

Meeting of THORNEY PARISH COUNCIL held at the Council Chamber, Tank Yard,  
Thorney on Monday 9 November 2009 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Chair: Councillor D. J Buddle

Councillors: R Bevington, Mrs. C Fuller, R.M. Harlock, P. Murphy, Mrs. S Selby, E. Gee,  
J E G. Bartlett, Mrs. L Sheldrake, B A Ogden

Peterborough City Councillors D Sanders. City Council Head of Planning Mr. Simon Machen.  
Mr. Paul Sharman, NLIDB, PCSO Webber for the item on crime.

6 members of the public.

1. Apologies and Declaration of Interests

Apologies for absence from W VanDriessche

No declaration of interests

2. Minutes

The minutes of the previous Meeting held on 12 October and 19 October (copies of which had previously been circulated to all members) were signed.

3. Matters arising from minutes.

3.1 Station Road has some severe undulations and cracking appearing in the road surface – road marked by Peterborough City Council for maintenance

3.2 Hedge obstruction footpath outside 35 Wisbech Road – occupiers dispute that the hedge is in their ownership- passed to Mr. Moore, Peterborough City Council Highways.

3.3 Councillor Bartlett concerned the electoral role letters not being received – Ms. Crawford, Electoral Officer Peterborough City Council, states” We are aware that the postal strike has impacted on the delivery by Royal Mail of the annual electoral registration forms. We have brought the hand canvass forward and everyone who has not returned a form will get a least two visits from a canvasser with a reminder form, if the canvasser is unable to obtain a completed form they will leave it at the property for completion with a pre-paid envelope”.

3.4 Bus stop near school - The bus shelter roof will be repaired by Peterborough City Council blacksmith. He has visited the site and feels that metal sheeting is going to last longer than felt and has ordered the sheeting. He will have the work completed by the end of November

3.5 Park footpath – ongoing with Councillor Bevington

3.6 Tree works discussed at last meeting to be carried out with the exception of willow tree that now has a TPO.

3.7 Tree preservation order received for Causeway Lodge.

4. Visit by Head of Planning, Peterborough City Council, Mr. Simon Machen  
Mr. Machen introduced himself and how he saw his role developing in meeting the needs of the community.

Councillor Bevington mentioned the lack of progress on various major planning projects (LDF, Site allocations) and Mr. Machen explained his involvement with these. The Site Allocations will now be published in March 2010 but applications for development can be approved before the site allocations procedure is complete.

Village infrastructure discussed particularly possible problems with sewage and drainage. Mr. Machen mentioned the water cycle strategy which would take drainage and sewage into its considerations. He said AW is the key - they would be part of the water cycle strategy and that the Pitt report highlighted the accountability problem.

e-planning - a long way from implementation. Public access to electronic viewing will be available in January 2010. Councillor Sanders hoped to see less fragmented communication to Parish Councils from Peterborough City Council.

Councillor Ogden suggested that smaller planning applications were given less priority than major projects and Councillor Bartlett asked how applications will be handled in future - Mr. Machen said consistency of standards, continuity, consistency of quality, and communications were his priorities for handling applications. Councillor Harlock said developers face problems with Peterborough City Council delays and communications.

Pre-application advice will be made available by Peterborough City Council in the future.

Planning enforcement - proactive and reactive. Staff now communicating with planning engineers at request stage. Greater prioritisation. No agency staff. Planning conditions must be enforceable.

Councillor Bevington suggested that on larger applications (sites specific) that Parish Councils should be involved at an earlier stage so that at the application stage the process runs smoother Mr. Machen agreed with this with the proviso that the applicant agrees.

Councillor Ogden asked about the quality of urban design - Mr. Machen said there was a post to be filled at Peterborough City Council for this.

In answer to the question "When a planning application is registered it is allocated a planning officer to process the application, often in the past an applicant was led to believe by the case officer the application would be granted consent, only at the last moment to be over ruled by senior planning officers, what steps are you going to put in place to reduce instance like this happening"? - Mr. Machen said he hoped to implement new procedures where a quality mechanism was in place to overcome these problems (although he foresaw possible objections from some developers).

