THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD AT HOLY FAMILY HIGH SCHOOL ON**

**MONDAY 6th MARCH 2017**

**Present:** Councillors Hounsell (Chair of Meeting), Bain, Chambers, Miles and Pennington.

**Also present:** Mrs Jones (clerk), Ms M Carney Sefton MBC, Ward Councillors Kelly and McGinnity

**1068** **To Receive Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from Sue Ashe Sefton.

**1069** **To Receive** **Declarations of Interest:** No declarations were received.

**1070 Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 16th January 2017**:

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and were then signed by the Chair.

**1071** **Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising

**1072 Finance**

It was agreed to pay the following invoices:

Mrs J Jones Clerk’s Salary/expenses £233.28

LALC Annual Subs £323.72

School Lettings Room Hire £120.00

Rotary Club of Crosby £50.00

**1073 Planning and Correspondence:**

The Clerk read out correspondence received from Sefton’s Planning Department.

**1074 To Resolve to Co-opt Dr Richard Cooke to the Parish Council**

It was unanimously agreed that Dr Richard Cooke be co-opted onto the Parish Council and the Declaration of Acceptance was duly signed by Dr Cooke.

**1075 To Receive Reports from**:

***Sefton Central Area Committee***

There was no report on the Area Committee, however Councillor Hounsell advised that the next meeting was to take place on 9th March and Councillor Miles was hoping to attend.

1. ***Parishes***

Councillor Miles had attended the 10 Parishes meeting and advised that the consultation regarding the maintenance of grass verges was discussed. It was noted that this may prove to be a significant cost to Parish Councils. Ms Carney advised the meeting that consultation was still to take place and no decisions had yet been made.

**1076 To resolve to increase the frequency of meetings to a monthly basis.**

The clerk had previously circulated a cost comparison between the current meeting schedule and a move to monthly meetings with an increased annual cost of approximately £1200.00. Councillor Miles felt that the benefits of moving to monthly meetings may not justify the costs outlined however, following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Chambers and seconded by Councillor Bain that the Parish Council increase the meeting frequency with effect from April 2017. It was therefore resolved that the Parish Council increase the frequency of meetings to a monthly basis with the increase in cost for the financial year 2017/2018 to be met from Parish Council reserves.

**1077 To resolve to pledge the sum of £6000.00 towards the upgrading of The Crescent**

Councillor Chambers outlined the background to the scheme to improve The Crescent including a one way system and advised the meeting that the scheme would begin in April 2017 providing the funds were in place. It was proposed by Councillor Chambers and seconded by Councillor Bain that the Parish Council agree to pledge the sum of £6000.00 towards the scheme. Ward Councillor Kelly advised that the scheme was to go to cabinet on Thursday 9th March 2017. The meeting wished to record its thanks to Sue Ashe for Sefton Council for her commitment to the project.

**1078 To request outstanding information to comply with the Transparency Code**

Councillor Miles agreed to supply a “pen picture” to be added to the website to aid with transparency requirements.

**1079 To Discuss the Parish Council’s Response to the proposed housing developments at**

* **Lydiate Lane/Cemetery**

Councillor Chambers advised that the Parish Council had sent a letter to the developer requesting he arrange a public exhibition for residents to provide further information about the proposed development, listen to their responses and, if necessary make adjustments to his plans

* **Holgate/Rothwells Lane**

Councillor Hounsell advised that the application was to come before the Planning Committee on Wednesday 8th January 2017 and that Dr Cooke would provide an update on this issue later in the meeting.

**1080 To discuss the Parish Council’s Response to the Port of Liverpool Access Route**

It was noted that Sefton MBC did not support either of the two proposed access routes and was in favour of a tunnel to accommodate the increase in traffic. Councillor Hounsell outlined both current options and advised that as part of the Rimrose Valley option there was to be no access from the new road to either Lydiate Lane or Edge Lane and that Rimrose Valley would still have green space. If a tunnel was a realistic possibility then we would have supported it however it was not and we had to consider the options available. After discussion it was agreed that option B was the Parish Council’s preferred route because it would take some of the traffic off Park View, Quarry Road and Moor Lane.

**1081 Chairman’s Update**

* Open Meeting

At the recent Open meeting held in February several issue had been brought to the attention of the Parish Council including Police restructure, pollution and the impact of housing developments. Responses had now been received and were available on the Parish Council Website: it was noted that monitoring figures showed a drop in pollution over the past five years.

Additionally, there was a general consensus from the residents present that there was a lack of response from Sefton Council to issues in the area. Councillor Hounsell undertook to write to Sefton requesting the short, medium and long term plan for Thornton and advised he was currently drafting the letter and would present it to the Parish Council for approval before submitting it to Sefton.

* Thornton Corridor Study

Councillor Chambers advised that the Thornton Corridor Study was still not complete. Sefton Council had advised that the turning circle in Southport Road was not to be replaced until the study was completed; however Councillor Chambers advised that he had made a further request for it to be reinstated with immediate effect as it was in situ before Brooms Cross Road was constructed.

* Stocks and Sundial Project

The refurbishment of the Stocks and Sundial was now complete and Councillor Hounsell was to meet with Mr Murphy from St William of York Primary School to organise the school’s participation in the project.

* Edward Holme Trust

Councillor Hounsell advised that he had received a response form the Charity Commission agreeing to the disbursement of the funds and was now working to identify a suitable charity to assist with this.

* Holgate and Rothwells Lane Residents Group

Dr Cooke Chair of the Residents’ Group addressed the meeting and expressed concerns regarding the planning Case Officer’s report and the lack of consideration given to the impact on residents and amenities; in particular key headings in Sefton’s Local Plan were not replicated in the Case Officer’s report and Dr Cooke felt that this lead to a lack of consistency and transparency. Ms Carney advised that all consultation meeting for the local plan had been fully minuted and all representations documented and submitted.

Councillor Hounsell thanked Dr Cooke for his presentation.

**1082 To provide an update regarding the fracking licence expansion into Thornton by Aurora Explorations**

Councillor Bain advised he had written to Aurora Developments for further information and had been advised that any exploration at this point was very minor in nature and anything major would need the permission of Sefton Council. Ward Councillor Kelly advised that Sefton Council had voted to oppose fracking in the borough although this may not prevent any development

**1083 To provide an update regarding the provision of a Christmas Tree**

Councillor Chambers was looking at the feasibility of providing a crib to accompany the Christmas Tree this year however this would have significant costs and security issues.

**1084 Public Participation:**

The Chairman welcomed 16 members of the public and the following was discussed:

* The recent measurements of emissions from the crematorium had not been taken from the most appropriate place and a member of the public had found it difficult to ascertain who was responsible for this. Ms Carney agreed to provide this information
* Mrs Peet from St William of York Tuesday Club expressed her gratitude to the Parish Council for both the donation of funds to the club and also for her recent award of the Freedom of Thornton.

**1085 Update from Councillors**

There were no further items raised.

**1086 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the meeting would take place on **Monday, 3rd April 2017 at 7pm**.

The Parish Council wished to place on record its thanks to Ms Margaret Carney and Ward

Councillors Kelly and McGinnity for their attendance and participation in the meeting.

Signed …………… Date …………… (Chairman).