



HIGHTOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Draft MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19TH November 2018

MAIN MEETING

40. Attendance:
Cllrs. Brennan (Chairman), Jarrett (Vice Chairman), Longfellow, and Triggs, with 9 members of the public.
41. Apologies:
Cllrs. Kennan, Farquhar and J. Croasdell (Clerk)
42. Members and Officers Declarations of Interest:
None
43. Minutes of Previous Meeting:
Having previously been circulated, these were agreed.
44. Matters of Report from the Minutes:
 - 34.3 The grids have now been repaired;
 - 34.5 The wooden fence erected by Chelmere Homes does not have planning permission & the Parish Council has been in touch with Sefton. The matter is being pursued by both the Parish Council & Residents;
 - 34.6 The Parish Council has been in touch with Sefton MBC regarding the replanting of trees, although the Ward Councillors control funding;
 - 34.7 Street Cleaners & Grid maintenance have been in the Parish to clear the excess leaves & unblock grids.
45. Matters of Report from Committees attended by Councillors:
Sefton MBC has disbanded the Parish Committees, so there is nothing further to report & the item will be removed from future Agendas.

46. Community Development:
- 46.1 The Alt Centre:
Facia & front door replaced;
Still pursuing grants for renovating the building, such as the toilets:
Progress is being made & expenditure is made when funding received, as the work is undertaken by volunteers.
- 46.2 The Christmas Tree:
Sefton is providing a living tree with this year's funding. However, the tree cannot fit into the existing site as it is 26' high & weighs c3.5 tonnes (normally 28' high). The tree will be planted in the next two weeks on the green, avoiding the telephone wires, behind the bench.
- 46.3 Christmas lights switch on:
This will be on Wednesday 28th November 2018 to meet with the Salvation Army availability.
47. Open Forum:
- 47.1 The replanting of trees using the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was discussed, although Sefton MBC charge around £250 to supply & plant a mature tree. The Parish Council will review sourcing & planting trees, with Sefton MBC to be approached for the funding.
- 47.2 It was noted by a resident that the original CIL fund for Hightown was £26k, with £8k spent on the park. Therefore, there are funds available to reimburse the Parish on replacing the trees, subject to the Ward Councillors approval.
- 47.3 The Parish Council reiterated that it is leverage for the Parish Council to pursue issues if the residents initially raise it with Sefton MBC. A reference will be allocated & if passed to the Parish Council, they can highlight the wide concern of residents by the number of issues (references) raised on a particular subject.
- 47.4 It was raised that on Remembrance Sunday Service, a helicopter flew over during the service. This was not the normal pleasure flight rides, but a film crew who were filming the "face sketch" on Formby/ Crosby beach. Although disappointing & displeasure registered with the team involved, the Parish Council are unable to take matters further.
- 47.5 An apology from Councillor Jarrett for indicating in the draft minutes on the Notice Board that the meeting was to be held on the 12th, when in fact it was the 19th.
- 47.6 To increase visibility of attendance by the Residents, the 2019 meeting dates will be published & will also look to notify the dates via the Church Journal, as well as posting draft minutes on the web page earlier.
- 47.7 A resident raised concerns of non-native trees affecting the protected species, such as Natterjack Toads, on the sand-dunes. The meeting was informed by the Ranger that Sefton had received EU funding to clear the sand-dunes of the non-native trees. However, Hightown was being excluded from this exercise.

Hightown is a "SSSI" protected area & it was noted that ideally to be Eco-friendly, native trees are required for the coastline.

It has been suggested by the Ranger that a voluntary clean-up could be arranged, although some of the trees protect the shoreline, as Hightown has mobile sand-dunes & a previous exercise moving sand to Hightown from Crosby was an expensive failure.

The Parish Council will see if Sefton can provide a representative to provide an informed update on Hightown's position.

47.8 The Parish Council would like to thank the Volunteers for preparing the War Memorial and roundabout for the Remembrance Sunday Service.

47.9 It was noted that the PA system for the Remembrance Service was a success.

48. Planning Applications:

There were no applications available for information at the meeting.

49. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence available for information at the meeting.

50. Finances:

The Finance is healthy at present with £17k, although £10k of this is ring-fenced for the 2019 Festival.

51. Matters of Further Report:

51.1 A reminder that the Parish Council has a suggestion box in the Pharmacy if people wish to raise items & are unable to attend the meeting. However, it is preferable for Residents to attend the meeting to raise matters.

51.2 It was noted that the Ward Councillors Party meeting clash with Parish Council meetings, which is why they are difficult to secure attendance at the meetings.

52. Date of next meeting – Monday 21st January 2019 at 7.45 pm