

Meeting of THORNEY PARISH COUNCIL held in the Parish Room, Bedford Hall, Thorney
on Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.00p.m.

Chair: Councillor Mrs. M Long. Councillors: Mrs. D Halfhide, Mr G Mills, Mr D Winch, Mrs L Moore, Mr J Francis. Mr J Wren
Peterborough City Councillors M. Ormston and S. Allen

3 Members of the public

Public discussion –

Mr Lucken asked if John Harris could be requested to cut the hedge at the cemetery. This was agreed and Mr Lucken agreed to arrange this.

Mr Lucken also requested help in March to level several graves in the cemetery. It was agreed Mr Lucken would order the topsoil and coordinate the help.

2883/25-26 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Received: None

2884/25-26 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.

2885/25-26 To approve minutes of the meeting of 8 December 2025

Resolved: Minutes of the Council meeting held on 8 December 2025 and bank reconciliation for the month (circulated before the meeting) were confirmed and signed by Chairman after one amendment.

2886/25-26 Matters arising from minutes

2887/25-26 Report from City Councillors.

Cllr Allen- had received a request for grit bin near Rose and Crown pub as the footpath was very slippery during frosty weather. PCC no longer provide these however they will send an inspector to investigate.

Solar Powered lights on Park footpath- do not work when weather is not sunny and poorly lit in the evenings. Cllr Allen has passed through to Street lighting.

Cllr Ormston- has chased enforcement regarding the development on 'The Causeway'

No Dog fouling signs have been requested from PCC.

PCC Cabinet has recommended to postpone local elections for 2026 until 2027.

PCC have agreed to complete maintenance to the tennis courts.

Cllr Francis advised the City Cllrs: New Cut – the temp repairs are breaking apart and becoming dangerous. French Drove – Fly tipping has not been cleared from last year and more has been added.

2888/25-26 Finance

Income November/November

Allotment rents	£70.00
Interest	£1435.11

To approve the following paid in January

Salaries	£3631.00	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	£65.18	LGA 1972 sections 111, 142	
Cambs County Council	£1046.00	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	
Inland Revenue	£1387.00	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	
Veolia	Skip at cemetery	£74.90	LGA 1972 s142, LGA 1972 s214(6), s215(6) Parish Council and Burial Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s1.
HP	Printing costs	£6.49	LGA 1972 sections 111, 142
Mr Lucken	Travel and petrol for mowers	£39.14	Local Government Act 1972, s. 214; Parish Councils and Burial Authorities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970, s. 1
Adobe	Ipad software	£4.98	Local Government Act 1972, s. 214(6)
Complete Weed Control	Mow Forge Field Vermin control allotments	£288.88	LGA 1972 sections 111, 142
G & L Cade		£144.00	LGA 1976 s19, LGA 1972 sched 14 para 27, Public Health Act 1875 s164 and as amended 1890 s44
			Small Holdings Act 1908 s 23, 26, 42, LGA 1972 s215

1. To approve accounts for Payments and Monthly bank reconciliation – approved.

2889/25-26 Parish Council business

1. Parish Council enforcement complaint - our complaint was because of our perceived inaction on the Development of car storage at 4 Acres. This was some months ago and we have now received a response from Peterborough City Council – their reply email is préciséd below:

“We needed to take advice from the Head of Legal services, in order to determine if your complaint could be accepted from a Parish council. My apologies that there has been a delay whilst this has been confirmed.

They have confirmed that as per the guidance of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman -

“The Local Government Act 1974 (S34(1)) defines the authorities that can be investigated and who is eligible to use the complaints process.

Can the Ombudsman look at a complaint from a parish or town council?

No. The law does not allow us to accept a complaint made by an “authority constituted for the purposes of the public service”. This includes parish and town councils.

Therefore, it is our decision that your complaint cannot be accepted as it is from a Parish council”.

It was agreed the Parish Council would support the residents in making individual complaints regarding the issues. The Clerk will circulate the Parish Council’s original letter and to whom they can write.

