**THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**MONDAY 18th JANUARY 2016**

This meeting was postponed from Monday 11th January 2016 due to a problem with the venue.

**Present:** Councillors Hounsell, Bain, Chambers, Miles, Mrs Olsen, Pengelly,

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

**936** **Apologies for Absence:** Inspector Jones – Merseyside Police.

**937** **Declarations of Interest:**

No declarations were made.

**938 Public Participation:**

The Chairman welcomed six members of the public to the meeting and the following items were brought up for discussion:

* The submission compiled by Councillor Hounsell for the examination of the Plan for Sefton was now available on the Parish Council’s website and it was felt to be very thorough and well compiled.
* The Parish Council were now using Twitter and Councillor Chambers explained the benefits to the council in in terms of communicating with the public.
* Various street lights had been out and two in particular, outside 10 Brook Road and on the triangle at The Crescent, had been out for some time despite being reported to Sefton. Councillor Hounsell agreed to follow up this matter.
* Vehicles had been observed parking on the pavement outside Aldi on Virgins Lane rather than using the car park which was causing problems to pedestrians. Also vehicles had been parking on the pavement between Ince Road and Woodland View forcing pedestrians onto the road. The clerk was to write to Aldi and Councillor Bain agreed to contact the enforcement team to highlight this matter.
* The lack of bus shelters on Brooms Cross Road was discussed and Councillor Olsen was to follow up this matter.
* There was a build-up of mud in and around the area of Long Lane making it very difficult for people crossing the road. Councillor Hounsell advised that Stephen Birch from Sefton Council was actively looking at the issues in the areas surrounding the new road and it was hoped that he would be available to attend the Parish Meeting scheduled for February.

**939 Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 9th November 2015**:

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

**940** **Matters arising:**

* There was a problem with street cleaning in the Parish and in particular with clearing of leaves. Although it was acknowledged that austerity measures were affecting the level of service provided by Sefton, it was felt that the needs of Thornton should be pressed on a regular basis in an attempt to improve provision.
* The clerk had been advised by the Ward Councillor that there was a possibility of a bin from another area being relocated to Thornton if need could be proven. Councillor Bain agreed to check on the amount of bins currently in situ and to speak to Gary Berwick at Sefton about the matter.
* There was no further information at present about the plans for the buildings adjacent to The Ramblers.

**941 Reports**:

***Sefton Central Area Committee*** There was no report given on the Area Committee; however Councillor Hounsell was hoping to attend the next meeting with the two new Parish Councillors.

1. ***Parishes*** There was no report given on the 10 Parishes. Councillor Miles was to

attend the next meeting.

**942 Chairman’s Business**

This item was covered at various points throughout the meeting

**943 2016/17 Budget and Precept**

The budget for 2016/17 was submitted to the Council by the clerk for discussion prior to arriving at the precept for 2016/17. After discussion and bearing in mind the level of reserves held by the Council and the funds committed for the development of The Crescent, it was proposed by Councillor Pengelly and seconded by Councillor Bain that the Council set a Precept of £4500.00 for the coming financial year. The Clerk will inform Sefton Council Finance Department of the Precept value.

**944 Finance:**

**Invoices:** The Council agreed to pay the following invoices:

Plantscape £235.20

Clerk’s Salary and Expenses £326.67

School Lettings Solutions £50.00

Chair’s expenses (re printing) £60.00

**945 Planning and Correspondence:**

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

**946 Review of Fidelity Guarantee/ financial procedures**

It was unanimously agreed that the current level of fidelity guarantee and the financial procedures in place should remain unchanged.

**947 Flooding problems in the area**

Flooding continued to be a major problem in the area at various locations all over the Parish. The issue was being addressed; various grids had been cleared of leaves and a new pipe had been laid across the junction at Park View from Green Lane to Ince Road. The failure of some riparian owners to maintain the water flow on their own properties was also highlighted and was suggested as a possible topic for inclusion in the next newsletter.

**948 Street sweeping**

This item had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

**949 Traffic issues**

The opening of Brooms Cross Road had created traffic problems in the area and data collection units were in place in various locations. Councillor Hounsell advised that this matter was being looked at by Stephen Birch and he would be able to update the Parish Council on this matter in the near future.

**950 The Plan for Sefton**

The hearings for the Plan for Sefton were currently taking place. Councillor Hounsell had attended the hearings but had been unable to speak due to the session running over the allocated time. A written submission had been entered instead and this was available on Sefton’s website. Councillor Chambers wished to place on record the appreciation of the Parish Council for Councillor Hounsell’s hard work and commitment in this area.

**951 Individual Responsibilities and Commitment**

* Councillors were encouraged to take individual responsibility for the various issues affecting the Parish and the following areas of responsibility were suggested:

Street cleansing, litter bins etc / The Crescent – Cllrs Bain and Pengelly

Flooding / Social Media – Cllr Chambers

Bus Stops – Cllrs Miles and Mrs Olsen

Traffic / New Road – Cllr Hounsell

* Communication via email was also discussed and it was agreed that not all emails should be universally copied within the Parish Council membership if the content did not warrant it. Instead Councillors would be able to communicate to each other and would provide an update to all of the members on a regular basis of activities undertaken and progress made.
* The subject of electing a Vice Chair was also discussed and it was to be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

**952 Aim, Vision and Objectives**

It was agreed that this item would be better discussed amongst the members of the Parish Council with the findings reported back to the public at the Parish Council’s Ordinary Meeting.

**953 Update on Council related matters**

There were no issues raised under this item.

**954 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the meeting should take place on **Monday, 7th March 2016 at 7pm**.

Signed …………… Date …………… (Chairman)