THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

**MONDAY 3rd JULY 2017**

**Present:** Councillors Hounsell (Chair), Bain and Chambers.

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

**1145** **To receive apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Councillors Cooke, Miles and Pennington.

**1146** **To receive** **declarations of interest:** Councillors Bain and Chambers declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 19 on the agenda “To discuss the Parish Council’s response to the consultation paper for the 4 options of Thornfield/Edgemoor/Ronaldsway”. Both Councillors requested a dispensation to participate in the discussion which was granted by the Council.

**1147 Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 5th June 2017**:

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

**1148 Matters Arising (for information only)**

The advertising posters had now been removed from the lampposts.

There had been no response from Sefton Council to the request to provide a schedule for weed spraying in the area.

The overgrown brambles in Holgate had still not been cleared.

**1149 Public Participation:**

The Chairman welcomed 57 members of the public and the following was discussed:

* Item 19 on the agenda “To discuss the Parish Council’s response to the consultation paper for the 4 options of Thornfield/Edgemoor/Ronaldsway” was brought forward and discussed at this point to enable members of the public in attendance at the meeting to take part in the discussion. (List of Roads represented at the meeting is attached)

Councillor Chambers provided a presentation of the different options suggested by Sefton Council as part of the Thornton Corridor Study to address the traffic problems in the area. This part of the study was specifically concerned with Edgemoor Drive, Thornfield Road and Ronaldsway. After outlining the different options a full discussion was had with members of the public having the opportunity to express opinions and concerns. Concerns were expressed about emergency service vehicular access and also about the possible increase in traffic on Edge Lane. It was decided that a poll be taken of the people in attendance at the meeting as to the preferred option and option E – the closure of Edgemoor Drive at Moor Lane with the use of bollards- had the majority of votes. It was decided that the Parish Council would write a letter to Lee Davies at Sefton Council to advise of this.

It was also noted that some people may not have returned the consultation papers and members of the public who had not responded were encouraged to. Councillor Chambers wished to place on record his appreciation of the two residents who had visited all of the houses in Thornfield Road to encourage people to take part in the consultation and volunteers were requested to visit the remaining properties included in the scheme.

* Councillor Chambers advised that there was currently no date for the planned improvements to The Crescent. It was doubtful that the scheme would progress as there had been a lack of response to the consultation of the residents and business owners at the site.
* There had been complaints regarding anti-social behaviour at The Ramblers and the Tennis Club with reports of underage drinking, scrambler bike use, drug taking and vandalism. It was noted that following the end of the school examination period there were upwards of 100 children on the field. Councillor Bain agreed to follow up this matter on behalf of the residents concerned.
* An individual had been noted taking photographs of the area surrounding the Rothwells Lane/Holgate development and there was concern raised that there may be plans for the cutting back of the hedge at the back of The Nag’s Head Public House. Councillor Hounsell advised that he would advise Councillor Cooke of the matter and encouraged the resident concerned to take photographs of the hedge in its current state.
* There was concern noted at the likely increase in traffic problems in the area if the housing developments at Rakes Park and Rushtons were to go ahead without any traffic management solutions.
* Councillor Hounsell agreed to speak to the residents at Holgate who had an overgrown tree outside the property blocking light.

**1150 To Receive Reports from**:

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

**1151 Chairman’s Update:**

* Cllr Hounsell advised that an agreement was in place with The Trussel Trust in respect of the dispersal of funds from the Edward Holme Trust.

**1152 To Review the decision to increase the frequency of Parish Council Meetings to a monthly basis.**

It was considered that insufficient time had elapsed to effectively review this decision and the area would be re-visited at the December meeting.

**1153 Finance**

It was agreed to pay the following invoices:

Mrs J Jones Clerk’s Salary £184.55

School Lettings Room Hire £50.00

PAYE HMRC £184.60

St William of York Catholic Primary School £585.00 (Heritage Lottery Account)

Holy Family Catholic High School £585.00 (Heritage Lottery Account)

**1154 Planning and Correspondence:**

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

**1155 To Discuss the Boundary Planters**

Councillor Hounsell reiterated the Parish Council’s desire to have the maintenance of the planters carried out at a local level and a member of the public in attendance at the meeting offered to assist with this.

**1156 To discuss the new bench outside Jospice**

Councillor Hounsell advised that he was looking into the possibility of having a Thornton Parish Council plaque added to the bench

**1157 To discuss life-saving equipment at the attenuation ponds**

Councillor Hounsell advised that the equipment was in situ although it was noted that at times it had fallen from its holder on to the floor.

**1158 To review areas of responsibility for individual councillors.**

Councillor Chambers expressed the view that the workload of the Parish Council was not shared equally amongst individuals. It was noted that ill health may be preventing some councillors from playing a more active role. Cllr Chambers explained he was stating that his concern is nothing to do with illness, but ongoing matters dating back over 2 and half years explaining a lack of full involvement by individuals since he began. A member of the public interjected stating that they felt an ill man was being victimised. As there were only three councillors in attendance at the meeting it was felt that it was not appropriate to discuss the matter further at this point.

**1159 To adopt the Thornton Parish Council Social Media Policy**

The policy which had been circulated previously was formally adopted. Councillor Bain wished to place on record appreciation to the Clerk for her efforts in compiling the policy.

**1160 To Review the future of the Parish Council**

The difficulties in representing people effectively at local level under the existing structure of the Parish Council and the possibilities of extending the Parish boundary or merging with neighbouring Parish Councils was again highlighted. Members of the public were encouraged to apply for the existing vacancy on the Parish Council.

**1161 To Discuss Care in the Chemist – Sefton CCG**

Councillor Chambers advised that the pharmacy at the Crescent had ceased to offer Care at the Chemist meaning that children and people in receipt benefits would no longer be able to receive over the counter medication free of charge. The clerk was to seek clarification about the scheme prior to a letter being sent to Sefton CCG.

**1162 To discuss community work – Three Churches request**

The Rev Rogers had approached the Parish Council with the possibility of it becoming involved in community events. The Council agreed to consider this matter further.

**1163 To provide an update regarding the provision of Christmas figures for 2017**

Cllr Chambers advised that he had been investigating the possibility of adding a nativity scene to the Christmas installation this year and provided an example of suitable figures. There had been an offer to provide fencing to secure the area free of charge and the Grapes Public House had offered to store the items during the year. Councillor Chambers agreed to continue to pursue this matter.

**1164 To discuss the Parish Council’s response to the consultation paper for the 4 options of Thornfield/Edgemoor/Ronaldsway**

This item was discussed in the public participation section of the meeting.

**1165 Update from Councillors**

* The Clerk advised that she had been contacted by Sefton Council enforcement team to ascertain who was responsible for the maintenance of the hedge at the corner of Lydiate Lane and Green Lane. Although members of the public recalled the hedge being cut back a number of years ago, there was no information as to who had been responsible for the work. The Clerk was to contact Sefton Council to advise of this.

**1166 Date of Next Meeting**

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

Signed …………… Date …………… (Chairman).