2. Digital Inclusion - Rural Opportunity and funding – no further update at present.
3. “The Spinney” – The environment officer suggested the following
 - 1/ Bird/bat/ owl boxes (possibly one of each)- these will need pricing and installing by Aragon Services
 - 2/ Bug/hedgehog hotels- these would not be needed as there were areas that has piles of discarded tree trimmings that are ideal bug and hedgehog hotels. Suggested signage at these areas to advise visitors it was a habitat for wildlife

3/ additional sign at entrance to indicate the spinney is a wildlife area, plus three smaller signs highlighting certain areas may contain hedgehogs/ insects/ bugs.

These items have been agreed by Parks Officer, and the Clerk is liaising with him and Aragon services regarding a price.

A pond was suggested, but at the present time the Parish Council will not pursue this option.

Cllr Long received an email regarding the area raising concerns regarding drug tacking and damage to trees.

One the 23rd of December the Parish Council met the Wildlife Officer and he advised that he believed the tree damage is historical and not caused by children. We saw no evidence of drug paraphernalia. The Village Warden checks the area twice a week and has found no evidence. Mrs Long will respond to the email.

4. Christmas Hampers – delivered to school for distribution. Thanks to Mrs Long, Mrs Moore and Mrs Halfhide for creating and delivering the hampers.

2890/25-26 Planning

1. Approvals and Refusals - None

2. Planning Applications and other matters.

25/01640/CTR For Fell Common Ash tree (T01) at 4 Crown Close Thorney – application states “Removal of one Common Ash tree T01 due the exhibiting low vitality”. Thorney Parish Council cannot agree with the felling of this tree on the basis of the information we have. If the Tree Officer agrees with the application, Thorney Parish Council request a condition that a suitable tree is planted as a replacement

25/01509/FUL Dalmark Grain Knarr Farm Wisbech Road - Part change of use from B8 storage to vehicle repair (Sui Generis). Thorney Parish Council wishes to register a formal objection to planning application **25/01509/FUL** for the part change of use from B8 storage to a vehicle repair operation (Sui Generis) at Dalmark Grain, Knarr Farm, Wisbech Road, Thorney.

While the Parish Council recognises the need for local employment and the reuse of existing buildings, the proposal raises significant concerns—primarily related to **highway safety, traffic impact, and non-compliance with relevant planning policy**. These concerns were detailed in our previous response.

25/01559/LBC Flat 3 21 Church Street Thorney Replace hardwood, window frames and metal opening window casements with Heritage windows – no objections

2891/25-26 Reports

1. Burial – a ‘no ball games’ sign needed at entrance as Cllr Winch found golf balls at the cemetery.
2. Bedford Hall- BHC meeting on 19th January 2026, Cllr Mills to attend.
3. Allotments – the vehicle that was there for several weeks has been removed and is now parked in layby by Bedford cottages. Notice of no parking obtained and this will be erected when conditions allow and also to straighten the private land sign at the entrance.
4. Forge Field – it is suggested that it would be advantageous to flail/strim growth between tree plants plus weed kill around the base and allow for some new planting. There are a

lot of dead plants that need replacing. The committee will meet before the next Parish Council meeting to agree specification.

2892/25-26 Roads and Footpaths

1. Speedwatch – no checks completed due to weather and availability of volunteers.
2. Station Road – Clerk obtained quotation from Elan City for MVAS unit. Clerk has contacted Peterborough Highways to meet to agree a position. The City Councillors agree to chase on behalf of the Parish Council.

2893/25-26 Village matters.

1. Warm Welcome – now scheduled for a Friday. 9th and 23rd January.

2894/25-26 Facebook Posts

2895/25-26 Matters as agenda items for future consideration.

- Pavilion at Park- as still awaiting Parks assessment by PCC
- Forge Field – working group to present options
- Picnic in the Park- planning (9 or 16th August)
- Plastic waste recycling bin for village- Cllr Mills to investigate options

2896/25-26 Date of next meeting – 9th February 2026. Meeting closed at 20:28pm.