

Meeting of THORNEY PARISH COUNCIL held in the Parish Room, Bedford Hall, Thorney on Monday 13th March 2023 at 7.00 p.m.

Chair: Councillor Mrs. M Long

Councillors: B. Parker, S Williamson, Mrs A Willans, N. Potts, Mrs K Howard, S. Winwright, Mrs. D Halfhide, J Shearman

0 members of the public.

Public discussion – none

2368/22-23 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Apologies from Thorney Parish Councillors W VanDriessche
Sgt S Rose, Cambs Police

2369/22-23 To receive Disclosable 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.

2370/22-23 To approve minutes of the meeting of 13 February 2023

Minutes of the Council meeting and bank reconciliation held on 13 February 2023 were confirmed and signed by Chairman.

2371/22-23 Matters arising from minutes and reports.

Jenner Health Centre meeting held 8 March. Parish Councillors met with representatives from Thorney Medical Centre, to discuss the continuing severe restriction of services at the practice. The Parish Council is concerned about the length of time the village has been left without doctors at the practice. For residents without their own transport and the poor bus service available, makes travelling to Eye to see a Doctor or other health practitioner very difficult. Ongoing dialog

Cambridge Community Fund (Wrydecroft Windfarm) grant received and defibrillator ordered. Telephone red paint to be supplied as part of contribution.

Application made to Viridor fund for grant towards pavilion extension.

2372/22-23 Report from City Councillors.

None

2373/22-23 Finance

The following were received in February/March

Foodbank	£285.00
Cemetery	£1850.00
Defibrillator grant	£3324.00
Contribution Easter egg hunt	£50.00

To approve the following paid in March

Salaries		£2975.57	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		£34.18	LGA 1972 sections 111, 142
Cambs County Council		£419.76	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		£1329.26	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	£88.24	LGA 1972 s142, LGA 1972 s214(6), s215(6) Parish Council and Burial Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s1.
HP	Printing costs for September	£9.99	LGA 1972 sections 111, 142
Cemetery	Petrol, Travel costs	£22.61	LGA 1972 s142, LGA 1972 s214(6), s215(6) Parish Council and Burial Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s1.
Redshoes Accounting	Payroll services	£94.50	LGA 1972 sections 111,
RTC Groundcare	2 stroke oil	£21.40	LGA 1972 s142, LGA 1972 s214(6), s215(6) Parish Council and Burial Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s1.
Stationery	Stamps	£5.50	LGA 1972 sections 111, 142
Foodbank		£1345.17	Transfer total funds
Smith of Derby	Bedford Hall clock maintenance	£297.60	LGA 1972 sections 111, 142
Boston Seeds	Grass seed cemetery	£75.00	LGA 1972 s142, LGA 1972 s214(6), s215(6) Parish Council and Burial Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s1.
Councillor Training	Social media	£30.00	LGA 1972 sections 111, 142
Wave	Water charges cemetery	£15.16	LGA 1972 s142, LGA 1972 s214(6), s215(6) Parish Council and Burial Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s1.
Community Heartbeat	defibrillator	£3258.00	Community fund
Bedford Hall MC	Parish Room cleaning	£240.00	LGA 1972 sections 111, 142
Bedford Hall MC	Use of hall for Warm Welcome	£315.00	Covid grant

1. To approve accounts for payment – circulated to Councillors before meeting - approved.
2. Monthly bank reconciliation - circulated – approved.
3. Foodbank finances – the foodbank organisation has now setup a management control system including an accountant and their own bank account. Advice has been given for transparency. All funds Thorney Parish Council held on their behalf have now been transferred to the foodbanks nominated bank account. The Parish Council wish Erin, Sharron and their team of volunteers every success in their future development.
4. Annual pay award. For the past 8 years it has been agreed to increase salaries by the percentage as per the Government’s increase in the living wage. From gov.uk “The National Living Wage” extract was circulated. It was unanimously agreed with this Thorney Parish Council policy and use the Government figure of 9.7% to increase salaries from 1st April 2023
5. Pavilion extension – Meeting held with Peterborough City Council Officers and City Councillors to discuss further. Peterborough City Council confirm that the Complex requirements in the 2015 Regulations for high-value contracts - The 2015 Regulations incorporated the Public Contracts Directive 2014/24/EU (“the Public Contracts Directive”) have to be followed. These regulation particularly impact the tender process for contracts over £25,000.
Applications have been made to the Wrydecroft Windfarm fund, The Aggregates Levy and to Viridor to supplement the funds Thorney Parish Council hold at present for the extension. It is unlikely these funds would be available to complete the whole project during the summer football recess.
Another meeting to be arranged with Peterborough City Council to determine the way forward.

2374/22-23 Planning Approvals and Refusals

22/01330/LBC for Conversion of modern existing garage to granny annexe at 87 Station Road

Decision: Withdrawn by Applicant

22/01589/HHFUL for Demolition of existing glazed rear porch, erection of new entrance porch.

Removal of mono pitched roof and construction of new pitched roof with gable end over whole rear extension at 126 Wisbech Road Thorney Peterborough PE6 0SE Decision: Permitted

22/00275/FUL for Proposed hybrid planning application for the proposed Grantham to Bexwell

Pipeline Scheme with full planning consent sought for a proposed 95 kilometer pipeline and 4 kilometer spur; and outline consent for associated above ground infrastructure at Elton and Welby Heath with all matters reserved except for access at Land Along The Proposed 95 Kilometer Grantham To Bexwell Pipeline Route Decision: Permitted

2375/22-23 Planning Applications and other matters.

