

Meeting of THORNEY PARISH COUNCIL held in the Parish Room, Tank Yard, Thorney on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

Chair: Councillor: J E G Bartlett

Councillors: P Rands, J Brooks, R Bevington, Mrs. M Long, D Jones, N. Potts, D. J Buddle K. Parrish, R. Wood, Mrs. D Halfhide, N Simons

Peterborough City Councillor Richard Brown, Steve Allen, Jane McDaid, Caroline Rowan, Mr Mason

2 members of the public

Before the meeting started, the Chairman asked if anyone present was recording the proceedings – no one stated they would record.

**929/16-17 To receive and approve apologies for absence,**  
Peterborough City Councillors D Sanders

**930/16-17 To receive Disclosable Pecuniary Interests Declarations**  
To receive Disclosable Interests Declarations in any items on the agenda – none declared

**931/16-17 To approve minutes of the meeting of 5 September 2016**  
Minutes of the Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September were confirmed and signed

**932/16-17 Matters arising from minutes**  
Access ramp Parish Room - for a 12" step with assisted Access suitable ramp is multi fold portable ramp £345.51, 6 feet long and 30 inches wide, weight 15kg, weight capacity 272kg, for non assisted access is 12 feet long and 30 inches wide, weight 33kg, weight capacity 227kg £1086.66

**933/16-17 Public Discussion** Jane McDaid (Head of Strategic Property Services) and Caroline Rowan, Assistant Community Capacity Manager, Adult Services & Communities, John Mason Community Action Peterborough to discuss the community assets in Thorney

North property services group entered a contract with Peterborough City Council for property services of which Mrs McDaid is head. Meeting was to explore ideas to move forward. Mrs McDaid said Thorney Parish Council could take on the freehold of Bedford Hall/Tank Yard at no cost. Option to relocate library into Bedford Hall complex and sale of library building could fund this and other projects in Thorney such as a sports pavilion  
A survey of Bedford Hall basement is urgently needed and Peterborough City Council estimate of costs for a survey is £8500. Councillor Wood suggested a survey was essential before Thorney Parish Council ever considers taking on the complex – this should include an estimate of essential repairs costs

Mrs McDaid said that Peterborough City Council member's budgetary decisions resulted in no repairs being carried out to community buildings.

Mrs McDaid said she recognised that a new pavilion was needed in Thorney Park and Peterborough City Council will offer support to the football club too match fund.

Councillor Wood said as Bedford Hall was a listed building Peterborough City Council have the responsibility to maintain. This was the case until the last 2 to 3 years when repairs stopped.

The land that Peterborough City Council own in Thorney is all in the floodplain so is of agricultural value only.

Mr VanDriessche said that the Bedford Hall Management committee could not make enough profit to fully maintain the building.

Councillor Bevington asked if funding was available for legal advice. Peterborough City Council would like negotiations to be complete by 2018. If the library was to move to Bedford Hall complex Peterborough City Council would do this in conjunction with Vivacity.

It was suggested that a working group should be set up to explore further.

Bedford Hall committee lease is for 99 years and it started in 1980. A general discussion took place about responsibility and reliability. A survey was seen as essential before any decision could be made.

The committee will be of Bill VanDriessche, Nathan Potts, Ray Wood, John Bartlett, Russ Bevington with a meeting on Monday, 24 October at 7 pm

### **934/16-17 Matters for Information and Reports**

Crime report - Hare coursing : A silver SUBARU with an 'R' index is being reported in the Thorney area and we are seeing many calls in the Northborough area of this vehicle and several others – Silver Grand Cherokee Jeep (KY index) containing 4 males and these males are reported to be very aggressive. Others vehicles to note : Maroon Toyota 4WD and a Silver Nissan (T index). I would urge residents in these areas to call in details if you see such a vehicle hare coursing. Gaining the vehicle index is really important.

St Marys Close, Thorney – burglary on 15/9

Councillor Wood explained a scam purported to give tax rebates. To send details to village post.

1. Bedford Hall Management Committee –
2. Post Office “desk” – The Post Mistress is comfortable with the arrangements for the desk in the Parish Room and suggested that rather than buy a ramp at the present time to wait and see if one is really necessary. Security arrangements are as in other outreach centres and are not seen as a problem by the Postmistress.
3. Comments from Chairman of Thorney Parish Council regarding changes to Scrutiny Committees made to Peterborough City Council that are being reduced from 5 to 4  
“The first I knew about the proposed changes to the make up of the Scrutiny Committees structure was when we were all presented with the report from senior Councillors. This is going from five committees to four with the deletion of the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities. I was very concerned that the Director of Governance, Kim Sawyer, was not present when this was discussed.

I was also concerned about the very short time span in which we have to respond bearing in mind that this proposal is going to Full Council on 12 October 2016. Thorney Parish Council along with many others will not hold a meeting until just before the Full Council meeting, and our comments will, therefore, not be reported in the Officers’ report.

I am therefore asking you to defer making a decision until all Parish Councils have a chance to discuss this at their meetings and can then report back to the Director”.

Councillor Wood explained the proposals he had suggested. It was agreed that following the presentation at the last Parish Liaison meeting the reduction in scrutiny committees, and particularly the Rural Scrutiny Committee, Thorney Parish Council wish to see two Parish Councillor Representatives on each committee as otherwise the rural "voice" will be lost and therefore democracy will suffer

### **935/16-17 Report from City Councillors.**

Chairman of Property Scrutiny Committee is Councillor Allen who is now aware of Thorney

Parish Council views.

