THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

**MONDAY 8th MAY 2017**

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

**Also present:** Mrs Jones (clerk

**1108** **To receive apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Cooke and Pennington.

**1109** **To receive** **declarations of interest:** No declarations were received.

**1110 Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 3rd April 2017**:

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

**1111** **Matters arising:**

* Cllr Hounsell was to speak to the Trussell Trust in respect of the dispersal of funds from the Edward Holme Trust.
* Cllr Chambers advised that plans to meet with Bill Esterson MP were on hold until after the upcoming General Election. Mr Esterson had congratulated the Parish Council on its success in progressing the plans to upgrade The Crescent.

**1112 To Receive Reports from**:

***Sefton Central Area Committee*** Councillor Miles had attended the Area Committee meeting and advised that he did not feel that the interests of the Parish Councils were very well served at Area Committee level.

1. ***Parishes***

Councillor Miles had attended the 10 Parishes meeting and advised that the Partnership document from 2008 was to be reviewed and comments were invited.

**1113 Chairman’s Update**

* Plans for the Future

Cllr Hounsell outlined the difficulties that Parish Councils faced in having any input into decisions made by the Borough Council. It was suggested that in order to represent people effectively at local level the Parish Council would need to change and the possibilities of extending the Parish boundary or merging with neighbouring Parish Councils were discussed. Councillor Chambers advised that in order to change the Parish boundary 10% of the electoral roll would be needed to sign a petition. Counciilor Hounsell encouraged the Parish Councillors and the members of the public to consider how the Parish Council could evolve in the future and the matter was to be discussed in greater detail at future meetings.

**1114 Finance**

It was agreed to pay the following invoices:

Mrs J Jones Clerk’s Salary £184.70

School Lettings Room Hire £50.00

Aon Insurance £464.29

**1115 Planning and Correspondence:**

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

**1116 To discuss weed spraying in the area.**

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

**1117 To provide an update regarding Queen’s Torch Lighting**

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

**1118 To provide an update regarding the provision of a Christmas tree for 2017**

It was noted that Cllr Pennington had been approached to provide a crib to accompany the Christmas Tree this year and the local churches had agreed to provide the Nativity figures. Cllr Chambers had approached the two public houses in the Parish to explore the possibility of their involvement in the “switch on” of the tree this year and advised that both establishments were keen to offer support.

**1119 To discuss the following planning applications:**

* **Rakes Park**

The Clerk was in the process of liaising with the agents for the development to arrange a public meeting in June with the date to be advised. Councillor Chambers advised that the difficulties in turning right from Edge Lane to access the cemetery may be addressed by the developers as part of the plans; however requests would need to be made in writing. Councillor Chambers had also been advised that any increase in demand for schools and GP services etc. would only be addressed when the demand was in place.

* **Holgate/Rothwells Lane**

Cllr Cooke was not in attendance at the meeting to provide an update on the proposed development of eight houses on the Holgate/Rothwells Lane site however it was noted that the application had been approved with conditions and was not to be called in by the National Planning Casework Unit.

**1120 To resolve to adopt the Thornton Parish Council Data Protection Policy**

The Data Protection Policy which had been previously circulated by the Clerk was formally adopted by the Parish Council.

**1121** **To Provide an Update on the Thornton Corridor Study**

Councillor Chambers advised that the data from the Thornton Corridor Study was expected to be ready in June and consultation on any actions from the study was expected to take place in mid-2018.

**1122 To identify areas of responsibility for individual councillors to follow up before the next meeting**

Councillor Chambers: Christmas tree

Councillor Hounsell: Edward Holme Trust

**1123 Public Participation:**

The Chairman welcomed 12 members of the public and the following was discussed:

* One of the local business owners from The Crescent expressed disappointment with some of the aspects of the plans to upgrade the area. In particular it was felt that parking restrictions and the introduction of a loading bay would have a detrimental effect on business. Councillor Hounsell advised that neither the parking restrictions nor the loading bay were initiated by the Parish Council and were part of Sefton Council’s plans. Councillor Hounsell also offered to meet with the business owners to discuss their concerns. Councillor Chambers then advised that the consultation on the plans was still ongoing and the details were available on the Parish Council website.
* It was note that a large tree opposite no 13 Holgate was blocking light and a photograph was to be taken prior to contacting Sefton Council regarding this matter.
* The refuse bin outside Londi’s at The Crescent was missing.
* It was noted that the figures regarding pollution had still not been received from Sefton Council.
* Holgate residents present at the meeting wished to record thanks to Councillor Hounsell for his assistance in their opposition to the recent planning application.

**1124 Update from Councillors**

* There had been several incidents of criminal behaviour noted in the area and in particular Councillor Bain advised that new technology was in place to clone electronic key fobs and access vehicles. He advised that key fobs should be kept away from front door to properties and alternative security devices such as steering locks should be used.

In addition incidents of drug dealing had been noted and members of the public were encouraged to report anything suspicious to Merseyside Police.

* There had been an increase in dog fouling in the area and the clerk had received a copy of a letter sent by Melling Parish Council to Sefton Council requesting that a pet DNA database be set up to assist with identifying irresponsible owners. The Parish Council was to send a similar letter to Sefton Council in support of Melling Parish Council.
* Councillor Miles advised that he had been approached by Sefton Parish Council to assist them following the resignation of some Parish Councillors. It was felt that it would be difficult to serve on two Parish Councils at the same time and Councillor Miles advised he would not be pursuing this avenue.

**1125 Date of Next Meeting**

 It was noted that the meeting would take place on **Monday, 5th June 2017 at 7pm**.

Signed …………… Date …………… (Chairman).