THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

**MONDAY 4th JULY 2016**

**Present:** Councillors Hounsell (Chair of Meeting), Chambers and Miles.

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

Prior to the meeting Cllr Hounsell apologised to the meeting for the disruption which had occurred at the previous meeting in May. Councillors Chamber also offered apologies as did Mr G Pennington, Mrs E Moss and Mr J Lemon. Councillor Chambers also wished to record the Parish Council’s appreciation of Fr Harrington’s timely intervention which helped to restore calm. Mr Pennington enquired whether the meeting had been taped and was assured that it had not.

**993** **Apologies for Absence:** Sue Ash (Sefton Neighbourhoods Division), Iain Brodie-Browne (Mayor of Sefton) and Councillors Bain and Pengelly.

**994** **Declarations of Interest:**

No declarations were received.

**995 Public Participation:**

The Chairman welcomed 11 members of the public to the meeting and the following items were brought up for discussion:

* There had been a recent by-election for one of the vacancies on the Parish Council and Mr George Pennington had been elected without contest and would take up office after 24th July 2016. Councillor Hounsell welcomed Mr Pennington back onto the Parish Council. The remaining vacancy was to be the subject of a further by-election.
* Councillor Hounsell reflected on two recent planning applications for a chip shop at The Crescent, both of which had been refused. As members of the Parish Council held different views it was agreed that the Parish Council took a neutral approach. Councillor Miles expressed his dissatisfaction that Councillor Hounsell had written to the Planning Department outlining the reasons why previous applications had been refused which Councillor Miles felt was in contravention of the Parish Council’s neutral stance. Councillor Hounsell replied that the letter had been sent because of the Parish Council’s commitment to address pedestrian/vehicular conflict at The Crescent.
* A poster had been placed at The Crescent advertising services of an adult nature which was inappropriate in such close proximity to the school. The clerk was to write to Sefton Planning department to highlight this.
* There were still problems with Brooms Cross Road which were causing difficulties for residents in the surrounding areas. The Chair advised that the problems in the area with congestion and speeding were still being monitored and reassured residents that the Parish Council would continue to press for resolutions to the problems. Councillor Hounsell advised that he had requested that the markings at the box junction be renewed.
* There was to be a meeting organised by Sefton Parish Council with Highways England to discuss the A3506 Port of Liverpool Access Scheme. Councillor Miles was to attend on behalf of the Parish Council and the Clerk was to enquire whether the meeting was open to further attendees.
* Plans had been submitted for improvements to the crematorium and Fr Harrington advised that the facility would only be operating on Thursdays and Fridays while the works took place. The Clerk was to write to Sefton to seek clarification on this matter.
* The poor provision of public transport in the Parish was discussed and it was agreed that a representative from Merseytravel be invited to address a future meeting.

**996 Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 9th May 2016**:

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

**997** **Matters arising:**

* Councillor Chambers advised that there were plans in place to have a sustainable Christmas tree placed at the old Village Green near to the Nag’s Head Public House.
* Councillor Chambers advised that representatives from Sefton who had originally agreed to be present at this meeting to address flooding issues had, instead organised a meeting at Play Football in Drummond Road on 19th July 2016 and riparian owners had received a letter inviting them to attend.
* Funding for improvements to The Crescent were again discussed and Councillor Hounsell advised that the plan was to fund small projects to improve both the appearance and safety of the area.

**998 Reports**: ***Sefton Central Area Committee*** There was no report on the Area Committee. Councillor Hounsell expressed the view that the Area Committee did not offer a great deal of opportunity for Parish Council involvement.

1. ***Parishes*** Councillor Miles advised that the 10 Parishes also held the same view of

the Area Committee.

**999 Chairman’s Business**

This item had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

**1000 Update on Stocks and Sundial**

Councillor Hounsell advised that the Stocks and Sundial project had been awarded a grant of £9000.00 form the Heritage Lottery Fund and the project had been launched with the involvement of St William of York Primary School and Holy Family High School. Councillor Hounsell was to involve Daniel Byron, Sefton’s Conservation Officer in the project. The meeting wished to record thanks to Councillor Hounsell for his hard work and commitment to the project.

**1001 Election**

The outcome of the election had been discussed previously in the meeting and Councillor Hounsell advised that the financial cost of the election was to be advised.

**1002 Boundary Sign**

The boundary sign which had been removed from Southport Road was to be re-sited on Park View near the entrance to the famer’s field. The original sign which contractors had removed was still to be located. Also the benches which had been removed could not be identified and Councillor Miles was to provide photographs of the original benches to assist with this.

**1003 Edward Holme Trust**

Councillor Hounsell advised that there was approximately £5000.00 in the Trust which was specifically to be used for the poor of Thornton and Councillors were requested to consider how this money could be best used within the criteria of the trust. However the ultimate decision as to whether or not the money could be disposed of would be down to the Charity Commission following representation from Formby Council for Voluntary Service which currently manages the charity.

**1004 Planning and Correspondence:**

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

**1005 Finance: Invoices:** The Council agreed to pay the following invoices:

Clerk’s Salary and Expenses £240.95

Plantscape (Summer Planting) £176.40

HMRC PAYE £116.60

Batten Hughes (Internal Audit) £144.00

**1006 To consider the resignation of Councillor Pengelly**

Councillor Hounsell advised that following the disturbances at the meeting in May Councillor Pengelly had tendered his resignation both as Chair and as Parish Councillor. Councillor Pengelly agreed to take some time to reflect on the decision but ultimately wished his resignation to stand. The Parish Council regretfully accepted the resignation of Councillor Pengelly and wished to place on record its appreciation of his hard work and commitment to the Parish throughout his service.

**1007 To consider the resignation of Councillor Bain**

Councillor Hounsell advised that Councillor Bain had tendered his resignation however he agreed to reflect on his decision upon his return from holiday and therefore his resignation was “on hold” for the moment.

**1008 To Consider the Resignation of Mrs J Jones (Clerk)**

Mrs Jones had tendered her resignation due to work and family commitments and her resignation was accepted. The meeting wished to thank her for her service and offer her good wishes for the future. Mrs Jones was to remain in post until a replacement was found and was ready to take over her duties.

**1009 To Discuss Weeding on Gutters in Residential Streets.**

The gutters on residential streets were not being weeded on a regular basis and the Clerk was to write to Sefton to highlight this matter.

**1010 Update on Council related matters**

Councillor Hounsell read out an update provided by Councillor Bain on various matters.

**1011 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the meeting should take place on **Monday, 5th September 2016 at 7pm**.

Signed …………… Date …………… (Chairman)