THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

**MONDAY 3rd APRIL 2017**

**Present:** Councillors Hounsell (Chair of Meeting), Chambers and Cooke.

**Also present:** Mrs Jones (clerk

**1087** **To receive apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Bain, Miles and Pennington.

**1088** **To receive** **declarations of interest:** Cllr Cooke declared an interest in agenda item 13 – Planning application Holgate/Rothwells Lane.

**1089 Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 6th March 2017**:

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

**1090** **Matters arising:**

* It was noted that Cllr Richard Cooke had signed the declaration of acceptance and was attending his first full meeting as Parish Councillor.
* The move to monthly meetings had begun and it was noted that only two members of the public were in attendance at this evening’s meeting.
* The outstanding information needed for the website to aid transparency had been received.
* The results of the Port of Liverpool Access Route consultation had been deferred.
* The documentation regarding February’s Open Meeting was available on the Parish Council’s website.

**1091 To Receive Reports from**:

***Sefton Central Area Committee***

1. ***Parishes***

Councillor Miles had attended both the 10 Parishes meeting and Sefton Central Area Committee meetings but was not in attendance at this meeting to provide reports.

**1092 Chairman’s Update**

* Edward Holme Trust

Cllr Hounsell provided a brief history of the trust which was held to benefit the poor of Thornton and advised he was in the process of identifying a charity to assist in the disbursement of funds to meet the criteria of the trust.

* Monthly Meetings

The new schedule of meetings on a monthly basis was underway and it was noted that there was a low attendance from the public. It was hoped that this would improve as the year progressed.

* Stocks and Sundial

Cllr Hounsell had received an excellent booklet of work on the Stocks and Sundial project compiled by the Year 4 children at St William of York Primary School which was circulated to the meeting. The Parish Council wished to place on record it’s thanks to the school and the children involved. The official re-opening of the Stocks and Sundial was to take place in the near future.

* Boundary Sign and Bench.

The replacement bench had been sited outside Jospice facing Long Lane and the replacement boundary sign was in situ on Park View. The clerk was to contact Plantscape to advise them of the new location for the Summer planting.

**1093 Finance**

It was agreed to pay the following invoices:

Mrs J Jones Clerk’s Salary/expenses £203.07

NALC re publications £37.48

School Lettings Room Hire £50.00

Netwise Training Ltd £200.00

HMRC PAYE £116.80

Sefton MBC (Christmas tree) £1961.25

**1094 Planning and Correspondence:**

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

**1095 To discuss the Cemetery Entrance traffic**

Cllr Chambers advised that there had been difficulties with traffic on Lydiate Lane/Green Lane due to vehicles queuing to enter the cemetery on Mothers’ Day. It was noted that the proposed housing development adjacent to the cemetery would exacerbate the issue and the possibility of widening the road to provide a waiting area was discussed. Cllr Chambers agreed to follow up this issue.

**1096 To discuss weed spraying in the area.**

Cllr Pennington was unable to attend the meeting to provide an update on this issue. It was noted that there had not been any weed spraying in Thornton.

**1097 To provide an update regarding Queen’s Torch Lighting**

Cllr Pennington was unable to attend the meeting to provide an update on this issue.

**1098 To provide an update regarding the provision of a Christmas tree for 2017**

The possibility of having a crib to accompany the Christmas tree was discussed and it was noted that Cllr Pennington may be able to assist with this. Cllr Chambers agreed to approach the two public houses in the Parish to explore the possibility of their involvement in the “switch on” of the tree this year.

**1099 To discuss the following planning applications:**

* **Rakes Park**

There had been no response to the Parish Council’s request for the developer to arrange a public exhibition for residents to assess the plans. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Sefton Council’s Neighbourhoods’ Department and Head of Planning with copies to the Ward Councillors and MP to request the best method of working with the developer and the planning department to ensure the views of the Parish Council were heard. The letter was also to highlight the lack of response from the developer and to voice the serious concerns about the need for infrastructure to support such a large development.

* **Runnells Lane**

The proposed housing development on Runnells Lane was noted.

**Holgate/Rothwells Lane**

Cllr Cooke provided an update on the proposed development of eight houses on the Holgate/Rothwells Lane site. The decision was deferred from the original hearing on 8th March to a further hearing on 29 March 2017 when the committee approved the application with conditions - subject to referral to the National Planning Casework Unit. Councillor Cooke outlined his experience of attending the hearing and noted in particular that the process was intimidating for petitioners and that some of the documents provided were reproduced in poor quality. Additionally the issue of local amenities was not challenged or questioned during the process. There was also concern noted that the individual comments made in response to the planning application were not presented to the planning committee but were summarised instead in the Case Officer’s report.

Cllr Hounsell advised that he had written to the National Planning Casework Unit to ensure that the application was referred to them and advised that they were awaiting receipt of the file from Sefton MBC.

**1100 To identify areas of responsibility for individual councillors to follow up before the next meeting**

Councillor Chambers: Cemetery traffic, Rakes Park development, Christmas tree

Councillor Hounsell: Holgate/Rothwells Lane planning application, Edward Holme Trust

**1101 Public Participation:**

The Chairman welcomed 2 members of the public and the following was discussed:

* There was disappointment that the results of the Thornton Corridor Study were not yet available.

**1102 Update from Councillors**

There were no further items raised.

**1103 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the meeting would take place on **Monday, 8th May 2017 at 7pm**.

Signed …………… Date …………… (Chairman).