THORNTON PARISH COUCIL

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

**MONDAY 4th February 2019**

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

**Also present:** Mr Challinor (clerk)

**1375** **To receive apologies for absence:** No apologies received.

**1376** **To receive** **declarations of interest:** No declarations were made.

**1377 Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 14th January 2019**:

Council agreed minutes as an accurate record.

**1378 Matters Arising (for information only)** The following matters were highlighted:

* Website to be finished and updated.
* Confirmation required regarding location of the Christmas crib.
* Further information needed surrounding the weight limit on Holgate Road.

**1379 Chairman’s Update (for information only):**

* Cllr Pennington raised concerns regarding Hardale Road being used as a rat run with vehicles exceeding the speed limit.
* Broad Lane drainage ditches are being illegally filled causing overflow. Clerk to contact Sefton Council Flood Team.
* Cllr Pennington raised whether Councillors would support a chip shop on The Crescent if it had an extended license. Council requested further details regarding the planning application.
* Chair thanked the current Clerk and Jeanette Jones, previous Thornton Parish Council Clerk, for the robust financial systems that were commended by HMRC after review.
* Thornton Parish Council currently has two vacant positions for Councillors. Current positions of Councillors will expire on 7th May 2019.
* Chair read out the Elections briefing from Neil Middlehurst.
* Chair confirmed Clerk’s resignation as of Tuesday 30th April. Councillors agreed to begin a new interview process for a Clerk. Cllr Draper and White agreed to form part of the interview panel.

**1380** **Clerk’s Update (for information only).**

* Clerk confirmed that Sefton Council’s Highways Team have no history of Holgate having a weight restriction on it.
* Clerk highlighted Neil Middlehurst’s interest in meeting with residents regarding the forthcoming elections. Suggested inviting Mr Middlehurst to next Council meeting.
* Confirmed that Cllr Cooke and Pennington will need to attend Natwest Bank in order to become signatories for Community Bank Account.

**1381 Finances:**

* Councillors agreed to have the precept remain at £5000.00 for the forthcoming financial year.
* Councillors agreed to maintain the Clerk’s salary at £2760.00 per annum.
* Clerk’s wages (January) - £230.00
* Clerk’s Expenses (January) - £25.00

**1382 Planning and Correspondence:**

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

**1383 Councillors to welcome guest speakers and adjourn the meeting for a period of Public participation:**

The Chairman welcomed 6 members of the public and Adam and Jody, Police Officers from Merseyside Police based in Marsh Lane:

* Residents raised concerns about criminal activity taking place on The Crescent, predominantly relating to the purchase of drugs. Merseyside Police confirmed that CCTV across Sefton is installed and controlled by Sefton Arc, not Merseyside Police.
* Merseyside Police suggested potentially speaking with Sefton Arc in support of residents’ concerns to install CCTV in the area in order to deter criminal activity and to potentially hinder dangerous driving.
* Councillors requested to include a quarterly agenda item from Merseyside Police regarding updates and criminal activity in the area.
* Merseyside Police recommended inquiring about hiring police officers to be present at future agents to support security.
* Councillors agreed to have more direct contact with Merseyside Police Community Team to better reflect the views and concerns of residents.

**1384 To adjourn the meeting so that Councillors may provide an update on any Council related matters.**

**1385 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the meeting would take place on **Monday 11th March 2019 at 7pm**.

Signed …………… Date …………… (Chairman)