THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

**MONDAY 2nd OCTOBER 2017**

**Present:** Councillors Hounsell (Chair), Cooke and Pennington.

**Also present:** Mrs Jones (clerk), Ward Councillors Carragher and McGinnity

**1187** **To receive apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Ward Councillor Kelly and P Nugent.

**1188** **To receive** **declarations of interest:** No declarations were made.

**1189 Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 4th September 2017**:

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

**1190 Matters Arising (for information only)**

* Councillor Hounsell advised that he had met with representatives of the Ramblers on site to address the issue of anti-social behaviour. Plans were in place to develop the site including the construction of three houses at the front of the site, the demolition of the tennis club building and the courts to be used for car parking.
* Councillor Cooke advised that the Holgate/Rothwells Lane residents’ group was to meet on Thursday and were trying to maintain good lines of communication with the developer in order to minimise disruption during and after the construction.

**1191 To Receive Reports from**:

***Sefton Central Area Committee*/*Ten Parishes*** Councillor Hounsell had attended the Area Committee meeting and had taken the opportunity to speak to the Ward Councillors who were present to request that they try to attend as many Parish Council meetings as possible. It was noted that two Ward Councillors were present at the meeting tonight and Councillor Hounsell thanked them both for their attendance.

The Clerk had attended the 10 Parishes meeting and advised that Jane Kennedy, Police and Crime Commissioner had given a very informative presentation regarding the difficulties that the Police were facing in terms of funding and demands on resources.

**1192 Chairman’s Update:**

* The Code of Conduct, which had previously been distributed by Councillor Hounsell was discussed and was to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting for formal adoption by the Parish Council.
* Councillor Hounsell and Councillor Cooke had met with Stuart Barnes, Chief Planning Officer from Sefton MBC to discuss the planning process and to express concerns about the lack of consideration given to local residents when planning applications were being considered. Both Councillors were very appreciative of Mr Barnes’ responses to the concerns raised and were hopeful that this would be taken on board for future applications.
* Councillor Hounsell advised that he was trying to arrange a meeting with Sue Ashe from Sefton Neighbourhoods’ Team to discuss the upgrade to The Crescent. Ward Councillor McGinnity advised that the one way system was to be introduced and he was awaiting a start date for the work.

**1193 Finance**

It was agreed to pay the following invoices

Mrs J Jones Clerk’s Salary £184.55

School Lettings – Room Hire £50.00

HMRC PAYE £138.40

BDO LLP – External Audit £156.00

It was also noted that the external audit for year ending 31.03.2017 had been completed and an additional amount of £30.00 had been charged to the Parish Council due to the auditor needing to request further information.

**1194 Planning and Correspondence:**

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

**1195 To discuss the current vacancies on the Parish Council**

It was noted that the Notice of Vacancy period had expired and the Parish Council were now in a position to co-opt new members. Any interested parties were encouraged to contact the clerk for further information.

**1196 To discuss the provision of a Christmas Tree etc. for 2017**

Councillor Pennington advised that he had been in contact with Ronnie Stafford from Sefton MBC to discuss the provision of a Christmas tree. It was hoped that the tree switch on would take place in early December, however this was subject to health and safety considerations and Councillor Pennington was to continue to liaise with Sefton MBC to ensure that all safety requirements were met. The Parish Council wished to place on record its appreciation to the two members of the public, Mr A Kelly and Mr G Moyles who were currently working on the construction of a nativity scene and also to Rev Kath Rogers who very kindly offered to provide storage.

Councillor Pennington was to set up a working group to progress the arrangements.

**1197 Public Participation**

The Chairman welcomed 28 members of the public and the following items were discussed:

* A member of the public advised that there had been an article in The Champion Newspaper advising that that Sefton Council were seeking the opinions of local residents on the matters of transport and general improvements to roads etc. It was noted that the closing date for submitting comments had been 30th September which did not allow for sufficient time. Ward Councillor Carragher was to investigate the possibility of having the closing date for the scheme extended.
* It was noted that Peel Ports had recently announced its intention to send a greater proportion of goods via rail. It was also noted that this announcement had been made shortly after Rimrose Valley had been identified as the preferred option for the Port of Liverpool Access Route. It was felt that using rail and canal links would be of great benefit to the local area as it would reduce the number of HGVs on the roads.
* Councillor Pennington advised that there were no plans in place for traffic management measures on Hartdale Road and it was noted that the traffic survey had been taken from the middle of the road where traffic was forced to slow down due a bend and therefore it did not provide an accurate representation of the speed of vehicles using the road.
* It was noted that there had been traffic monitoring equipment placed on Park View.
* Rev Kath Rogers requested that the Citizens’ Advice sessions held at the community hub be publicised on the Parish Council website and the clerk was to arrange this.
* The consultation regarding the closure of Edgemoor Drive at Moor Lane had now ended and it was hoped that the results would be available in the near future.
* Councillor Pennington was to continue to liaise with Lee Davies from Sefton Council regarding the traffic issues in the area, including Brook Road, Ince Road, Virgins Lane and Southport Road. It was also noted that the contractors working on the old Autism Initiatives building on Chesterfield Road were parking partly on the pavement outside the site causing difficulties for vehicles and pedestrians using the road.
* The provision of speed camera training for members of the public was discussed and several individuals present expressed an interest in this.
* It was noted that the old Southport Road was being classed an extension of Brooms Cross Road when, in fact, they were two different roads with differing speed limits.
* Sefton MBC had acknowledged the complaints regarding the overgrown hedges on Holgate, however they had advised that the issue would not be given priority and would be dependent on available resources.

**1198 Update from Councillors** There were no further matters raised.

**1199 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the meeting would take place on **Monday, 6th November 2017 at 7pm**.

Signed …………… Date …………… (Chairman).