"If a planning application is referred to the Planning & Environmental Protection Committee, by either a Ward Councillor or a Parish Council, will you instruct the case officer (who has processed the planning application) and knows the application in detail, or a senior planning officer who is not fully conversant with the planning application to attend the committee and present the application to committee"? Mr. Machen said applications should not be dependent on one person but on a team approach.

Councillor Ogden asked if there will be stability in the planning department in the future. Mr. Machen said performance management was key to improvements and stability. He has a full staff.

5. Anglian Water update on progress to prevent further flooding – Mr. Oliver Shelly. Ms. McBreen telephoned the Clerk at 12.10pm today to say Mr. Shelly could not attend and a substitute was not available.  
Mr. Andy Tatt, Peterborough City Council Asset Management Group Manager, has spoken with Mr. Paul Sharman of North Level IDB who they work closely with in addition to Mr. Stan Pywell of the Welland and Deeping DB regards drainage issues. He will discuss with Mr. Sharman issues raised at this meeting as they are meeting this week at a Flood Risk Partnership meeting.  
Chairman outlined the history and the meeting with AW. Mr. Sharman said he believed the pumps in Gas Lane had now been replaced.  
Chairman to place article in village magazine asking residents to report areas of concern to Thorney Parish Council who will then coordinate an action plan.  
Mr. Sharman explained that NLIDB was only involved with surface water and the Stewards House Drain in particular. He was part of the Water Cycle Plan and has highlighted what he believed to be the inadequacies in the AW system.  
The Chairman explained where surface water was ponding. Mr. Sharman said Stewards House Drain was not to capacity and suggested that surface water was discharging into the AW sewage system. He also suggested that the way forward may be with the Peterborough City Council flood risk partnership.  
Mr. Lane said that his advice was that AW had a duty of care to its customers.  
Mr. Sharman said that North Level Internal Drainage Board's responsibility was from the surface water outfall to the Stewards House Drain and the drain itself. He requested the list of questions that have been sent to AW and these were given to him.  
A W to be invited back to the meeting in the New Year.

6. Reports

- 6.1 Crime report by PCSO Webber. 33 incidents with 13 crimes that included theft (3 heating oil from farms) and burglary.  
Rural workshop well attended and Councillor Bartlett said how impressed he was by this event. Motor bike training poorly attended.  
Next panel meeting 2 December at Duke of Bedford School – statistics and feedback can be made available at this meeting.  
Councillor Harlock complained that burglaries were not being investigated and therefore people are reluctant to report crimes.
- 6.2 Bedford Hall Management Committee – Councillor Fuller – final quotations for kitchen awaited. Lounge area to be decorated. Sign at Station Road to be replaced. Councillor Murphy asked about catering arrangements.
- 6.3 Neighbourhood Council Functions – The first of these meetings was held on 19<sup>th</sup> October. The delegations from Peterborough City Council and their functions were circulated. Many of these functions e.g. “identify needs of community, develop Community master plans”, to name two, are functions already carried out by Parish Councils!

Alex Daynes (Peterborough City Council Senior Governance Officer) would like answers to the following questions for feedback to Adrian Chapman (Head of Neighbourhood Services)

1. What role can Parish Councils play in empowering our communities?  
Answer: Communication with parish and Peterborough City Council.
2. What do Parish Councils need from Peterborough City Council to enable them to play their part in empowering communities?  
Answer: greater access to Ward Councillors, the means to more effective communication with the Parish residents
3. What are the benefits of delivering effective neighbourhood management?  
Answer: Closer liaison, knowing earlier what Peterborough City Council may want Parish Councils to do, co-operation, discussion of planning submissions at an earlier date.
4. And what are the risks and barriers – the things we need to avoid?  
Answer: Another unnecessary layer of local government, repetition of roles of Parish Councils, empire building, non-communication, Parish Councils have not the funding they might desire, there seems to be an awful lot of reinventing the wheel.

