THORNTON PARISH COUCIL

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

**MONDAY 5th MARCH 2018**

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

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

**1242** **To receive apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Cllr Ken Hounsell and Ms Therese Draper.

**1243** **To receive** **declarations of interest:** No declarations were made.

**1244 Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 8th January 2018**:

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

**1245 Matters Arising (for information only)** The following matters were highlighted:

* The Clerk had written to Lee Davies regarding the possibility of a weight restriction being introduced on Southport Road to restrict heavy vehicles from using the road. Ms Davies had responded requesting that the residents include this request on their consultation papers and the residents in attendance at the meeting advised that this had been done.
* Councillor Pennington had not had a response to his request for the criteria determining the introduction of traffic calming measures and he was to continue to follow up this issue.
* The Clerk had requested that Edgemoor Drive and the surrounding roads be added to the schedule for gritting and had been advised that the request was too late to be actioned for this year’s schedule but would be considered later in the year when the next schedule was being drawn up.
* Councillor Pennington was to contact Sefton Council regarding vehicles mounting the pavement to gain access to and from Edgemoor Drive and Moor Lane.
* The lack of attendance from the Ward Councillors was again noted and the clerk was to progress plans for an informal meeting to encourage greater communication between Parish and Ward Councillors.
* The Parish Council had come to an agreement with Holy Family School to continue to meet on the premises following the end of the contract with School Lettings Solutions.
* Ideas were still being sought for a commemorative event to mark the end of World War I and this item was to be added to the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

**1246 To Receive Reports from**:

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

***Ten Parishes*** A meeting to discuss the future of the Ten Parishes had been arranged for 15th March 2018 and Cllr McGill had agreed to attend to represent Thornton.

**1247 Chairman’s Update:**

Councillor Cooke provided a summary of the recent Open Meeting and the following items were highlighted.

* The consultation regarding the closure of Edgemoor Drive was due to take place and residents without internet access would be able to comment by telephoning the Sefton Council contact line a requesting a paper copy of the survey. It was noted that opening up the survey to a wider area would mean that the responses from the residents in the immediate vicinity would be diluted
* The lack of signage at the top of both Larchfield and St William Roads informing motorists of the closure was discussed and the clerk was to contact Sefton Council to request that signage be provided.
* Holgate residents were still experiencing difficulties with vehicles parking illegally and causing obstruction and Cllr Pennington agreed to follow up this matter with Merseyside Police. Cllr Cooke also advised that he had had a frank discussion with Forth Homes regarding the development and was awaiting a response.
* A local resident advised that Merseyside Police had not attended his property to view criminal activity captured household CCTV as arranged and Cllr Pennington agreed to follow up this matter.
* Cllr Pennington was to continue to liaise with Merseyside Police regarding the provision of Speed Gun training to local residents.
* Cllr Hounsell had contacted Sefton MBC regarding the flooding on Southport Road and his email had been forwarded to the Flooding and Drainage team for response.

**1248 Finance**

It was agreed to pay the following invoices

Mrs J Jones Clerk’s Salary & Expenses £369.10

School Lettings – Room Hire £100.00

Sefton MBC re Christmas Tree £160.00

**1249 Planning and Correspondence:**

* The Clerk read out correspondence received from Sefton’s Planning Department.
* The Clerk had received and circulated a response compiled by Sefton Parish Council to Highways England regarding the proposed Port of Liverpool Access Route across Rimrose Valley. The Parish Council noted the contents and wished to place on record it’s thanks to Sefton Parish Council for providing a copy of its response.
* The Traffic Regulation Order for the introduction of no waiting areas at The Crescent had been issued. Cllr Cooke provided details of the Order, however there was some confusion regarding the location of the no-waiting area. Cllr Cooke was to obtain clarification on this matter.

**1250 To discuss the future development of the Parish**

* It had been noted that recent developments and in particular The Thornton Corridor Study had exposed an anomaly and led to discord within the local community in that the decision to close Edgemoor Drive was in effect made on the result of a consultation with residents within the Parish i.e. Ronaldsway, Thornfield Road and part of Edgemoor Drive. Residents of Edgemoor Drive who lived outside the Parish were not consulted nor were residents who lived in the area between Edgemoor Drive and Edge Lane. It was therefore proposed that the area between Edge Lane and Edgemoor Drive be brought within the Parish of Thornton in order to ensure that the whole community would be represented in the future.

It was proposed by Cllr Cooke and seconded by Cllr Pennington that this proposal be agreed in principle and a formal resolution requesting that Sefton Council undertake a Community Governance Review was to be tabled at the next meeting of the Parish Council

* Additionally it was noted that the Plan for Sefton included a number of developments both within and on the border of the Parish which would result in the construction of some 708 new houses. It was also likely that applications would be submitted by private developers for development on land within the area but not yet identified in the Plan for Sefton. It was suggested that the Parish Council plan ahead with a view to expanding the boundaries to embrace these areas where possible and thus ensure that developers etc. would be dealing with only two representative bodies Sefton MBC and Thornton Parish Council.

It was agreed that a small working group be set up to further examine this suggestion.

**1251 To discuss the possibility of fracking taking place in the area.**

Correspondence had been received from John Wilkinson from the “Frack Free Formby” group advising of possible future fracking activity within Thornton Parish under the licence granted to Aurora Energy. It was agreed that Mr Wilkinson be invited to address the Parish Council at a future date to share his experience on researching fracking plans for the local area.

Cllr Pennington advised that he had attended a presentation by Aurora Energy arranged by Sefton Parish Council which had been very informative and it was suggested a representative from Aurora Energy be invited to address the Parish Council.

**1252** **To accept the resignation of Mrs J Jones (Clerk) and to resolve to advertise the resultant vacancy.**

The Parish Council accepted the resignation of Mrs Jones and resolved to advertise the resultant vacancy. The Clerk was to draw up a suitable advert to be placed in the local press.

**1253 Public Participation:**

The Chairman welcomed 15 members of the public and the following items were discussed:

* The ongoing development of the Elm Farm/Rothwells Lane site was continuing to cause problems for residents, in particular the hedgerow was to be removed in order to allow trucks to access the site. It was noted planning permission for the destruction of the hedges had not been granted and residents were encouraged to contact the planning department at Sefton Council to request that the conditions of the planning permission be enforced. Additionally a MASA assessment, which was a requirement for developments of 10 dwellings or more, had not been carried out. A local resident who had contacted Sefton MBC by telephone regarding the Holgate development had been advised that a reference number to log the call would not be issued; the Clerk was to contact Sefton to check whether this was correct procedure.
* The plans for the upgrade of The Crescent were progressing subject to legal requirements and a member of the public expressed concern that the shop owners had not been properly consulted on the plans. It was advised that Sefton MBC had issued consultation documents to all of the shop owners; however the response had been very poor.
* A residents’ meeting had taken place at St William of York regarding the closure of Edgemoor Drive where residents had taken part in workshops and had then fed ideas back to the room. The meeting had been attended by 85 people and had been very productive. Response sheets were currently being collated and a representative was to be sought from every road to ensure full representation with the aim being to come up with a consensus. Cllr Cooke assured the residents of the Parish Council’s support once a consensus had been agreed.

**1254 Update from Councillors**

* No further updates were given.

**1255 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the meeting would take place on **Monday, 9th April 2018 at 7pm**.

Signed …………… Date …………… (Chairman).