THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

**MONDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2017**

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

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

**Before the commencement of official business all those present stood to observe a period of silence in remembrance of the late Councillor David Miles.**

**1167** **To receive apologies for absence:** No apologies were received.

**1168** **To receive** **declarations of interest:** No declarations were made.

**1169 Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 3rd July 2017**:

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

**1170 Matters Arising (for information only)**

* The issue of anti-social behaviour at The Ramblers was still causing a problem and a member of the public reported an incident of possible gun shots during the early hours of the morning. Additionally it was noted that a substantial amount of empty gas canisters had been found on the site. Counsellor Hounsell agreed to liaise with ex Councillor Bain to address the issues.
* The clerk was to write to the Numark pharmacy chain to highlight the effect of the store’s withdrawal from the care in the chemist scheme.

**1171 To Receive Reports from**:

***Sefton Central Area Committee*/*Ten Parishes*** There were no reports given. The Clerk was to attend the Ten Parishes AGM later in the month.

**1172 Chairman’s Update:**

* Councillor Hounsell advised that there were currently four vacancies on the Parish Council which were to be advertised. He then explained the procedure for filling the vacancies and encouraged any interested party to contact the Clerk. Cllr Hounsell was to arrange a meeting of current and ex Parish Councillors in order to move forward and to learn from the difficulties of the recent past.

**1173 To Review the decision to increase the frequency of Parish Council Meetings to a monthly basis.**

It was considered that the increase in attendance from the public at recent meetings justified the decision to move to a monthly schedule of meetings and it was agreed this would be continued.

**1174 Finance**

It was agreed to pay the following invoices:

Mrs J Jones Clerk’s Salary £369.30

**1175 Planning and Correspondence:**

The Clerk read out correspondence received from Sefton’s Planning Department.It was noted that a residents’ group had been formed to attempt to reverse the recent decision to allow the appeal for a hot food outlet at The Crescent. The residents’ group had recently met with Ward Councillor Kelly and agreed to update the Parish Council on its progress.

**1176 To Consider the Resignations of Councillors Bain and Chambers**

Councillor Hounsell advised that Councillors Bain and Chambers had recently resigned from the Parish Council and both resignations were accepted. The Chair thanked both councillors for their service to the Parish Council.

**1177 To Discuss the Future of Thornton Parish Council**

It was noted that the increase in public attendance at meetings highlighted the need for a strong united Parish Council to represent the people of Thornton. The need to respect different opinions and to move forward with a common aim was also highlighted and Councillor Cooke agreed to review the Parish Council’s Code of Conduct.

**1178 To discuss Traffic Management on Hartdale Road**

Councillor Pennington agreed to contact Lee Davies at Sefton Council to request that Hartdale Road be included in the recent traffic management study.

**1179 Green Lane: To discuss road signage, classification and traffic management.**

Councillor Pennington agreed to contact the Highways Department at Sefton to request the removal of outdated signage and to explore traffic management for Green Lane.

**1180 To discuss the provision of a Christmas Tree etc. for 2017**

Councillor Hounsell agreed to contact ex Councillor Chambers to request the latest information on the provision of a Christmas tree. A member of the public present offered to make a crib for the display and Councillor Pennington agreed to progress this matter. Cllr Pennington was advised by the chair that the whole site will need to be protected by temporary fencing to control access from the nearby roads. In addition he should endeavour to form a Community Group to manage the event starting with the 2 licensees, the gentleman who offered make the crib set and others to be identified

**1181 To discuss the proposed Windles Lane development.**

The clerk had previously circulated a response from Sefton Parish Council to the planning department regarding the proposed development. The response was noted and the meeting wished to thank Sefton Parish Council for including Thornton Parish Council in its communications.

**1182 To provide an update on the Elm Farm/Rothwells Lane development**

Councillor Cooke advised that the developers responsible for the plan had submitted further applications for more dwellings on the site. The residents’ group had decided that rather than oppose the plans outright it would be more effective to work with the developer to modify the plans to be in keeping with the existing properties in the area and to that ensure safety, privacy and access to light were prioritised. Councillor Cooke advised that members of the residents’ group had met with the planning officer to discuss the matter and had submitted a letter to both Forth Homes and also to Diane Humphrey (Case Officer), with a deadline of Friday 8th September for formal responses. A member of the public suggested that access to the development from Brooms Cross Road rather than Holgate would be a better solution and Councillor Cooke agreed to investigate this possibility. Councillors Hounsell and Cooke were to seek a meeting with Stuart Barnes from Sefton Council’s planning department to address the problems experienced during the planning application process.

**1183 To discuss the issue of litter in the area**

The clerk had received communication from a local resident just outside the Parish Council boundary who was concerned about litter in the area. The clerk advised that Sefton’s neighbourhood division were able to provide some assistance if a litter pick was organised and the Parish Council was to re-examine this issue when the vacancies on the council had been filled.

**1184 Public Participation:**

The Chairman welcomed 33 members of the public and the following items were discussed:

* A member of the public had received a letter from Sefton Council regarding traffic lights being placed on the old Southport Road site and advised he would pass a copy of the letter to Councillor Hounsell.
* Councillor Hounsell advised that Rimrose Valley had been identified as the preferred option for the Port of Liverpool Access Route. It was hoped that this would help to alleviate some of the traffic problems in Thornton. It was anticipated that work would commence in 2020.
* It was noted that two of the litter bins at The Crescent were now missing and the clerk was to pursue this matter.
* One of the shop keepers from the Crescent who was present at the meeting advised that he had received a further communication from Sefton requesting feedback on modified plans for the upgrade of the area. It was noted that the Parish Council had not received any information regarding this and the clerk was to contact Sue Ashe at Sefton to request an update on the current position.
* It was noted that there was no representation at the meeting from either the Ward Councillors or the Member of Parliament.
* Councillor Hounsell agreed to continue to pursue the issue of the overgrown tree outside a property in Holgate.
* The Clerk was to contact Sefton Council again about the overgrown hedges on Holgate.
* It was suggested that Southport Road could be blocked off at the Park View end to address the traffic issues there and Councillor Hounsell agreed to look into this.

**Councillor Hounsell then asked the members of the public to suggest areas of priority for the Thornton moving forward and the following were highlighted:**

* The upgrade of The Crescent and the introduction of a one way system were considered to be of high priority.
* Traffic management in the area to address the issues brought about by Brooms Cross Road were also considered a priority. The possible provision of traffic lights at the Brooms Cross roundabout to aid the flow of traffic was discussed.
* The recent consultation paper for the 4 options of Thornfield/Edgemoor/Ronaldsway which had been discussed at the last meeting was highlighted and it was felt that a hard barrier rather than signage was the most effective way of solving the issue of the area being used as a “rat run”. It was suggested that a partial barrier may be more effective than a complete block as this would allow traffic to enter Edgemoor Drive from Moor Lane but not to exit at this junction.
* It was noted that there were significant problems with parking on both Thornfield Road and Hartdale Road and it was felt that this may be alleviated by the introduction of parking restrictions at The Crescent enabling customers to park on site. It was noted that Aldi had previously agreed that employees from The Crescent could make use of the Aldi car park.

**1185 Update from Councillors** There were no further matters raised.

**1186 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the meeting would take place on **Monday, 2nd October 2017 at 7pm**.

Signed …………… Date …………… (Chairman).