

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Thorney Parish Meeting

A Meeting held in the Parish Room, Bedford Hall, Thorney on Monday 14th April 2025.

1. The Chair of the Thorney Parish Council (Councillor M Long) presided as Chairman with 6 other Parish Councillors. There was 4 members of the public in attendance and Peterborough City Councillor Steve Allen & Mark Ormston.
2. No Apologies
3. The Notice of Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting had been displayed 12 days prior to the Meeting.
4. The minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting held on the 13 May 2024, were signed as a true record at June 2024 Thorney Parish Council meeting.
5. Parish Affairs
Public Participation – Mr H Witt and his colleague on behalf of FRV Powertek Ltd regarding proposals for a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (“Malice Farm Solar & BESS”) on land off Scolding Drove.

In addition to generating significant amounts of clean energy and reducing CO2 emissions, Malice Farm Solar & BESS will also deliver a positive biodiversity net gain by preserving and enhancing the existing ecological habitats.

Solar energy will provide clean energy to the UK’s electricity grid ensuring the security of energy supply nationally, and within Cambridgeshire. As the cheapest source of new electricity generation, solar projects are key for reducing energy bills for consumers by lowering the overall cost of energy.

A resident from French Drove - advised he had no contact from company, despite his proximity to site. Highlighted the following– incorrect information. Advised 300m from nearest house, however his house is closer. Raised his concerns over the scale of development in relation to the five closest houses. Further concerns regarding perimeter planting, 3 houses that will be impacted by industrial traffic on road that has had a number of repairs and would need attention. He raised concerns regarding the value of his property, if the view is now solar panels rather than farm land.

French Drove Resident- concerned that although the developers information stated his property would not be affected by the construction traffic, however what guarantees could they offer to stop the lorries using alternative routes?

The Chairman asked how far the consultation was conducted- as she lived on French Drove as has not received any information.

Asked if there would be an opportunity to visit a BESS site?

Community Fund- raised her concerns that this would be split between 5 Parishes. Developer advised any fund would be for those who were impacted the most.

Another resident from French Drive- her property is elevated, would she receive a glare. Developer advised it would impact properties to the North. Would the site be lit at night?- Motion detector security lights for the site. Fencing would stop wildlife entering site- so site is not environmentally friendly.

The site would have palisade fencing around its perimeter. This is more appropriate to industrial estates not a rural area where more sympathetic systems should be installed.

6. Formal Resolutions - none

The meeting closed at 8: 08p.m.