

At a meeting of THORNEY PARISH COUNCIL held at the Council Chamber, Tank Yard,
Thorney on Monday 11 February 2008 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Chair: Councillor D. J Buddle

Councillors: J E G. Bartlett, R Bevington, P.A. Rowe, E. Gee, P. Murphy, R.M. Harlock,
M. Amps-Woodward, C Evans and Ms. S Knight

1 member of the public present.

Before the meeting 10 minutes was allowed for public discussion.

1. Apologies and Declaration of Interests

Apologies from W VanDriessche

There were declarations of interest from: Councillor Bartlett because he knew the architect concerning planning application 08/00105, Councillor Evans because his property adjoined the planning application 08/00105, Councillor Bevington because his wife owns property near planning application 08/00048

2. Minutes

The minutes of the previous Meetings held on 14 and 16 January and 4 February (copies of which had previously been circulated to all members) were signed.

3. Matters arising from minutes.

3.1 Parish room redecoration and upgrade of furniture. Chairman extended thanks to Councillor Evans for his input and co-ordination in the refurbishment of the Parish Room

3.2 Pode Hole Quarry – Atkins, Norwich, the route agents to carry out investigation work concerning road signage and road markings.

3.3 Time sheet and park inspection sheets given to Mr. Lucken

3.4 Thorney Parish Council website- Mr Gilbert liaising with the Clerk to get more dynamic content.

3.5 The Internal Auditor – Clerk to meet and agree terms and conditions with a Mr. Russell Wright on Tuesday 12 February.

4. Planning

Community Planning questionnaire – sent out by Peterborough City Council to residents. Councillor Bevington has issued those to businesses and community organisations.

4.1 Planning Applications

08/00048/FUL for New dwelling with attached garage and part demolition of existing greenhouse and garages at 102 Wisbech Road and

08/00098/LBC for New dwelling with attached garage and part demolition of existing greenhouse and garages at 102 Wisbech Road

– after a prolonged discussion it was unanimously decided against recommending approval because these garden are an historic part of Thorney and should be retained (Conservation report by Mr. J Daley, Peterborough City Council Conservation Officer), a development here would set a wrong precedent as it is back land development, the access to the rear of existing houses is barely adequate.

At this point Councillor Evans left the meeting

08/00105 Gayport, The Causeway – demolition of bungalow and erection of 1 house and 2 pairs semi-detached houses – there were the following concerns about this application:

There is no mains sewage to this part of the village therefore cess pits would have to be installed. As the area is much lower than the adjacent development is it prone to flooding – hence concerns about the cess pits. Surface water drainage could also be a problem.

The front site line does not align with properties on either side.

The Orchard Court site is much higher than the existing Gayport site so will be overlooked. A context drawing to show height levels would give local residents a much clearer picture of the proposed development.

At a vote 7 members were for, 1 against and 1 abstention.

At this point Councillor Evans returned to the meeting

- 4.2 Planning Applications Passed/Refused/withdrawn/before committee
07/01733 Paddy Hut Conversion at Old Hall Farm, French Drove- refused
07/01960/ADV For 2 x non-illuminated signs at English Drove Farm Buildings,
English Drove – Passed

At this point Sgt Bradshaw and PCSO Brader entered the meeting

- 4.3 Date and Time of public meeting concerning Community Planning questionnaire and 07/01296 Monument, The Green – to be held in Bedford Hall on 17 March start at 7.0pm

5. Crime Report

Sgt Bradshaw gave crime report for the last month. He tried to deal with concerns from one member of the public who expressed her dismay that a recent burglary involving considerable loss of property had brought no direct Police contact. It was felt that residents in English Drove, and the countryside in general, were being ignored as far as policing is concerned. Councillor Harlock suggested that the crime figures did not reflect all reported crimes and that the Police do not chase or investigate many thefts and burglaries. He gave examples where there had been 3 thefts from his tenant's properties in Station Road yet Sgt Bradshaw from his report only mentioned two. Sgt Bradshaw suggested that there may be a security issue which infuriated Councillor Harlock as he provides a gateman during the day and would expect the Police to do the service they are paid for at other times. Councillor Harlock said businesses should not have to cover the cost of extra security when the Police precept is so high.

Councillor Knight will take this up at the Police Liaison meeting.

Sgt Bradshaw produced log sheets for the Community PCSO vehicle and he suggested that more coverage could be attributed to Thorney and Newborough if the respective Parish Councils would consent to PCSO Buddle taking the vehicle to Eye as part of her duties before going to the other villages. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Councillor Rowe asked how bad a crime had to be before the Police attended. Sgt Bradshaw explained that any crime could warrant a visit depending on the circumstances.

Councillor Harlock made the point that since Thorney and Newborough had provided the PCSO vehicle neither he, nor his tenants, had been visited by a PCSO.

Councillor Evans asked if crime follow up could be tracked and Sgt Bradshaw said that the Crime Management Unit can give an update on progress of investigated crimes. Councillor Bevington said he had seen a police presence in the village 4 times since the last meeting.

The Chairman summarised the concerns raised.

6. Allotments

Map of unallocated allotments given to Councillors. Application from new tenants to be clustered around those allotments with existing tenants.

7. Roads and Footpaths

7.1 Street lighting – ML12 near school, Wisbech Road – day burner

7.2 Footpath outside Cheriton House. The Clerk met Mr. Ewing, Peterborough City Council Highways Engineer, on site 17 January and he advised that any cleaning of the surface by pressure washer would disturb material in the joins and allow frost to enter causing further damage. Spring would be the best time for this action. He also said that the uneven surface (apart from 2 locations) did not fall outside the 20mm criterion that Peterborough City Council work-to as a trip hazard. Any relaying of the slabs would be a specialist job and done in conjunction with the English Heritage. However, he has seen Mr. Nigel Pask and asked him to clean out the largest gaps between the slabs and fill with a concrete mixture being careful not to get any cement on the slabs themselves. He will also make good the 2 areas where there are damaged slabs.

