

HIGHTOWN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21ST MARCH 2016

Before the meeting commenced, Inspector Atherton gave an update on policing in the area. Hightown Home Watch is to amalgamate with Formby and Freshfield.

The Chief Constable is to retire in June, and it is expected that the Deputy Chief Constable, Andy Cooke, will take over.

Four burglaries have been reported in Hightown since the last visit.

Surgeries are still being held each month at Lady Green, Waitrose and Tesco.

CLLr Warren stated that Jane Kennedy was asking for people to sign a petition for non-reduction of local police force.

The 20mph limit in Hightown does not come under the jurisdiction of the police.

82. Attendance

CLLrs. D. Warren (Chairman), T. Asbury, J. Drake, K. Brennan, Inspector J. Atherton (Merseyside Police), Mrs. J. Coasdell (Clerk), 5 members of the public.

83. Apologies

CLLrs. P. Walker, E. Triggs and M. Kennan

84. Members and Officers Declarations of Interest

None

85. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Having previously been circulated, these were agreed.

86. Matters of Report from the Minutes

80. The Parish Council is still looking for a manufacturer for another bench on the Village Green. The Area Committee is to be asked about a replacement bench on the banks of the river.

87. Matters of Report from Committees attended by Councillors

CLLr. Warren Reported on the Area Committee, the function of this is the subject of a study.

Merseyrail has been contacted about the condition of the railway bridge. They have agreed to do a survey. The Area Committee was informed, and they agreed that something should be done about this. Sefton CLLr. S. McGinnity offered to support a bid for an electricity supply at the War Memorial. CLLr. Asbury to obtain an estimate.

87. Open Forum

A resident complained about the state of the roads in Hightown, especially in Sandy Lane. Overhanging branches are not removed, and potholes are very dangerous. CLLr. Asbury has written to Sefton re the potholes, but has not yet received a reply.

88. Surgery Update

A resident stated that he had used the surgery a great deal when he was ill, and had not had any problems. Lately, he had found it extremely difficult to make an appointment. The surgery has been taken over by Elbow Lane practice in Formby and is having teething difficulties at the moment. This should be sorted out in the near future.

89. Local Plan Update

The Plan has been submitted. Results are due in August.

90. Alternative Energy Sources

Cllr. Brennan's paper on fracking was looked at by the Ten Parishes Committee. A lot of effort is being put in to stop the Wind Farms being built. No further information is available re the solar farm.

91. 20 Mile per Hour Speed Limit

This was discussed earlier in the minutes

92. War Memorial Update

The Clerk is to write to the Trust with the hope of obtaining a grant towards the maintenance of the War Memorial.

93. Tree Situation in Hightown

The trees on the Village Green need trimming. The area under the trees is full of moss. This will be dug out and replaced with new turf. Sefton has been approached about this work. They will make a site visit, but have warned that there is no money available. The Parish Council may have to do the work themselves.

94. Use of 106 Money

The bus stop has now been relocated to outside the surgery, after lengthy discussions.

The phone box was removed as there is one on the station. Most people use mobile phones these days.

Merseytravel has agreed to tidy up the area in Alt Road. They have also agreed to fund a refuge in the middle of the road by St. Stephens Church. During building of this, the bridge would have to be closed. More thought is needed about this problem. Sefton owns the footbridge, which Railtrack are unhappy about, as it is showing signs of bad corrosion. They have offered to carry out a survey on this, but would need the agreement of Sefton to do this. The PC are not happy about this, and as the reason for the request was minuted at the Area Committee.

95. Planning applications
 54 Mark Road – Extension
 2 Bankside – Extension
 16 Thornbeck Avenue – Extension
 11 Riverside – Extension
 15 Sandilands Grove – Conservatory and Extension
96. Correspondence
 Tower Mint – Queen’s Birthday Medal
 Audit Form from BDO
 Clerks and Councils Direct Magazine
97. Finances
- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| A | Balances | Current Account | | 2365.09 |
| | | Deposit Account | | <u>3233.45</u> |
| | | | | <u>5598.54</u> |
| B | Bills for Payment | | | |
| | J. Croasdell | Salary | 500.00 | |
| | | Software | <u>60.00</u> | 560.00 |
98. Matters of Further Report
 None
99. Date of Next Meeting and AGM
 Monday 16th May 2016 at 7.45pm