

Meeting of THORNEY PARISH COUNCIL held in the Parish Room, Bedford Hall, Thorney on
Monday 13th January 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

Chair: Councillor Mrs. M Long

Councillors: Mr B. Parker, Mrs. D Halfhide, Mr D Winch, Mr S Williams
Peterborough City Councillors M. Ormston, S Allen

8 Members of the public.

Public discussion –

Planning application for new pavilion in Park. Residents had process concerns- unhappy that comments made in the Thorney Post are at odds with the submission of the application being submitted.

Concerns on the planning application - parking is not adequate and no traffic management to park on Tavistock Close or Woburn Drive. The position of the building obstructs view of park. Potential for anti-social behaviour

On- going issues with car parking and owners running their cars pushing pollution onto the adjacent properties.

Concerns that area dedicated for biodiversity, is the area that could be used for additional parking. A resident asked if the Football facility could be located to a different location- the park is a recreational facility for any sport.

Cllr Ormston suggested a Facebook post to address the concerns.

Cllr Allen suggested the Parish Council could withdraw the application and review the plans and engage further with residents.

A request has been made to carry out litter picking in the village for the Gold DofE Award. This would be for an hour a week. Thorney Parish Council would then be asked to sign the D of E certification. Mr Parker doubted we could authorise this under the Parish Council due to insurance and H&S and both of these would be checked with Thorney Parish Council insurer.

Concerns about the lorries using Station Road, causing vibrations through the houses. There is a large dip outside Kingsline Close, two drains outside 43 Station Road and Sherwood House need attention. Speedwatch has not yet recorded any lorries speeding. Cllr Allen and Cllr Ormston to take these concerns forward. Resident highlighted that pictures and emails have previously sent to PCC, but no response received back.

Whittlesey Road – update needed from Highways Director at PCC concerning alternative route for quarry lorries.

2714/24-25 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Received: Mr J Shearman, Ms K Howard, Mr G Mills

2715/24-25 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.
D Halfhide- Good Neighbours

2716/24-25 To approve minutes of the meeting of 9 December 2024

Resolved: Minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 December 2024 and bank reconciliation for the month (circulated before the meeting) were confirmed and signed by Chairman.

2717/24-25 Matters arising from minutes.

2718/24-25 Report from City Councillors.

Still awaiting progress on the speed indicator sign- payment has been made now awaiting delivery

Thorney Park lights- solar lights need to be replaced with mains power.

Pavilion Planning application- offered to support residents and provide details on how to submit their comments.

Four Acres Bungalow with Enforcement officer.

2719/24-25 Finance

To approve the following paid in January

Salaries		£3076.82	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, mobile		£65.18	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		£1031.74	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
G and L Cade	Rodent control allotments	£72.00	Small Holdings Act 1908 s 23, 26, 42, LGA 1972 s215

1. To approve accounts for Payments and Monthly bank reconciliation – approved.
2. Good Neighbours-Rural Peterborough (GNRP) – Mrs Long received a response from Good Neighbours who advised ‘I am now in a position to advise that the reduction of the annual fee, for the coming financial year 25/26, has been agreed, this will be a 50% reduction, for this one year at a rate of £1582.50.’ It as proposed by Mr Williams, seconded by Mr Winch and agreed (with one abstention) to renew for another year. It was agreed to request more support for recruitment. We would need more specific details of residents of Thorney who benefit in the next renewal request. 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. Bank debit card – we have always paid either by cheque or bank transfer. However, with internet purchase’s a debit card is often the only way to proceed and examples of recent purchases by this method given. It was proposed and agreed to have a Parish Council debit card with the same financial controls in place as exist at present for cheque and bacs payments.
5. Interment charges not to be made for the interment Mr Stimson

6. Christmas Hampers- were distributed to the school by Mr Shearman. Receipts totalling £62.57 - this is much less than we had budgeted for due to generosity of Sainsbury's. Each Christmas hamper contained produce worth approximately £27.00.

2720/24-25 Reports

1. Pavilion - planning permission now applied for. A discussion took place regarding the plan. It was proposed by Mr Parker, seconded by Mr Winch and agreed to withdraw the planning application. Agenda item for the next meeting to agree the next steps.
2. Burial – Regulations updated
3. Tree survey – completed
4. Bedford Hall – lease talks 29 January
5. Allotments –marking of allotment numbers. Waiting for weather to improve
6. Forge Field – no further update.

2721/24-25 Planning

1. Local Plan- comments to PCC

Agreed that the comments on the Local Plan will be initiated after the consultation period starts in February.

2. Approvals and Refusals

24/01424/HHFUL for Proposed garden room 6 Crown Close Thorney Decision: Permitted

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

24/01621/FUL Thorney Park Wisbech Road Thorney, Proposal: Proposed community pavilion for Thorney Parish Council - withdrawn

2722/24-25 Roads and Footpaths

1. Speeding in village/ Speedwatch – Speed indicator sign – PCC Councillor Ormston to chase.
2. Condition of Footpath in park and on Whittlesey Road- deferred

2723/24-25 Village matters.

1. Warm Welcome –no further update
2. Youth facilities – no further update
3. Thorney Society- 29th March 2025 confirmed as a remembrance for the lost airman. A donation was requested from the Parish Council. An agenda item for next meeting.
4. Foodbank and library, Church Street. in the afternoon of 13 January 2025, the following email was received from Commercial, Property & Asset Management Corporate Services, Peterborough City Council, "I am writing to you as Clerk to the Parish Council to confirm that we are having some major health and safety issues at Thorney Library Community Centre and will need to close the building. Consequently, we will need to serve notice and request that the property is cleared of all belongings in the property by the end of January 2025 at the very latest. Could you please liaise with your sub-tenant to advise them accordingly.

We are currently looking at alternatives to ensure the food bank is still operational within Thorney and the surrounding areas".

The foodbank co-ordinator has been informed and was offered Parish Council help in clearing the building. This help was declined.

2724/24-25 Facebook Posts

2725/24-25 Matters as agenda items for future consideration.

2726/24-25 Parish Council business

1. As part of the Parish Charter all Parish Councils are required to nominate a Councillor and a Substitute to become a representative for Parish Liaison (Charter Circulated). Mrs Long will be nominated attendee.
2. VE Day 80th Anniversary- 8th May suggested Flying the unique VE Day flag. Mr Parker to order and liaise.
3. Linking of website to social media posts – website developer is open to suggestions. Mrs Halfhide to liaise.
4. Moving seat on Wisbech Road – Highway Officer has no objections – residents to be consulted. For consideration at the Parish Council open day - 3 sites have been identified.
5. Picnic in the Park- agreed to set date as 10th August 2025. Agenda item for next meeting for a coordinator.
6. Parish Council open day- it was agreed to cancel the 19th February, as not enough time to plan and look for a date during the next school holidays. Agenda item for next meeting to plan.

2727/24-25 Meeting closed at 21:20pm. The next meeting is 10th February 2025.