In the meantime the Clerk has emailed colleagues in other areas asking for names of specialist contractors so that we can assess further what needs to be done.

7.3 Tree outside Cheriton House – still has not had the attention of a tree surgeon.

Councillor Bartlett said that Peterborough City Council now had no tree surgeons. Mr. Ogden to be asked to look at the tree.

7.4 Peterborough City Council to enforce their Parking Plan in conjunction with the road works that are now taking place. These may well not be operational as far as enforcement is concerned until the Traffic Regulation Order is signed.

7.5 Councillor Bartlett said the narrow footpath that is situated on the Western side of Sandpit Road, Thorney, is used a lot by children and parents taking their children to school, it is being used as a toilet by irresponsible dog owners. Peterborough City Council will arrange for our dog warden to patrol this area in an attempt to catch offenders and will also see if we can get some dog fouling signs up in this area, if there are none already. If anyone knows of any dog owners that do allow their dogs to foul in this area on the public highway then Peterborough City Council can take these details and visit the individual and discuss the allegation.

If the dog fouling is particularly bad then the street cleansing team can be requested to clean the footpath. This is something they can check whilst there.

7.6 Councillor Harlock has been in contact with Mr. Povey concerning the outstanding landscape maintenance on the dual carriageway.

8 Burial Board

Following inspection of cemetery by Councillors Rowe and Gee, new Yew and Hawthorne shrubs ordered delivered and planted by Mr. Lucken. A worksheet of jobs that needed to be carried out was agreed with Mr. Lucken.

A recent grave excavation had to be abandoned because a land drain was in the same area. Part of the work agreed with Mr. Lucken by Councillors Gee and Rowe was to inspect the drainage chambers and clear these out if necessary. Approximate locations of drains Cemetery plan and shown under the footpaths, not in the area of graves. Councillors Gee and Rowe expanded on their drainage investigation and Councillor Gee to talk to NLIDB to ask for their assistance.

Gates at cemetery need attention as they will not lock. Councillor Bevington to ask Mr. Downing to attend.

9 Household Recycling Centre

Lock changed on gate and wooden caretakers hut. The electricity meter and telephone service have been removed. Awaiting disconnection of the electricity service by EDF. Clerk chasing on a weekly basis.

10 Agreement of Date, time and place for annual meeting

Council room on 14 April at 7.0pm, immediately before the normal meeting.

11 Correspondence/Any Other Business

11.1 Acre circulars, CALC information- circulated

11.2 External Auditor appointed by Audit Commission will again be Moore Stephens.

11.3 Base of old village sign still in place in Whittlesey Road. Councillor Harlock said that if Mr. Jary liaises with Mr. Charlie Marks he will be able to assist with a JCB.

11.4 Slow down campaign – posters erected urging drivers to slow down in built up areas.

11.5 Consultation document from Government on Orders and Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England

11.6 Copies of the presentation given at the last Parish Council liaison meeting received.

11.7 Medicine Pond fence. It was agreed that this damaged fence was an eyesore near our cemetery and that fencing contractors should be approached concerning maintenance.

11.8 Trees and shrubs protruding onto pathway in Topham Crescent and Station Road. Councillor Bartlett to liaise with Peterborough City Council.

11.9 Footpath between The Causeway and Laurel Drive becoming untidy. Councillor Rowe to ask Mr. Lucken to tidy up.

11.10 Oil tanks and other debris' at the rear of Bedford Hall needs tidying up. Bedford Hall Management Committee to be asked to action.

11.11 It was suggested by Councillor Harlock and agreed that Mr. Cave be approached to draw up a constitution for the use of section 106 money by Thorney Parish Council.

12 Finance

Over the past 2 months best value for purchases have been made over the internet (tress etc for the Cemetery) and the Clerk paid for these on his credit card – these costs were

then paid to him by cheque. The Clerk has no problem with this arrangement but would like it agreed by Council that this is acceptable. It was unanimously agreed that this was an acceptable arrangement.

12.1 Request for donation to Thorney Rugby Club and Request for donation to Thorney Rugby Colts. Both of these requests to be held over to the new financial year.

The following sums had been received:-

| <i>From</i> | <i>Reason</i> | <i>Amount</i> |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. Stebbings | Allotment rent | £30.00 |
| Anglia Regional Coop Ser | Inter Mr. Beeton | £30.00 |
| Yorkshire Bank | Interest | £1.52 |
| Anglia Reg Coop | Inter Mr. Trayford | £800.00 |

The following Cheques were drawn and signed:-

| <u>Payee</u> | <u>Reason</u> | <u>Cheque No.</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Mr. A E Hovell | Telephone, postage, etc | 001548 | £61.11 |
| Shanks Waste Management | Cemetery skip | 001549 | £0.00 |
| Fairwood Joinery | Work in Parish Room | 001550 | £1500.00 |
| A Wood Plastering | Work in Parish Room | 001551 | £240.00 |
| Boothmans Agriculture | Herbicide | 001552 | £68.15 |
| B H Smith | Work in Parish Room | 001553 | £430.00 |

Meeting of Community Planning Committee 27 February, 7pm.

The next full meeting will be held on 10 March with a public meeting 17 March 2008. The meeting closed at 9.25 pm