

Meeting of THORNEY PARISH COUNCIL held in the Parish Room, Bedford Hall, Thorney on  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

Chair: Councillor Mrs. M Long

Councillors: Mr B. Parker, Mr G Mills, Mrs. D Halfhide, Mr J Shearman, Ms K Howard, Mr D  
Winch, Mr S Williams

Peterborough City Councillors M. Ormston, S Allen 2

Members of the public.

Public discussion – Mr James Bowman - talk about Fenland Flag – to attend at a later date

Resident- raise concerns over the weedkilling (glyphosate used?), safety concerns of the  
weedkiller used.

Children's play area- concerns of over the state of the area, white briony growing in the hedge,  
safety concerns on the equipment, equipment is dirty, zip line damaged and has been duct taped  
and wires still sticking out. City Councillors will take this back to the Peterborough City Council.  
Safety concerns over the junction of Station Road, Wisbech Road and Whittlesey Road, with traffic  
light sequence and lorries turning. Highways informed.

**2699/24-25 To receive and approve apologies for absence.**

Received: None

**2700/24-25 To receive Disclosable Interests Declarations**

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

**Resolved:** D Halfhide is a trustee of Good Neighbours

**2701/24-25 To approve minutes of the meeting of 11 November 2024**

**Resolved:** Minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 November 2024 and bank  
reconciliation for the month (circulated before the meeting) were confirmed and  
signed by Chairman.

**2702/24-25 Matters arising from minutes.**

**2703/24-25 Report from City Councillors.**

Parking on Park during football games- complaints received from residents. Further  
inspection completed by Peterborough CC. Investigating options to alleviate the  
issue.

Still awaiting progress on the SID sign. The Parish Council has paid their contribution  
awaiting PCC Councillor's contribution.

Conifer trees outside 63 Wisbech Road/ on corner of Woburn Drive- this is not City  
Council property. Liability/ maintenance belongs to the homeowners of the properties  
along this access. The Clerk to write to the resident to inform them.

Tennis Court- has been inspected and awaiting quotation.

Fly tipping concerns throughout the Parish- PCC Councillors have chased the  
removal.

Bollards at Park entrance- issues reported and inspected by PCC officers. Thorney  
Park lights- needs new cable if converted to mains rather than solar but cannot  
guarantee funding for this.

## 2704/24-25 Finance

The following were received in November /December

Foodbank	£5.00
Cemetery	£275.00
Allotment renewal rentals	£150.00

To approve the following paid in December

Salaries	£3612.00	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	£26.00	LGA 1972 sections 111, 142	
email, ISP payment	£32.18	LGA 1972 sections 111, 142	
Cambs County Council	£996.62	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	£1190.94	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	£70.54	LGA 1972 s142, LGA 1972 s214(6), s215(6) Parish Council and Burial Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s1.
HP	Printing costs	£11.99	LGA 1972 sections 111, 142
Cemetery	Petrol for mowers	£	Burial Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s1 / Highways Act 1980 s43, 50
Zoho	Email service	£216.00	LGA 1972 sections 111, 142
Cambs ACRE	Membership	£65.00	LGA 1972 sections 111, 142
Redshoes		£133.20	LGA 1972 sections 111, 142
Accounting	Payroll services		
Peterborough City Council	Planning application fee pavilion	£1226.00	CIL
Bedford Hall		£100.00	Covid
Bedford Hall	Warm Welcome	£60.00	LGA 1972 sections 111, 142
Anglian Water	Parish Room Cleaning	£22.18	Burial Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s1 / Highways Act 1980 s43, 50
Anglian Water	Cemetery water charge	£128.50	
	Allotment water charge		

1. To approve accounts for Payments and Monthly bank reconciliation – approved.
2. Good Neighbours-Rural Peterborough (GNRP) - £3165 to continue we need good feedback of the benefits to Thorney residents. This is nearly 10% of our Parish precept Mrs Halfhide raised her concerns regarding the fee to the coordinator. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to Good Neighbours to inquire what the fees covers and benefits to Thorney residents- how many use the service, number of local volunteers and hours they volunteer. There are only two paid employees. Request support in recruiting more volunteers.
3. Bank account signatories – updated to include the finance committee members.
4. Precept 2025-2026. This year our precept increased by 2.1% on the previous year to minimise the financial effect on residents. It was accepted that this precept would not give a balanced budget where income equalled spend, and any shortfall would be made up from reserves. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed for a 2.1% increase on this year's precept for the precept for 2025/2026 again accepting that this figure would not give a balanced budget where income equalled spend, and any shortfall would be made up from reserves. However, with the wind-farm grant to help small organisations and CIL to assist major projects it was agreed the Parish Precept be kept below 2.1%

Resolved: It was proposed by Mr Williams, seconded by Mr Parker and agreed to accept the precept figure as presented.

