

# THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of an Annual Meeting of Council held on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 using Zoom Video Conferencing

**Present:** Cllrs: McGill (Chair), O'Keeffe, Donegan, Pennington and White

**In Attendance:** Cllr. John Joseph Kelly, Manor Ward  
The Reverend Canon Kath Rogers, All Saints with St Frideswyde Church  
Mrs V Swift (Clerk)

**1560:** Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received from Cllrs. Dixon and Atkinson.

**1561:** Declaration of Interest - Members are requested to give notice of any pecuniary interest relating to any item on the agenda.

None

**1562:** Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of an Ordinary Meeting held on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**1563:** Matters arising from Minutes (for information only)

None

**1564:** Public Participation

The Reverend Canon Kath Rogers asked members to consider organising something to commemorate the ending of the Covid-19 crisis for remembrance, reflection and to honour key workers in our community. When the time is right, this could include an open air service, with time to clap key workers, to say names remembered, the laying of a rainbow wreath at the stocks and a community fete or festival to finish.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That members to think about ideas for running a community event in celebration of the ending of the Covid-19 crisis and to send them to [cllrjamesokeeffe@gmail.com](mailto:cllrjamesokeeffe@gmail.com).
- (2) That the clerk to set this as an agenda item for the next Council zoom meeting.

**1565:** Proposed Construction of a 5G Mast on Thornton's Village Green

- (a) Cllr. Donegan reported that plans for a 5G mast in Birkenhead had been rejected by Wirral Council on the grounds that it would be harmful to the regeneration effort and that it was said to be 'unsightly' and 'detract' from the nature of the local area.
- (b) Cllr. Pennington raised concerns that plans for a 5G mast in Litherland had been granted permission 'without prior approval' by the Head of Economic Growth for Sefton and not the Chief Planning Officer.
- (c) Cllr. McGill raised concerns about the number of arson attacks on 5G masts across Merseyside and the controversy with coronavirus.
- (d) Manor Ward Cllr. Kelly confirmed his support to join the Council in opposition to the proposed 5G mast. He briefed members on Hightown's successful campaign to oppose the build of a 5G mast in the village, which has protected historic status.
- (e) Cllr. McGill reported that Bill Esterson, MP for Central Sefton, has confirmed his support to join the Council in opposition to the proposed 5G mast.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That Cllr. Donegan to lodge with Sefton Planning the Council's objection to oppose the construction of a 5G mast on Thornton's village green on the grounds of its historic nature, in particular, in order to pre-empt planning.
- (2) That members to use social media to encourage residents to lodge their objections with Sefton planning in order to pre-empt planning.
- (3) That Cllr. O'Keeffe to write to Mark Blundell to ask him if he would join the Council in opposition to the 5G mast proposal and thereby adding weight to the cause.

**1566: Application to Register the green verge on Green Lane as a Village Green**

Cllr. O'Keeffe led discussions on an application to register Thornton's historic village green. The village green is green land that stretched along Green Lane opposite the Nags Head pub and included the stocks and sundial monument. Over time this green land has changed and developed, but remnants still exist and continue to be an open space of vital historic significance to the community.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That Cllr. O'Keeffe to complete an application for the registration of land as a Town or Village Green (Form 44) and email to: [Dwayne.johnson@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:Dwayne.johnson@sefton.gov.uk) and [stuart.barnes@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.barnes@sefton.gov.uk); and to include Manor Ward Cllr. Kelly's email of support.
- (2) That the clerk to complete an application to join the Open Spaces Society at a cost of £45 p.a.

**1567: Forestry Commission site visit at Brooms Cross**

Cllr. Donegan recorded a big thank you to Phil Lee, Forestry Commission, for his site visit on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Overgrown vegetation has now been cleared from the Brooms Cross area making the cross more visible and accessible from the footpath and the road. Photographs have been posted on Facebook at: Thornton Parish Council, Sefton.

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr. Donegan to continue to consult with Phil Lee, Forestry Commission, and his heritage specialist on what is permissible on the site around the cross.

