business

Date of next meeting

The meeting closed 8.40 pm

Next Meeting of the Parish Council 10 December 2018 starting at 7pm