

A socially distanced Meeting of THORNEY PARISH COUNCIL held in the Lounge area, Bedford Hall, Thorney on Monday 8th November 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Chair: Councillor Mrs. M Long

Councillors: Mrs A Willans, J Shearman, A. Butt, Mrs K Howard, W VanDriessche, Peterborough City Councillors R Brown

2 members of the public.

Public discussion –

Ms. Pinguenet, Headmistress of the Duke of Bedford School, and Mr. Mark Cowdell, Chair Governors' Duke of Bedford School – replacement swimming pool

Ms. Kelly Pinguenet outlined the curriculum for swimming and life skills. The existing swimming pool was condemned, and quotes received for a replacement, covered in, pool were £70,000.

So far this year £9550 has been raised and further fund-raising functions are already planned. There is a £10000 grant requested from Wryde Croft Wind Farm fund that is expected to be approved. Initial estimates are that fund raising will achieve between £25000 and £30000. Local donations would also be explored from individuals and Companies

Various options have been considered including busing students to other facilities such as Whittlesey Swimming Pool. This has a major drawback in as much as there is only availability to take 2 classes because of Whittlesey commitments and that children would have to be taken out of school for a much longer period and this would negatively impact on the curriculum. Learning has already been severely restricted for the past 18 months by Covid 19. The curriculum target is for all children to be able to swim 25m by year 6.

Consideration is being given, and it is expected, that the pool would be part of the community facilities and open to the public at certain times

A suggestion was to enquire about a loan function possibly from the pool installation firm. This would have to be approved by the Local Authority

2045/21-22 To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies from Mrs. D Halfhide, S Williamson, N Simons
Peterborough City Councillors S Allen, N Simons

2046/21-22 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

2047/21-22 To approve minutes of the meeting of 11 October 2021

Minutes of the Council meeting and bank reconciliation held on 11 October 2021 were confirmed and signed by Chair

2048/21-22 Matters arising from minutes

Stone Bridge Corner – vehicle accidents - Peterborough City Council reply to email was “you have highlighted some issues that will need further investigation which has already started and once completed you will be advised of the outcome and Peterborough City Council proposals”.

2049/21-22 Matters for Information and Reports

1. Bedford Hall Management Committee – no report. Many rumours are circulating, and the lack of use and bookings is a concern. No one has recollection of the Annual General Meeting for 2021.

The Parish Council has found that use of the lounge for our meetings is much preferred to the Parish Room. It gives us social distancing and room for members of the public.

2. Skills audit – Councillors to respond

3. Presentation Good Neighbour Liaison – this is short term support and the notice that was advertised stated:

“Thorney Parish Council is looking into joining this Good Neighbours scheme in order to be part of a well-run scheme (recently receiving the 5 Star Focus Award for volunteer management) but in order to do so we need to know that we have a group of volunteers who will be available to carry out tasks for others in Thorney. I have shared this invitation on Facebook, on posters, and to the Women’s Institute.

This is a summary of the Good Neighbours Scheme, particularly for the benefit of newer Parish Councillors:

“Here at Good Neighbours, we provide non-emergency help and support for vulnerable people in the area surrounding rural Peterborough.

We offer services such as befriending (telephone calls, reading a book, having a chat), transport in volunteers’ cars to medical and social appointments, shopping assistance, pet care, and practical tasks like DIY and gardening.”

The public meeting was poorly attended by residents. Outline of objectives and organisation of the scheme given. To be discussed again at a later date

4. The Co-ordinator, Good Neighbours-Rural Peterborough has received a direct call from the COVID Hub Team at the Local Authority regarding concerns about the COVID cases specifically in Thorney and Eye. They have asked her to arrange some outreach engagement sessions in each area. The Drop-in Vaccination bus could have a presence at Bedford Hall one day where people could come for advice and to obtain test kits which will be supplied. The Parish Council support this and will help book a suitable date, place and assistance with advertising this to the community. A Saturday would be a preferable date so that those that work can engage too.
5. Foodbank – NPS to be asked if the lease extension could be drawn up and received for signing at our December meeting on 13th December. Thorney Parish Council is aware that this premises is on Peterborough City Council disposal list and Peterborough City Council Estates Manager writes “I have had confirmations that the extension of the licence is supported. I will instruct legal on the licence renewal.

As per the current licence, we will need to retain flexibility on the use / occupation – as you will be aware there is a general asset review related to PCC budget levelling. So, the potential disposal of the premises may be brought forward – but I do not foresee this being before the Christmas / holiday period is over and various consultations would be needed first”.

2050/21-22 Report from City Councillors.