**1568: Manor Ward Funding Application: Brooms Cross Restoration**

- (a) Cllr. Donegan reported on quotes received for the replacement of the cross plaque.
- (b) Cllr. O'Keeffe reported on the use of QR codes on signage. When scanned by a smart phone, it takes the user to a history page on the Council website. It's a simple way to engage visitors - good signal permitting.
- (c) Cllr. Pennington suggested having the monument rededicated.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That Cllr. Donegan to email [John.Joseph.Kelly@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:John.Joseph.Kelly@sefton.gov.uk) details of the request for funding submitted to Manor Ward Cllr. Carragher.
- (2) That Cllr. Donegan to obtain quotes for the re-polishing of the cross for inclusion in the funding application.

**1569: Proposed Forestry Commission Site Visit at Wrakes Brook**

- (a) Cllr. Pennington tabled a resident complaint about a blocked drain located under a pebble path at the bottom of Rothwells Lane.
- (b) Cllr. Pennington delivered a brief history of the ongoing drainage concerns in the Thornton area, including:
  - Using Wrakes Brook as a run off for all service water from the two new housing developments
  - Riparian Rights
  - Maintenance of overgrown gullies and ditches
  - Whether or not the drainage system could cope with another major downpour

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the clerk to invite Sam Dimba, Sefton Drainage Engineer, to the next Council zoom meeting to be held on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
- (2) That Cllr. Pennington to prepare the questions to put to Sam Dimba, Sefton Drainage Engineer, at the next Council zoom meeting.

**1570: Active travel, cycling and walking particularly due to Covid-19**

Cllr. O'Keeffe's report on active travel, walking and cycling during lockdown was noted.

**1571: BT.com Telephone Kiosk Purchase Agreement**

- (a) The clerk reported that BT.com will issue a 'completion notice' on the kiosk as soon as their engineer confirms the removal of the telephone.
- (b) Cllr. O'Keeffe confirmed that everything had been removed from the kiosk.
- (c) Cllr. Pennington reported that the kiosk needed a good clean.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the clerk to check with Sefton Planning for any legal requirements for the change of use from a telephone kiosk to a community defibrillator kiosk.
- (2) That members to use social media to encourage residents to nominate key workers by submitting screen shots of them, to decorate the exterior of the kiosk, as a commemoration of their work in the community.
- (3) That Cllr. McGill to measure up the exterior of the kiosk for the housing of PVC posters of a montage of nominated key workers.
- (4) That the clerk to set a kiosk refurbishment budget as an agenda item for the next Council zoom meeting.

**1572: 2019-20 Annual Governance and Accountability Return**

**RESOLVED:** That the certificate of exemption, the internal auditors report, the governance statement, the accounting statements, the annual accounts and the appointment of the existing internal auditor for 2020/21 be agreed. That all information including the Notice of Public Rights be posted on the Council website but not on the notice board due to Covid-19.

**1573: Merseyside Police Crime Alerts**

None

**1574: Planning Applications**

The Clerk read out correspondence received from Sefton Planning Department.  
For information only.

**1575: Accounts for Payment**

Payments Out				
25/07/20	000690	Mrs V Swift	Clerk Salary July 2020	£244.38
25/07/20	000690	Stationery	Stamps, inkjet, envelopes, Files and photocopy paper	£52.30
25/07/20	000690	Zoom Video Comm.	Monthly £14.39 x 3 (Jul-Sept)	£43.17
01/06/20	000691	Batten Hughes & Co.	Internal Auditors	£144.00
20/06/20	000692	Sefton MBS	Contribution to works at 'The Crescent'	£5,000.00
Total Amount				£5,483.85

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the clerk to organise payment of expenses set out in the schedule above.
- (2) That the clerk to transfer £3,000 from the Business Reserve Account to the Current Account.

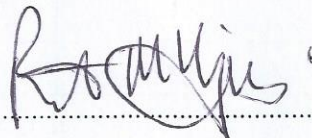
**1576: Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 via Zoom video conferencing at 7:00pm.

**1577: Deadline for Agenda Items**

Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

Signed



(Chairman)

Date

6th July 2020