

Present: Cllrs: McGill (in the Chair), Fonseca, Hawkins and Roberts
In Attendance: V Swift (Clerk & RFO)

2384: Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Francis.

2385: Members declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2386: Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of an ordinary meeting held on Wednesday, 1 November 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

2387: Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

2388: Public comments

There were no public comments.

2389: Election of Vice-Chair

This Item was deferred to a future date to be confirmed.

2390: Notice of Vacancy

(minuted between items 2400 and 2401)

2391: 2023 Remembrance Sunday service

RESOLVED:

2391.1 That a report by Cllr McGill on the Remembrance Service be noted.

2391.2 Members gave a big thank you to all those who attended the Remembrance Service held at the Stocks and Sundial on Sunday, 13 November 2023.

2391.3 Members also thanked all those volunteers who helped on the day, with a special mention going to James O'Keeffe, Master of Ceremonies.

2392: 2023 Christmas tree lights switch-on

RESOLVED:

2392.1 That a report by Cllr McGill on the Christmas tree lights switch-on be noted.

2392.2 Members gave a big thank you to all those who attended the Christmas tree lights switch-on held on Friday, 24 November 2023, and helped to make it a great success.

2392.3 Members also thanked Jane Higham Anderson and all at the Nag's Head for hosting the event and refreshments, Santa and Soroptimist International Crosby, the Grinch and Jayne Van De Graaf-Wood, Quay Notes Ukulele band, Ford Gems Morris Dancers, Thornton Community Choir, Kings Church, Gemma Carubia for face painting, Happy Hayley for balloon modelling, Danielle Clements and Thornton Parish Pantry.

2392.4 Members gave a special mention to the Mayor of Sefton Cllr June Burns, Julie Lawson BEM DL Deputy Lieutenant of Merseyside and James O'Keeffe, Master of Ceremonies.

2393: Honorary Freedom of the Parish

RESOLVED:

- 2393.1** That a report by Cllr McGill on the historic moment former councillor George Pennington was awarded the Honorary Freedom of Thornton in recognition of his dedication and commitment to Thornton and its people, with more than 20 years' service on Thornton Parish Council, held on Sunday, 26 November 2023, be noted.
- 2393.2** Members gave a big thank you to George Pennington.
- 2393.3** Members also thanked Jane Higham Anderson and all at the Nag's Head for hosting the event and refreshments, Mayor of Sefton Cllr June Burns, Sam from 4th Crosby and District Scouts, friends and family of George and James O'Keeffe, Master of Ceremonies.

2394: Keeping Thornton tidy

RESOLVED:

- 2394.1** That a report by Cllr McGill on litter picking events held on Saturday, 4 November and Monday, 6 November be noted.
- 2394.2** Members noted that the next litter pick event will take place on Saturday, 13 January 2024, meeting at the Crescent at 9:00 a.m.

2395: Thornton community group

RESOLVED:

- 2395.1** That an update by resident, Irene White, on organising framed copies of the RHS and NW in Bloom certificate, and on adding and removing plants from the planters on the Crescent be noted.
- 2395.2** That an update by resident, Danielle Clements, on promoting Thornton Parish Pantry and putting faces and names together at the Christmas tree lights switch-on be noted.

2396: Cycle/Pedestrian signage on Edge Lane

RESOLVED:

- 2396.1** That an update by Cllr Hawkins on Transport Planning at Sefton Council's response to the issue of inadequate pedestrian/cycle route markings along Edge Lane: they didn't agree to demark pedestrians and cyclists as the path is too narrow and because this can cause more problems than it solves; but they did agree to improve signage at both ends of Edge Lane.
- 2396.2** Cllr Hawkins reported that Transport Planning at Sefton Council are currently looking at how they can improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists across the wider Thornton area and are intending to bring initial proposals to a future meeting of the Parish Council for input into the development, before they undertake a wider consultation.
- 2396.3** The clerk confirmed an invitation to be Guest Speaker at a future Parish Council meeting had been sent to Transport Planning at Sefton Council with a list of dates from January to May, but to date no response had been received.

2397: Grass pitch maintenance fund

This item was deferred to the February meeting.

2398: New notice board - Village Green

RESOLVED:

- 2398.1** That an update by Cllr Hawkins be noted.
- 2398.2** Members noted that the notice board supplier, Greenbarnes Ltd, cannot guarantee the price on the quotation until after planning permission as this can be a lengthy process.

