THORNTON PARISH COUCIL

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

**MONDAY 9th APRIL 2018**

Prior to the commencement of formal business Sgt Paul Mountford from the Roads Policing Unit addressed the meeting to discuss the implementation of a Speed Watch Group for Thornton along with the necessary training. There were several individuals interested in the training and Cllr Pennington was to liaise with Sgt Mountford. The Parish Council wished to thank Sgt Mountford for his very informative talk and agreed to invite him to return at a future date to discuss the matter further.

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

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

**1256** **To receive apologies for absence:** No apologies were received.

**1257** **To receive** **declarations of interest:** No declarations were made.

**1258 To resolve to co-opt Ms Therese Draper to the Parish Council**

 It was unanimously agreed that Ms Therese Draper be co-opted to the Parish Council and the Declaration of Acceptance was duly signed by Ms Draper.

**1259 Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 5th March 2018**:

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

**1260 Matters Arising (for information only)** The following matters were highlighted:

* The Clerk had written to Sefton Council requesting that signs be provided at the top of Larchfield and St William’s Roads and the signs were now in place although concerns were expressed that the signs were being knocked down on a regular basis. Additionally the bollards blocking entry to Edgemoor Drive had also been moved on several occasions and it was suggested that a concrete bollard would be more effective. Concerns were noted that the trial closure of the road may be flawed if the bollards were not being kept in place.
* The clerk had contacted Sefton Council to clarify whether a reference number was usually generated when a member of the public made contact with the council. The clerk was advised that the contact centre would normally generate a reference number; however this may not be the case if individual departments were contacted direct.
* The Clerk had responded to correspondence from the “Frack Free Formby” group asking to be kept informed of the future activities of the group.

**1261 To Receive Reports from**:

***Sefton Central Area Committee*** There was no report given

***Ten Parishes*** The meeting to discuss the future of the Ten Parishes had been cancelled and there had been no further meetings arranged.

**1262 Chairman’s Update:**

This item was discussed at various points during the meeting.

**1263 Finance**

It was agreed to pay the following invoices

Netwise Training – Web Support £200.00

Mrs J Jones Clerk’s Salary & Expenses £184.75

HMRC –PAYE £92.40

Champion Newspapers – job advert £509.41

**1264 Planning and Correspondence:**

* The Clerk read out correspondence received from Sefton’s Planning Department.
* Correspondence had been received regarding changes to both the Audit procedures and also to the Data Protection requirements and the Clerk was to examine the new requirements to ensure that the Council met all responsibilities.

**1265 To discuss the future development of the Parish**

The future possibility of extending the Parish Boundary to include the new developments proposed under the Plan for Sefton was discussed and Cllr Hounsell was to explore this issue.

**1266 To resolve to formally request that Sefton Council undertake a Community Governance Review with the intention being to extend the Parish Boundary to incorporate those roads between Edge Lane and Edgemoor Drive not currently within the Thornton Parish Council Boundary**

It was proposed by Cllr Cooke and seconded by Cllr White that Sefton Council be formally requested to undertake this Community Governance Review and Cllr Hounsell was to contact Neil Middlehurst at Sefton Electoral Services.

**1267** **To discuss the benefits of local community Groups.**

Cllr Hounsell outlined the benefits of Community Groups in fostering a greater community spirit. He cited the recent residents’ meetings regarding the closure of Edgemoor Drive as an example of community spirit and empowerment and noted that plans were in place for a street party to celebrate the upcoming Royal Wedding.

**1268 To discuss the provision of a Home Watch Scheme: To try to enlist support for such a scheme and the benefits of being within one.**

Cllr Pennington outlined the benefits of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and in particular the possibility of a reduction in home insurance premiums for those areas involved. The benefit of setting up a WhatsApp group to improve local communication was also discussed. Cllr Pennington was to provide further information about the Home Watch programme.

**1269 To discuss ideas for a commemorative event to mark the anniversary of the end of World War** I

Ideas were still being sought for a commemorative event and the possibility of having a plaque placed on the Stocks and Sundial remembering the names of residents who had fought in the conflict was suggested.

**1270 Public Participation:**

The Chairman welcomed 23 members of the public and the following items were discussed:

* The consultation regarding the closure of Edgemoor Drive was underway and was due to close on Friday 13th April. Sefton Council had advised residents that the data collected would be separated, with responses received from local residents and those from the wider area, being fed back separately.The friends of Edgemoor Drive Group were in the process of visiting the properties on the estate asking for signatures to a petition requesting the road remain closed. During this process a number of people indicated that they had changed their view on the proposal during the trial closure. Concerns were voiced that some residents who had signed a previous petition against the closure may have changed their views and therefore may have added their details to both petitions. The Parish Council was to await the closure of the consultation before making an official decision.

Cllr Hounsell was to write to Stephen Birch at Sefton Council to advise him of the points made during this evening’s discussion.

* The ongoing development of the Elm Farm/Rothwells Lane site was continuing to cause problems for residents and there had been a lack of response from Sefton Council to the residents’ concerns. Sefton Council had visited to inspect the site, however it was felt that they had not gained a true representation of the difficulties experienced due to the timing of the visit; immediately after the road sweeper had attended and just prior to the Easter shut down.
* The plans for the upgrade of The Crescent were progressing subject to legal requirements and Cllr Hounsell outlined the plans, including the ends of the road being extended forcing traffic to slow down to negotiate access.

**1271 Update from Councillors**

* The Clerk advised that Hightown Parish Council were to hold the inaugural Hightown Festival on the weekend of 21/22 April and members of the public from the wider area were very welcome to attend.

**1272 Date of Next Meeting**

 It was noted that the meeting would take place on **Monday, 14th May 2018 at 7pm**.

Signed …………… Date …………… (Chairman).