1. Aware that when disposal of the Church Street premises was discussed some time ago Peterborough City Council intention was for the proceeds to be shared by facilities in the village e.g., new sports pavilion and Bedford Hall refurbishment. This is reported not to be the case now with the financial situation the City Council is in, and Thorney facilities will not benefit from the sale
2. Traffic issues Whittlesey Road – meeting held with Transport Manager
3. Tennis Court net repaired
4. Park entrance from Wisbech Road altered to give better access

2051/21-22 Finance

The following were received in October/November

J G Cross	Memorial Mr Lyon	£250.00
	Foodbank	£5.00
Peterborough City Council	CIL	£18556.49
	Allotment rents	£210.00

To approve the following paid in November

Salaries		£3082.20	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
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Office, email, ISP payment		£70.17	LGA 1972 sections 111, 142
Cambs County Council		£372.54	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	£55.94	LGA 1972 s142, LGA 1972 s214(6), s215(6) Parish Council and Burial Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s1.
Cemetery	Petrol for mowers, travel Sept and Oct	£125.01	Parish Council and Burial Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s1
HP	Printing costs for September	£3.99	LGA 1972 sections 111, 142
Royal British Legion	Poppy wreath	£20.00	LGA 1972 section 137
RTC Ground Care	Strimmer repair	£106.66	LGA 1972 s142, LGA 1972 s214(6), s215(6) Parish Council and Burial Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s1.
Mrs Tambourini	Meeting room cleaning	£24.00	LGA 1972 sections 111

1. To approve accounts for payment – circulated to Councillors before meeting - approved
2. Monthly bank reconciliation circulated – approved.
3. Update given concerning Bedford Hall finances – no update
4. Duke Bedford Swimming Pool – request for donation from CIL fund. This followed the public discussion. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to donate to the swimming pool fund £100 per pupil on register and/or up to a maximum of £35,000 to match funding if the total sum raised by the School exceeds the £100 per pupil. This money will come from CIL payments
Cllr Howard declared a personal interest in this and took no part in the vote.
5. Remembrance – It was proposed, seconded and agreed to purchase a poppy wreath for Remembrance (under the power of Section 137 of LGA 1972)

2052/21-22 Planning Approvals and Refusals

21/01245/LBC for Alterations to rear of property including blocking up existing French doors and replace casement window with bifold door at 8 Abbey Place Thorney. Decision: Permitted
21/01436/LBC for Replacement windows and door to the rear at 62 Wisbech Road Thorney
Decision: Permitted

2053/21-22 Planning Applications and other matters

21/01742/CTR For Acer tree in back garden reduce height by 25% and thinning of centre to improve shape at Duke Of Bedford Stables Abbey Place

21/01570/FUL For Proposed repair and refurbishment of existing property, two storey rear extension and conversion to four flats, including new vehicular access and car park
At Halfpenny Toll House Northey Road

Development The Causeway – discussion concerning the number of mobile units on the site.
Councillor VanDriessche believed the mobile units on site would remain there forever.

2054/21-22 Burial Authority

Members of Thorney Parish Council along with Local residents were present at the cemetery on Halloween from dusk onwards to deter vandalism as has occurred in the past. Suggested should be an annual event. Councillors that organised the event thanked for their efforts and organisation as was the nearby resident that provided coffee and cakes

At times the Councillor who posted the Facebook announcement (re the cemetery patrol) felt that some the comments were unsupportive when the event was in response to village concern

2055/21-22 Roads and Footpaths

1. Speeding in village - Speedwatch will be involved in raising awareness of speeding even if this is a small part of what can be done to minimise issues. Speedwatch will be restarting as there is now working equipment again.
2. Whittlesey Road – surfacing repairs in many areas carried out
3. Letter from Stonebridge corner resident concerning accidents – response from Peterborough City Council included in “matters arising”
4. Meeting with MP concerning Whittlesey Road discussed

2056/21-22 Allotments

Chairman to contact NPS to obtain formal agreement to enter field between Gas Lane and allotments. Area needs to be topped or flail mowed
Tree packs ordered for spring planting

2057/20-21 Discuss Youth Council formation

To be taken off agenda and placed on again in New Year

2058/20-21 Village Matters

1. Skate ramp update – no further progress
2. Adoption Red Phone box – consultation period extended– in next issue of Thorney Post
3. Wooden Village signs – ongoing
4. Queen's platinum anniversary.
 - a. Tree planting and field off Gas Lane to be prepared for Community use. 350 free trees will be provided by Woodland Trust. PECT has indicated it would like to be involved with the project also.
 - b. Dog walking area The Causeway - Organised by the Thorney Festival Association who will Plant a 200 metre stretch of trees on the land. The planting will be supervised by Tony Cook of Peterborough Environmental City Trust (PECT) and the trees will be provided by them. Thorney community groups will be invited to take part on Sunday December 19th and Duke of Bedford and Park House schools to be invited to plant trees in week commencing 13 December.
5. Peterborough City Council has identified Thorney Park as an opportune site for new tree planting and plan to plant up to 15 trees this coming autumn/winter.

2059/20-21 Website update

1. Update - To comply with The Public Bodies (websites and Mobile Applications) Regulations 2018 – link to draft site being sent out

2060/20-21 Facebook Posts

It was agreed that positive items concerning Thorney Parish Council achievements should be posted

2061/20-21 Correspondence

Circulated

2062/20-21 Matters as agenda items for future consideration

Data Protection Policy review when new website operational

2063/20-21 Any other business

None

2064/20-21 Date of next meeting

Parish Council Meeting 13th December 2021

Meeting ended 9.14pm