

INCE BLUNDELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held 24.11.11

49) **Present:** Councillor R Jenkins (In the chair), Councillors' M Ashton, M Mansour and K Sharpe.

50) **Apologies:** Sefton Councillors' B Griffiths, D McIver and C Page who were obliged to attend a full meeting of Sefton MBC.

51) **Others Present:** Mr F Scott.

52) **Declarations of Interest:** None

53) **Open Forum:** a) **Green Belt:** Mr Scott asked whether the Parish Council had made any observations on the Sefton Core Strategy re the Green Belt particularly the suggestion that some limited infill might be allowed in the Village. He emphasised that he had no personal interest in the issue. The Clerk replied that he had made a submission to Sefton Planning on behalf of the Parish Council and the suggestion regarding limited infill had been included. The Clerk said he would send a copy of the Council's submission to Mr Scott. b) **Serious Theft in the Village:** Cllr Ashton said one of the local farmers had a total of four vehicles stolen from his barn. Mr Scott said he had observed over the past few weeks a number of suspicious incidents. Cllr Sharpe asked that the Police be invited to the next meeting of the Parish Council and asked how often they patrolled the Village, how many stops checks had been made, etc. The Clerk said he would write to the local Police inviting them to the next meeting.

54) **Minutes of the Previous Meeting held 22.9.11:** Resolved "Approved".

55) **Matters Arising for the Minutes:**

a) **Sefton MBC Winter Service Policy:** The Grit Bin has been placed in the Village but not yet filled. Cllr Sharpe said there was a need for a Sefton Councillor or Officer designated to take decisions immediately a substantial snowfall was imminent. It was agreed Cllr Sharpe would take this issue up with Sefton MBC.

b) **Arriva:** Complaint's had been made by both Cllr Ashton and the Clerk regarding an incident in which an Arriva Bus running late had failed to turn into the Village and dropped the children off on the busy A565 with the intention they should make their own way across the road to the Village. Fortunately, there was a 20 years old Villager with them who shepherded them safely across the road. Apparently, the driver concerned has been reprimanded. Despite this another incident was reported by Cllr Ashton regarding a Villager waiting in Crosby for an hour as the Arriva bus failed to

turn up! Cllr Ashton is to inquire into the matter and advise the Clerk so a further complaint can be made.

- c) **Christmas Tree Arrangements:** The Clerk reported that Lady Green Garden Centre had once again agreed to supply a tree to the Village. Unfortunately there was a delay in Scotland regarding delivery. **Resolved:** *“That the arrangement regarding the lighting of the Christmas Tree should be put back from Friday 2nd December to Friday 9th December 2011 at 6pm”*. Mr Scott observed there was appeared to be a problem in supplying trees above 7 feet at present. Cllr Waugh would be asked again to perform his usual role, Cllr Ashton would provide the music and advise Father Gamble of the change of date and Cllr Jenkins and the Clerk would dress the tree. Discussion was held on who would light up the Christmas Tree and the Clerk was charged with contacting our local MP again!

56) The Lower Alt with Crossens Pumped Drainage Catchment

Flood Risk Management Strategic Plan: The Clerk explained that the Environment Agency was consulting with local people on its future role in the maintenance of the catchment area. By Spring 2015 the Environment Agency will make a significant change from current practice, by either reducing or stopping Land Drainage work within the catchment with the suggestion that the “beneficiaries” would be required to carry out the work. The Environment Agency would maintain its Tidal Defences and will continue to invest in fluvial flood risk and would carry out land drainage where they are legally required to do so. There would be an increased use of the natural flood plan in rural areas – including agricultural land – as washlands and for flood storage (including Lunt Meadows). The Agency will also employ a Catchment Care Officer to advise and assist stakeholders. A question had been raised as to the likely influence of the Environment Agency’s Strategic Plan on Sefton’s Green Belt Strategy! **Note: On Friday 25th November 2011 the Environment Agency issued advice that the consultation which was scheduled to end on 16th December 2011 would now be extended to 31st January 2012.**

57) **Correspondence:** a) **Selrep** – letter seeking support for the reopening of the Colne to Skipton Line. Cllr Sharpe recommended that the Council should support Selrep in view of the fact that Ince Blundell might need reciprocal support in the future. The Clerk will write to support.

b) **Recycling Bring Sites** – Addition of I & G Cohen Textile Banks – Notification by Sefton MBC. c) **Deansgate Lane Fields Woodland Sculpture Trail** – 7.12.11 Invitation to attend. c) **Maghull Town Council – Civic and Youth Award Evening 14.12.11** – Invitation to attend.

c) **Benefitting Older People Fund – Sefton MBC:** A sum of £50,000.00 for small grants funding has been allocated by Sefton MBC for the Voluntary and Community Sector. The aim is reduce isolation of older people; assist older people to access opportunities that may not be readily available to them, e.g computer courses, support for carers, community transport; reducing poverty or hardship amongst older people.

Applications for up to £500.00 will be considered. There are two deadlines for the fund - 7.12.11 for Christmas Projects and 13.1.12 for other applications. The Clerk had already been in contact with one of the fund managers about the setting up of a luncheon club in the Village Hall and it was agreed this would be an appropriate use of funds and help would be forthcoming regarding the completion of the application form. Resolved *“The Clerk to make an application on behalf of the Council for funding to set up a luncheon club in the Village Hall to benefit, in the first instance, 20 older people in the Village”*

58) **Planning:** A Section 211 Notice of intent for tree works in Ince Blundell Conservation area – to fell 15 trees and for remedial pruning to 3 trees within Ince Blundell Park and along Park Wall Road. S/2001/1230 – Noted.

59) **Village Hall Questionnaire:** At the recent meeting of the Village Hall Trustees’ a new Committee was established and the Parish Council offered to draw up a questionnaire to be circulated in the Village to seek the views of residents regarding the use of the Village Hall. After approval by the members of the Council Cllr Ashton agreed to take the questionnaire to the Village Hall Committee the following week for their observations. If approved it would be circulated in the Village.

60) **Finances:** (i) **Current Account:** £1640.80. (ii) **Bills for Payment:** BDO LLP (Audit) £60.00 cheque 100003; Ince Blundell Village Hall Committee – Hall Hire 24.11.11 £25.00 cheque 100004; Society of Local Council Clerks - £46.00 cheque 100005; Sefton Association Partnership of Local Councils - £50.00 cheque 100006; Formby Royal British Legion – Wreath & Donation - £25.00 cheque 100007. (iii) **Draft Ince Blundell Parish Council Budget 2012/2013:** Noted.

61) **Time & Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 12th January 2012 at 7.30pm