2399: War memorial and COVID memorial

RESOLVED:

- 2399.1** That a report by Cllr Hawkins on Sefton Planning Services response of 29 November (*addressed to the clerk whilst she was on annual leave and not circulated until her return on 6 December*) in which they state the planning application submitted for the installation of 2 black granite stone memorials received on the 23 November is incomplete and they requested a list of information with a deadline date of 13 December 2023, be noted.
- 2399.2** Members noted that the submitted planning application is now 'locked' within the Planning Portal and that Cllr Hawkins is unable to open any of the attachments and measured drawings, currently in jpg and png formats.
- 2399.3** Members noted that Cllr Hawkins to contact the Validation Team at Sefton Planning Services to explain the situation and to request an extension to the deadline date.

2400: South Sefton Community Alliance

RESOLVED: Members noted that Cllr McGill to attend the South Sefton Community Alliance introductory meeting to be held at Halle's Hub on Thursday, 7 December 2023.

At 19:55 Harry Bundred joined the meeting

2390: Notice of Vacancy
(moved from earlier in the meeting.)

RESOLVED:

- 2390.1** That members welcomed Harry Bundred to the meeting.
- 2390.2** That members agreed to the co-option of Harry Bundred onto the Parish Council.
Proposed: Cllr McGill. **Seconded:** Cllr Fonseca. **Agreed:** Unanimously.
- 2390.3** That Cllr Bundred then signed 'The Declaration of Acceptance of Office' and joined the meeting.
- 2390.4** That the clerk to notify the Democratic Services Officer of this co-option.
- 2390.5** That the clerk to publish a notice of vacancy on the Parish Council website and social media.

2401: Parish Council Facebook group and website

RESOLVED:

- 2401.1** That Cllr Roberts agreed to be an Administrator on the Parish Council Facebook group, Thornton Parish Council, Sefton.
- 2401.2** That Cllr Fonseca and the clerk agreed to work together on adding helpful links on to the website that will take residents directly to the right form within the right authority.
- 2401.3** Members noted that they are asked to encourage residents to use these helpful website links whether it's to report fly tipping, road traffic collisions, anti-social behaviour and missed bin collections to name a few.

2402: Councillor Training

RESOLVED:

- 2402.1** That Cllrs Hawkins and Bundred agreed to sign up for the online LALC workshop, a whistle-stop tour of councillors powers and responsibilities, 24 January 2024.
- 2402.2** That the clerk to book two places on the online LALC workshop, 24 January 2024.

2403: Planning Applications

RESOLVED: Members considered the planning applications set out in the schedule circulated and also available on Sefton MBC website.

2404: Authorised signatories and bank payments

RESOLVED:

- 2404.1** That Cllr Hawkins agreed to be a new 'Authorised Signatory' on the Parish Council's bank accounts at the National Westminster Bank, Great Crosby Branch.
- 2404.2** Members noted that James O'Keeffe and George Pennington to be removed as 'Authorised Signatories' on the Parish Council's bank accounts.
- 2404.3** That the clerk to check out guidance on completing the National Westminster Bank mandate request submission on 'Authorised Signatories'.
- 2404.4** That the payments set out in the schedule of payments circulated be agreed.

2405: Correspondence

- 2405.1** Sefton Highways and Manor Ward Councillors, reporting and requesting help for a Park View resident who was angry, frustrated and upset with the constant traffic jam outside her own front door from am to pm making it difficult to get in and out of her own driveway and resulting in a popped tyre and a damaged gatepost.
- 2405.2** Sefton Highways response to the Park View resident, they were sorry, it is regrettable, but with a very low accident rate given the volume of traffic at the junction of Park View and Green Lane, no action can be justified.
- 2405.3** Deborah Gallagher, Thornton and Netherton PPG, to make enquiries on behalf of residents on how often the Thornton Practice holds PPG meetings.
- 2405.4** Deborah Gallagher, Thornton and Netherton PPG, in response to the enquiry on how often Thornton Practice holds PPG meetings: I'm sorry that there hasn't been a PPG meeting for a little while - we've had some changes with our practice managers at Thornton and I don't think details of the PPG membership was handed over between them.
- 2405.5** Deborah Gallagher, Thornton and Netherton PPG, sent an invitation to be Guest Speaker at a future Parish Council meeting.
- 2405.6** Jennifer Taylor, the new Area Co-ordinator for Thornton, Blundellsands and Crosby within the Neighbourhoods Team within Sefton Council, sent an invitation to be Guest Speaker at the January Parish Council meeting.
- 2405.7** Sefton Council, Cllr Hardy, requesting an update/feedback on the Christmas tree lights switch-on event in terms of attendance, numbers and any incidents.

2406: Date of next meeting

RESOLVED: Wednesday, 10 January 2024 at 7:00PM.

2407: Deadline for agenda Items

RESOLVED: Wednesday, 3 January 2024.



Signed

(Chairman)

Date 10 January 2024