THORNTON PARISH COUCIL

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

**MONDAY 8th JANUARY 2018**

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

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

**1229** **To receive apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Ms Therese Draper and Mr Mike Chambers.

**1230** **To receive** **declarations of interest:** No declarations were made.

**1231 Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 4th December 2017**:

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

**1232 Matters Arising (for information only)** There were no matters arising.

**1233 To Receive Reports from**:

***Sefton Central Area Committee*** There was no report given

***Ten Parishes*** the Clerk had attended the most recent 10 Parishes meeting and highlighted the following items:

* Sue Ashe had been in attendance and had outlined plans for the reorganisation of the Area Committees.
* Cllr Gerry Lee resigned as the Chair of the 10 Parishes and Cllr Mike Coles agreed to act as Chair on an interim basis.
* Parish Councils were encouraged to contribute ideas for events which could be held to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War 1.

**1234 Chairman’s Update:**

* Councillor Hounsell advised that the plans to upgrade The Crescent were progressing as outlined by Sue Ashe at the previous meeting.
* The traffic problems in the area were still causing issues and plans for the temporary closure of Edgemoor Drive were in place.
* The date for the annual Open Meeting was to be confirmed as soon as possible.

**1235 Finance**

It was agreed to pay the following invoices

Mrs J Jones Clerk’s Salary & Expenses £219.55

School Lettings – Room Hire £50.00

HMRC PAYE £138.40

**1236 Planning and Correspondence:**

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

**1236 To set the budget and precept for the financial year 2018/19**

The budget for 2018/19 was submitted to the Council by the clerk for discussion prior to arriving at the precept for 2018/19. After discussion and bearing in mind the level of reserves held by the Council and the amount of £6000.00 committed for the development of The Crescent, it was proposed by Councillor Pennington and seconded by Councillor Cooke that the Council set a Precept of £5000.00 for the coming financial year. The increase in of £500.00 reflected the rising costs of the Parish Council in moving to monthly meetings and the possible relocation of the Christmas tree in 2018. Any shortfall between the precept and the budgeted costs would be met from the Parish Council’s reserves. The Clerk was to inform Sefton Council Finance Department of the Precept value.

**1237 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.

The clerk was to provide a banking mandate to add additional signatories to the account.

**1238** **To discuss the Local Plan Consultation**

* **Draft Information Note: At what dwelling threshold should housing development mitigate increased recreation pressure on the Sefton Coast?**
* **Draft Statement of Community Involvement**

The Local Plan Consultation as detailed above was discussed however it was felt that the serious pressures on infrastructure and amenities e.g. schools and healthcare were of greater importance and should take priority in any consultation.

**1239 Public Participation:**

The Chairman welcomed 12 members of the public and the following was discussed:

* A resident from Amaury Road just outside of the Parish Boundary expressed his opposition to the plan for the temporary closure of Edgemoor Drive and his dissatisfaction at the Parish Council’s support for the plan. Councillor Hounsell explained the role of the Parish Council in representing the people of the Parish and advised the resident concerned to direct his opposition to the plan to the Ward Councillors and to Sefton Council. The resident also felt that the Sefton Council consultation which had been sent out to the roads in the vicinity had not been wide enough and many residents did not feel their views had been represented. It was suggested that an alternative to the closure would be to install a number plate recognition system allowing access for residents and issuing fines to the drivers of unauthorised vehicles.
* The proposed Port of Liverpool Access route across Rimrose Valley had been identified as the preferred option and a local resident suggested an alternative route with a “one-way” system being in place from the end of the M57 to the docks.
* The ongoing development of the Elm Farm/Rothwells Lane site was continuing to cause problems for residents with the road being covered in mud and detritus from the building site. A local resident advised she had spoken to the site management team and had been advised that the individual with responsibility for the site had been absent from work through illness. As the person involved had now returned to work the resident had agreed to allow a period of one week for the issues to be resolved before escalating the matter. Councillor Cooke advised residents that the Ward Councillors should be the point of contact if the situation continued to cause problems before escalating the matter to the Chief Executive of the Council.
* The Thornton Corridor Study was still ongoing and a resident of Southport Road expressed concerns that the proposed traffic calming measures would not act as a deterrent to heavy vehicles which were currently using the road as a “cut-through”. Councillor Hounsell advised that a weight restriction may have the desired effect and the Clerk was to write to Lee Davies at Sefton Council to explore this possibility.
* The recent traffic survey on Hartdale Road was discussed and a resident enquired whether it was possible to obtain the criteria which was being used in other areas to determine whether traffic calming measures were needed. Councillor Pennington agreed to follow up this matter.

**1240 Update from Councillors**

* The Clerk had received an email regarding several collisions which had taken place in and around Edgemoor Drive during the recent icy weather. The clerk was to write to Sefton Council to request that the side roads in the area be included on the gritting schedule to reflect the increase in traffic following the opening of Brooms Cross Road.
* The lack of attendance from the Ward Councillors at Parish Council meetings was again discussed and the clerk was to arrange for an informal meeting between Parish Councillors and Ward Councillors to draw up a strategy for greater co-operation moving forward.
* It was noted that the School Lettings Company were to cease community lettings at Holy Family with effect from 28th February. Councillor Hounsell was to contact the Headteacher at the school to request that the Parish Council continues to use the school as a meeting venue.

**1241 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the meeting would take place on **Monday, 5th March 2018 at 7pm**.

Signed …………… Date …………… (Chairman).