5. Christmas hampers – 8 Hampers will be delivered to the school. Mr Shearman has received some donations and will top up the hampers with additional items.

## **2705/24-25 Reports**

1. Pavilion - planning permission now applied for
2. Burial – Regulations updated  
Wildflower and bulbs set for landscaping around new stone vault area
3. Tree survey – in progress.
4. Bedford Hall – lease talks to be scheduled.
5. Allotments – terminations this year have left numbers 7, 30, 32, 35 with no tenants although 3 were offered to persons on the reserve list but with no response from them.

Future management considerations should be

- a. to display allotment numbers for each unit. This would make identification better (Last carried out about 10 years ago)
- b. determine what ground maintenance should be carried out on those allotments not rented
- c. continue with those arrangement already made where certain tenants cut the grass and maintain the roadway. Mr C cuts grass from front area, Mr W maintains roadway on allotments with surplus materials from jobs, Mr S cuts grass far end of allotments.

Resolved: It was agreed that the Clerk and Mr Parker would inspect the allotments and identify the plot numbers. A budget of £200 for purchasing and installing numbering was agreed. This would be an agenda item for next meeting for next steps in the management.

6. Forge Field – no further update. This area could benefit from Biodiversity enhancement from the Pavilion application.

Mr Williams enquired what the long term plans for field. Mr Parker asked if volunteers had been requested for help with the field. Thorney Parish Council would invite people to help maintain the field as 'Friends of Forge field'. It was agreed to further this idea in the new year. Furthermore, it was agreed to hold a Thorney Parish Council open day on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 1-4pm. It was agreed to provide refreshments. Ms Howard will organise a competition for the children to design ideas for 'Forge Field'.

## **2706/24-25 Planning**

### **1. Local Plan- comments to PCC**

Mrs Halfhide will begin to prepare comments

### **2. Approvals and Refusals - None**

### **3. Planning Applications and other matters.**

24/01520/HHFUL Glass House Farm Dairy Drove Thorney - Proposal: Part demolition of existing two storey dwelling and associated garage building, with proposed domestic two storey extension with integral garage – no objection

Concern has been raised by 2 residents that development without consent is taking place by contractors at Four acres bungalow, Northside. A new hard standing made from road plannings is being laid in a grass field to the rear of the Bungalow.

### **2707/24-25 Roads and Footpaths**

1. Speeding in village/ Speedwatch – Speed indicator sign – Thorney Parish Council has paid its share of the sign. PCC Councillor Ormston chasing CLF. One Speedwatch completed on Station Road.
2. Condition of footpaths in Park and along Whittlesey Road – Mr Shearman raised their deteriorating condition several months ago. PCC to be contacted again.

### **2708/24-25 Village matters.**

1. Warm Welcome – will continue through to the end of the year. 13<sup>th</sup> December will be a Christmas quiz and some refreshments. Ms Howard will take the 27<sup>th</sup> December 2024 Warm Welcome, Mr Shearman is no longer available.
2. Youth facilities - Cllr Mills gave an update. May have people willing to help, awaiting contact. Trying to arrange a meeting with the Whittlesey Youth Group.

### **2709/24-25 Facebook Posts**

### **2710/24-25 Matters as agenda items for future consideration.**

Parish Council Open Day

### **2711/24-25 Parish Council business**

Parish Council Website- could we have a village diary on the website? Can this be linked to Facebook. It was agreed for this to be investigated. Ms Howard suggested a blog on the website to engage with the residents.

Foodbank/ Library future- until meeting with Peterborough CC cannot provide further update. Regarding foodbank and toilet issue- the washroom where mould is a problem has been locked

Concerns raised regarding overhanging branches from Oak trees-Whittlesey Road. These are on private land for which the Parish Council has no powers. Tree Officer at PCC to be advised.

**2712/24-25** *It is hereby resolved in accordance with Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted namely employee Mike Stimson's recent fall it is advisable in the interest of confidentiality that the public and press be temporarily excluded from the meeting and they are herewith instructed to withdraw.*

**2713/24-25** **Date of next meeting** - Parish Council Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Meeting Closed at 21:39pm.