23/00006/LBC For Replacement of all four rotting window casings with hardwood surrounds on the top floor flat at Flat 3 21 Church Street, Thorney – no objections.

23/00069/PRIOR For Erection of a side extension to an existing agricultural building for the purpose of storing additional grain at Corner Farm Wisbech Road Thorney Peterborough – no objection.

23/00219/CTR for 102 Wisbech Road Thorney - Proposal: Fell T1 1no. Eucalyptus tree

- overhanging surgery car park, T2 1no. Ash tree - small previously reduced ash tree - reduce in height by 50% to previous points – no objections

Consultants representing the developer who is looking to create a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System at Scolding Drove, Thorney, met with members of the Parish Council recently. They have currently lodged an 'Scoping opinion' application with Peterborough Planning Department, and visited the village to access how this development would be regarded locally. The plan aims to develop 300 acres of farmland as a Solar farm, and would run for 40 years. This application is at a very early stage, but the Parish Council will provide updates as more information is made public.

2376/22- 23 Burial Authority

Top soil and grass seed ordered to repair sunken graves

War Graves sign attached to fence.

Salt to be spread on footpath moss.

2377/22-23 Roads and Footpaths

1. Speedwatch – continuing throughout village. 4 surveys in the last month – Whittlesey and Station Roads record the most speeding vehicles.
2. Whittlesey Road – discussion ongoing concerning number of lorries through village. Long discussion concerning the merits of either a limited area 20mph restriction or a village wide speed limit of 20mph. More information to be formulated and circulated to village.
3. Footpath rear 137 Wisbech Road, on Park Crescent, severely restricted by brambles.

2378/22-23 Allotments

As part of the contract for the barrier across Forge Field the tyres on the vacant allotment will be removed and positioned field side of barrier. These will then be used as planters.

In view of the problems experienced last year with travellers invading the Park, it was decided to protect as much community land as possible. The barrier will still allow allotment holders to drive though, and there will be a removable section to allow farm machinery to access the land beyond, but caravans will not be able to get through.

2379/22-23 Village matters.

1. Warm Welcome and future meetings – In November the first Warm Hub was announced at Bedford Hall, and was supported by our local MP Paul Bristow, our three City Councillors, representatives of Good Neighbours, volunteers, local residents and members of the Parish Council. The Parish Council has continued to organise meetings on a fortnightly basis, offering tea/coffee and biscuits to local residents, and the attendance of local residents has increased significantly over the weeks. Details of future meetings are advertised on social media and posters around the village. The commitment every two weeks for those organising and attending has and will have a significant impact on their personal life and a rota is needed for future commitment. A Parish Council member, or a person specifically named and communicated to the Clerk, will be needed at each meeting to comply with insurance conditions.
2. Update requested concerning warning sign near Cemetery – City Councillor asked for update. No response
3. Ukrainian guests – discussed and agreed to display on Thorney Parish Council website ongoing needs.
4. Defibrillator for red telephone box – grant received, defibrillator ordered, to be installed by Thorney Parish Councillors. Red paint supplied as part of grant for box maintenance.
5. Village signs - the four traditional Thorney signs are back in place, having had a wood treatment, rotten sections re-carved in new wood, metal work cleaned and painted and all four re-painted and varnished. This was all achieved at a fraction of the cost of new signs, and we would like to thank City Councillor Nigel Simons for organising this work on our behalf.
6. Notice board Wisbech Road needs maintenance.

2380/22-23 Pavilion Update

Applications have been made to the Wrydecroft Windfarm fund, The Aggregates Levy and to Viridor to supplement the funds Thorney Parish Council hold at present for the extension. It is unlikely these funds would be available to complete the whole project during the summer football recess.

2381/22-23 Thorney Parish Council goals for 2023/2024

Suggestions are:

1. Park pavilion – discussed earlier.
2. Forge Field - update on barrier works – start date 20 March. Request to be made to Woodland Trust for more tree packs.
3. Visible police presence in Thorney – ongoing with weekly reports
4. Picnic in the Park – 13th August. Ice cream van already booked. Demonstrations by various sporting activities
5. Good neighbours – more publications and advertisements will be made.

2382/22-23 Policy on Social Media - adoption

The draft policy was circulated before the meeting. Comments to be submitted before 24th March with final policy to be agreed at next meeting

2383/22-23 Coronation celebrations

Liaison with Bedford Hall Committee – on going. Suggested date 8th May afternoon and evening, as this will not clash with other village functions. A Parish Council member, or a person specifically named and communicated to the Clerk, will be needed to comply with insurance conditions.

2384/22-23 Facebook Posts

2385/22-23 Matters as agenda items for future consideration.

Meeting etiquette

2386/22-23 Parish Council business

1. Road closures for running club discussed.
2. Easter Fun at the Bedford Hall on Thursday 6th April (including the 9th April Warm Welcome meeting) – parish council funded although there already has been a £50 donation to this activity.
3. Thorney Parish Council has set Gross Parish Precept 2% higher than the present year for the forthcoming year 2023-24. Because of inflation this will mean that our spend ability will be in the region of 8% lower than the current year (assuming inflation at 10%). However, in monetary term this works out at an increase of £975 spread over the Parish or much less than £1 per household per year

2386/22-23 Date of next meeting.

Parish Council Meeting 3rd April 2023 to be held in Parish Room. May meeting date – 15 May.
Meeting ended 9.06 pm.