## 7. Planning

### 7.1 Planning Applications outcome

#### Current Planning Applications

09/01220/FUL For 2 storey side extension at 95 Wisbech Road – no objections  
09/01120 Construction of Cattery at Laurel House, Thorney Dyke – no objections

### 7.2 Other planning matters

28 Wisbech Road, Thorney (Hong Lok Garden) Mr. Daley has written to the owners pointing out that the property is a Grade II listed building, forming part of the terrace of nos. 4 – 28 Wisbech Road (north) and that listed building consent is required for all works, both internal and external, that would affect the character and appearance of a listed building. The erection of the advertisement sign requires listed building consent as there was no fascia board or advertisement there before. He did advise that in his opinion listed building consent would not be recommend due to the vivid yellow background colour as this jars with the listed building and is also a out of character with the Thorney Conservation Area.

## 8. Allotments

Marker posts made and installed

Nineteen holders have paid their rent with sixteen outstanding – it was agreed that those whose rents were outstanding would have their tenancies terminated if payment was not received within one month.

## 9. Roads and Footpaths

9.1 Street lighting - units already reported that needed attention

9.2 Update on Shambles Footpaths – work nearly complete. Agreement reached with Mr. Thornton-Holmes concerning work outside his property.  
Entrance alterations to Cheriton House still to be decided.

9.3 Update on Causeway Bridge – the commencement of works to remove the existing steel Armco crash barriers on Thorney River Bridge and their replacement with pre-cast concrete high containment kerbs occurred on 9 November.

It is anticipated that the works will commence on the eastbound approach to the village. This will last approximately two weeks after such time work will transfer to the westbound approach for another two weeks. The Principal contractor for the scheme will be Ringway Infrastructure Services Limited. Given the nature of the works and the proximity to the junction it will be necessary to work under temporary four way traffic signals (on permanent twenty-four hour operation) – the main traffic signals at the junction will be switched off for the duration of the works and then be re-activated once the works are completed.

9.4 Lee Moore to arrange a “Village walkabout”.

9.5 Surface water drains appear to be blocked on The Green and in Church Street.

## 10. Burial Board

Clerk has been on a Cemetery Management course and has the following action points:

1. Consecrated ground boundaries to be established.
2. Digging of grave depths to be established with undertakers
3. Possible introduction of a permit to work for gravediggers and stone masons (would give some protection under Health and Safety)
4. Possible production of brochure to be given to relatives explaining cemetery regulations
5. Risk assessment of cemetery needs to be carried out
6. Need for a safety equipment register

## 11. Christmas Lights – Councillor Fuller.

To be installed 3 December with switch on 12 December. Competition at Duke of Bedford School for best poster competition – winners will switch on lights.

Some donations being received to cover costs.

## 12. Correspondence/Any Other Business

12.1 The Clerk will be on holiday – Councillor Gee will attend to any funeral arrangements that become necessary.

12.2 Power of Wellbeing Training 25 November

12.3 Environment Agency waste licence to be signed off 10 November by Chairman

12.4 Podge Hole Liaison – suggest invite to meeting 14 December

12.5 Parish Council liaison meeting with Peterborough City Council 18 November

12.6 Councillor Bartlett explained there was a problem of vehicle parking on Wisbech Road near the pedestrian crossing at the School. There is some yellow line parking in Sandpit Road. Area needs policing.

## 13. Finance

13.1 The following sums had been received:-

<i>From</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Mr. A Sismey	Allotment rent 41	£30.00
Mr. C Harlock	Allotment rent 1 and 2	£60.00

Mr. and Mrs Hayward      Burial spaces      £165.00

12.2 The following Cheques were drawn and signed:-

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mr. A E Hovell	Postage, Travel, telephone	001683	£61.00
RM & CT Harlock	Marker posts for allotments	001681	£55.00
Peterborough Grass Machinery	Toothed belt	001684	£44.78

The next full meeting will be held on 14 December 2009 with a Community Planning meeting  
16 November

The meeting closed at 9.29pm