THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

**MONDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2017**

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

**Also present:** Mrs Jones (clerk).

**1200** **To receive apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Ward Councillors Carragher and McGinnity

**1201** **To receive** **declarations of interest:** No declarations were made.

**1202 Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 2nd October 2017**:

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

**1203 Matters Arising (for information only)**

* The resolution to adopt the revised Code of Conduct as previously discussed was to be placed on the agenda for the December meeting.

**1204 To Receive Reports from**:

***Sefton Central Area Committee*/*Ten Parishes*** There were no reports given.

**1205 Chairman’s Update:**

* Councillor Hounsell advised that he had initiated email correspondence with several individuals at Sefton Council regarding the heavy vehicles accessing the Elm Farm development site and the damage being caused to the road and the hedgerows. Sefton Council had advised that photographs had been taken of the area prior to the commencement of the development and that there were no concerns about the access to date. The developers had been requested by Sefton Council to apply for retrospective planning permission for a temporary hard standing site which had been installed and that application was currently being considered.
* Councillor Cooke also provided an update on the Elm Farm development and advised that the current issues regarding access had been raised by the residents’ group prior to the application being approved but had been dismissed. Councillor Cooke had contacted the Health and Safety Executive regarding the matter and had also taken part in a walk around of the site with the Ward Councillors. In particular it was noted that the 20mph signage had been flattened on one side and was missing altogether on the other side, resulting in the absence of any speed limit signs. Lorries had been observed leaving the site at speed and the unloading of plant was causing physical obstacles on the road.
* A local resident in attendance at the meeting also reported issues regarding the development. In particular the lack of an independent survey of neighbouring properties prior to the commencement of work to monitor any subsequent damage caused by piling. Additionally there was a lack of consideration given to local residents in terms of privacy and also excessive noise during unsocial hours.

**1206 Finance**

It was agreed to pay the following invoices

Mrs J Jones Clerk’s Salary £184.55

School Lettings – Room Hire £50.00

SAPLC Annual donation £70.00

**1207 Planning and Correspondence:**

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

Councillor Cooke had been examining the Council Tax Reduction scheme consultation papers issued by Sefton MBC and advised that it was very difficult to assess the benefits or drawbacks to the proposals without specialist knowledge. Councillor Hounsell advised that he would also look at the proposals.

**1208 To discuss the current vacancies on the Parish Council**

Councillor Hounsell advised that there were four vacancies on the Parish Council and although some interest had been shown, further interested parties were encouraged to contact the clerk.

**1209 To discuss Councillors developing specialist areas of interest**

Councillor Hounsell advised that the membership of the Parish Council would be up for re-election in April 2019 and it was his intention to step down from the Parish Council at this point. He also advised that in the interim period he would be looking to work with a small committee within the Parish Council to develop a strategy to guide the Parish Council moving forward and to assist with the challenges brought about by the construction of over 700 new homes on the border of the Parish. It was hoped that when the council was up to full strength Councillors would be able to take ownership of different specialist areas to cope with the anticipated extra workload.

**1210 To discuss the possible closure of Water Street for the Christmas tree switch on and to look at associated costs.**

Following discussion it was decided that the cost of a temporary closure of Water Street (in the region of £1500.00) was too prohibitive for the Parish Council to meet. Councillor Pennington advised that the provisional date for the switch on was 24th November and members of the public were encouraged to volunteer to assist with crowd management. Councillor Pennington was to continue to liaise with Sefton MBC to ensure that all safety requirements were met and was also to liaise with Mr A Kelly and Mr G Moyles who had now completed the construction of the nativity scene.

Councillor Pennington also agreed to look at the costs of hiring/ purchasing fencing.

**1211 To set the calendar of meeting dates for 2018**

The calendar of meeting dates for 2018 were agreed with the exception of the February Open Meeting – date to be confirmed. The Clerk was to provide copies of the schedule at the December meeting.

**1212 Public Participation**

The Chairman welcomed 33 members of the public and the following items were discussed:

* Details of a pre-planning application for the land adjacent to The Ramblers was circulated detailing the construction of six semi-detached houses on the front of the site on Moor Lane and a car park for The Rambers to be built on the current tennis court which was owned by Sefton Council. Residents expressed concerns that the road to access the car park would need to be substantial enough to allow for coach access and it was felt that this would then lead to further housing development at the rear of the site. Concerns were also expressed that Ward Councillor Kelly had encouraged the pre-planning application despite sitting on the planning committee. Councillor Hounsell advised that the best way forward was for the concerned residents to form a united group and to request information regarding the plans and, in particular, any covenants which may restrict development of the site. Councillor Cooke agreed to assist the residents in setting up the group.
* The wider traffic consultation across Sefton had been discussed at the previous meeting and the Clerk was to email Ward Councillor Carragher to enquire whether there had been any progress in extending the closing date to allow residents to submit comments.
* Councillor Pennington advised that there were no plans in place for a further traffic survey on Hartdale Road, however he had registered a complaint 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.
* Traffic issues in the area were again discussed and in particular the interim measures which had been promised by Sefton Council to address the issues. The closure of Edgemoor Drive at Moor Lane had originally been scheduled for April 2018 and a resident requested information as to whether this was to be done. It was noted that there had been some changes to the sequencing of the lights at the junction near Aldi giving pedestrians less time to cross the road at certain times of the day. Councillor Hounsell advised that Andrea Robinson was currently in the process of examining the proposed works to The Crescent in conjunction with the wider area proposals identified by the Thornton Corridor Study. Councillor Hounsell had requested that the Parish Council be included in any discussions held.
* A timescale for the introduction of the one way system at The Crescent, which Ward Councillor McGinnity had advised was to go ahead, was also requested.
* The opposition to the decision to approve a Hot Food outlet at The Crescent had been escalated to the Chief Executive of Sefton Council for further examination of the process.
* It was requested that the possibility of blocking off the exit from Southport Road to Park View be explored as part of the wider traffic plans for the area in order to prevent the road being used as a cut though. It was noted that the lay by would need to be extended to enable service vehicles to turn around.

**1213 Update from Councillors** There were no further matters raised.

**1214 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the meeting would take place on **Monday, 4th December 2017 at 7pm**.

Signed …………… Date …………… (Chairman).