Councillor Brown was concerned about parking of cars near the car sales centre on The Causeway that often blocked people's access and the footpath

The Colts football team manager is concerned that the long grass in the Park is not suitable for the youngsters to play football on

## 936/16-17 Finance

### 1. To note income and approve Payments

#### Income

HE Bull and Son	Inter Mrs Jary	£150.00
J G Cross	Memorial Mrs Everitt	£125.00
Peterborough City Council	Parish Precept	£32,542.50
Anglia Regional Coop	Inter Mr Hayes	£150.00
H E Bull and Son	Inter Mr Taylor	£700.00
Coop Loughborough	Additional inscription	£40.00
John Lucas	Inter Mr Sly	£625.00
Mr Peel	Allotment rent	£60.00
Mrs Bradbury	Allotment rent	£30.00
Mr Clayden	Allotment rent	£30.00
Mr Riches	Allotment rent	£30.00
Mr Owen	Allotment rent	£60.00
Mr Rex	Allotment rent	£60.00

The following were paid in October

Mr. B Lucken	Petrol for mowers and travel	£53.00
Glazewing	Skip at Cemetery	£47.14
Anglian Water	Water charges cemetery	£18.34
Viking Direct	Stationery and stamps	£177.45
Mr A E Hovell	Microsoft office renewal	£79.99
Columbaria Co	Memorial Mr Taylor	002080 £90.00
PFK Littlejohn	External Audit	002081 £360.00
Peterborough Grass machinery	Commercial mower	Bacs £2000.00

### 2. Monthly bank reconciliation – signed

3. Provision of flail mower – a machine similar to the printed document circulated has been demonstrated to Mr Lucken and will be suitable for use on both the allotments and old churchyard. After discussions it was proposed by Councillor Brooks seconded by Councillor Wood and unanimously agreed that a brush cutter be purchased at a cost of £2000

### 4. Community Fund Applications – the applications were discussed

- Thorney Abbey – new facilities toilet and servery - £10000 requested
- Thorney Rugby Club – purchase ground improvement and maintenance equipment - £5000 requested
- Bedford Hall Management Committee – replace deteriorating tarmac access with block paving - £5000 requested

Various members expressed reservations concerning the requested but it was proposed by

Councillor Bevington and agreed by 7 votes for, 3 against and Councillor Bartlett abstaining to award each applicant £5000

5. External Audit report states “on the basis of our review of the annual return, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern”
6. It was noted that income from the cemetery was at present £3000 more than the whole of last year

#### **937/16-17 Planning Approvals and Refusals**

15/02118/FUL for Construction of boundary fencing, siting of temporary car sales office and siting of washdown/valeting area for cars sold from the site at Mill Garage The Causeway : Permitted

#### **938/16-17 Planning Applications and other matters**

15/01839 Pasture House Farm Quarry to Committee 18<sup>th</sup> October – Chairman to attend and speak

16/01276 rear 22 Wisbech Road – erection of Hanson garage – no objection

16/01825 Turkey Oak, Thorney Park - fell tree because of poor condition which has resulted in recent large branch failures - no objection provided tree replaced by semi-mature tree of the same type

#### **939/16-17 Burial Authority**

To get a public right of way diverted a full consultation has to take place with Peterborough City Council list of consultees including user groups such as the ramblers. If no objections are raised then a legal order can be raised and confirmed, if an objection is raised and is not withdrawn after negotiation then it has to be referred to the Secretary of State for a decision, if a number of objections are raised and not withdrawn then a public enquiry will be required. Cost for a standard diversion order and subsequent adverts is in the region of £2.500 any complications can add to this total. Following discussion it was agreed to go ahead with the initial steps to divert the footpath

#### **940/16-17 Roads and Footpaths**

1. Street lighting faults – to be reported
2. Wisbech Road “bottleneck” near Park entrance – no further progress
3. Footpath repair The Green– awaiting cost from Mr Shirley
4. Street naming (Rose and Crown site) - it was suggested that the new road off Station Road through the Rose and Crown site should be named Crown Close  
The road by the takeaway off Wisbech Road should be Ernest Way (to tie in with Ernest House)
5. The Causeway bus stop – ivy needs clearing from inside shelter
6. Signs to indicate HGV restrictions on B1040 and other by-roads not yet erected
7. Village road and footpath inspection with Lee Moore 18<sup>th</sup> October

#### **941/16-17 Village Matters**

Seats in bus shelter – awaiting cost from Mr Shirley

#### **942/16-17 Allotments**

## **943/16-17 Correspondence**

The Government wish to include large Parish and Town Councils into the automatic Referendum Principles. This would apply a cap of a 2% rise in the precept and it is expected that those councils affected will also be able to take on additional responsibilities and assets from principle authorities and continue their own projects. This does not take into consideration the rise in costs or salaries etc. that these councils have to meet. There is also no Government money or any passing of business rates to support councils as there will be for District and County authorities.

## **945/16-17 Matters as agenda items for future consideration**

New bank mandate

## **946/16-17 Any other business**

Classic Car sales and other activities working 9am to 11pm. Many complaints of noise, dust and anti-social behaviour. Complaint to be made to Environmental Officer.

There are also 3 signs in total. Advertising Déjà vu. In addition the 4 inch square steel pole that supports 2 signs has not got planning consent, also the first floor flat above the showroom, that was offices is now a flat, no planning consent

## **947/16-17 Date of next meeting**

The meeting closed 9.10pm

Next Meeting of the Parish Council 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016 starting at 7pm.