

INCE BLUNDELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 21st January 2010

63. **Present:** Cllr Jenkins (In the Chair); Cllrs' Ashton & Mansour. Mr I Cowell (Clerk)

64. **Apologies:** Cllr Waugh, Cllr Kerrigan (Illnes)

65. **Others Present:** Sefton Cllr Ann Ibbs, Constable Mark Fairclough (Merseyside Police), Sally Grimwood (Sefton Council Neighbourhood Division), 7 Members of the Village.

66. **Declarations of Interest:** None.

67. **Police Report:** Constable Fairclough said in the Neighbourhood Area over the December of 2008 56 crimes had been reported and during January 2009 a 58 crimes had been reported; during December of 2009 a total of 41 crimes had been reported and during January 2010 a total of 58 crimes had been reported. In Ince Blundell for January 2010 a total of 3 crimes had been reported 2 of which were burglary in dwellings. Constable Fairclouth said there would be a change of Inspector and that the PCSO covering Ince Blundell was Mark Wolfarth. After answering a number of questions Constable Fairclough was thanked for his report.

68. **Open Forum:** a) *Bus Services Ince Blundell:* Once again the issue of bus services was raised. On this occasion it was reported members of the public people had been obliged to wait for more than an hour as the Arriva buses had not arrived. It was alleged that the drivers sometimes missed out Ince Blundell altogether. One lady had been dropped off at the bus stop by the Round House in Ince Woods and been obliged to carry two heavy bags of shopping through the grounds of the Hall to get to her home. Complaints had been made to Arriva and replies were promised within ten days. The question of buses missing out Ince Blundell was discussed with one suggestion put forward

that monitoring the times and departures of buses through Ince Blundell by volunteers would provide solid evidence of the bus company not keeping to the terms and conditions of its service. The Clerk will again write to Arriva following any replies received by members of the Village.

b) ***Lady Green Lane Re-Surfacing***. In answer to a query over bus services and the re-surfacing of Lady Green Lane the Clerk said he had received a letter from Arriva advising of the withdrawal of the bus service for three weeks during January 2010 owing to the re-surfacing of Lady Green Lane. The Clerk had immediately protested over the withdrawal of services to both Arriva and Sefton Council with the consequence that the re-surfacing of Lady Green Lane had been delayed – according to Cllr Ibbs – to March 2010. A resolution to the problem of providing a bus service to Ince Blundell was currently in the hands of Arriva and Sefton Council. Residents of the Village said that when the previous re-surfacing had been carried out the buses had gone up Moor Lane turned right through the Village and turned into Long Lane at Home Green. They asked why this could not be done during the next re-surfacing of Lady Green Lane?

c) ***Fly Tipping in Cross Green Lane***: Cllr Mansour complained that there had been a case of fly tipping in Cross Barn Lane. The issue is to be taken up with Sefton Council.

d) ***Hanging Baskets on Lamp Posts***: The Village In Bloom Committee had been advised that hanging baskets secured to lamp standards were not allowed in the Village yet at Southport, Formby & Hightown such hanging baskets were much in evidence. Why were hanging baskets not allowed in the Village? Sally Grimwood said she would inquire.

e) ***Police Request for a donation towards the purchase of Prizes***: Inspector McLoughlin had asked whether the Council would be prepared to act as a sponsor towards a community project about to be launched in Formby and writes: *As you are well aware parking outside of our primary schools is a major issue locally which in my opinion will only be solved by some huge structural changes which we all know costs vast amounts of money which the local authority does not have nor does this feature on their list of priorities.....As part of our efforts we*

are challenging children in our primary school to paint/draw a picture or formulate some form of pictorial message around appropriate parking outside schools. This will be a competition and all entries will be judged by a panel of local councillors and winners selected. The Clerk said that he thought the great majority of primary school children in the Village attended St Mary's School in Little Crosby Village. Cllr Ashton said that he thought a fair number of children from the Village attended primary schools in Formby. Indeed, the population of children who dwelt in the Village and the schools which they attended was not known. Sally Grimwood has undertaken to determine how many children of primary school age live in the Village and also, if possible, the schools those children attend.

69. *Ince Blundell Parish Plan:* Sally Grimwood of the Sefton Neighbourhood Division suggested the Council might like to consider the establishment of a Parish Plan. A Parish Plan sets out a vision of what is important to the Village, how new developments can best be fitted in, the design and quality standards it should meet, how to preserve valued local features and to map out facilities which the community needs to safeguard for the future. Plans should identify key facilities and services, set out problems that need to be tackled and demonstrate how distinctive character and features can be preserved. In essence, the Parish Plan would be a statement of how the community sees itself developing over the next few years and should reflect the views of all sections of the community. It should also contribute to the way local services are managed and delivered. Sally Grimwood emphasized there was no standard format for a Parish Plan and no prescriptive list of subjects it should address. It was up to the community to set out its vision, decide which issues it would like to tackle, agree priorities for action and present the information in a way that is interesting and attractive to every one. One way forward would be to form a Parish Steering Group to explore key themes affecting the community; carrying out consultation with a view to creating action plans; implement those actions and monitor

progress. The Council and members of the Village at the meeting then explored a number of issues arising out of Sally Grimwood's presentation. A Village Survey, it was suggested, could be carried out at the same time as the May 2010 election with those residents who had voted being asked to fill in a questionnaire. Another option was to carry out a sample survey of residents of the Village. Sally had hoped Parish Plans in Sefton could be produced by March but in the case of Ince Blundell which had only just been apprised of the Parish Plan it was not thought possible as six months is the usual time to put together a Plan. The Chairman thought the production of a Parish Plan was a good idea and it was agreed to initiate progress on such a Plan. Sally Grimwood said she would furnish further information on the Plan which could be circulated to the Councillors'.

70. Minutes of Previous Meeting held 12.1.09. "Approved".

71. Matters Arising: a) **Notice Board:** The Clerk had examined the Notice Board and thought that, generally, it was in good condition. It needed painting again and 2 pieces of 3ft x 2ft soft board or cork secured on the inside so that notices could be more easily secured. The question of whether the sign on top of the board should be replaced was discussed and, because of the cost of sign writing, it was decided not to replace it. There was enough money in the Parish Budget to carry out the repairs and the Clerk said he would carry out the work on the Notice Board once there was an improvement in the weather. b) **Grit Bin:** The Chairman noted the Grit Bin had been replaced but initially had no grit in it or the grit had been removed/stolen from the bin. After contacting Cllr Parry the bin had now been re-filled. c) **Christmas Tree Lighting:** The event had gone very well indeed and thanks were due to those who had contributed to the occasion. Letters of thanks had gone to Sefton Cllr Debbie Jones and Lady Green Garden Centre. The lights were now stored in the Village Hall for future use. Cllr Ashton said he would move the Christmas Tree at the week-end. d) **Hall Lane:** An objection

had been entered regarding the closing of alleged lay-byes in Hall Lane and the hearing is to be held on 5th February 2010. **It is emphasised by the Council that Hall Lane is not, under any circumstance, going to be closed.**

72. **Correspondence:** Noted.

73. **Planning Applications:** *Lady Green Fisheries, Orrell Hill Farm.* A written notice of appeal had been submitted with evidence submitted by Sefton Council which would be considered by an Inspector. *The White House:* The Clerk reported on applications submitted to the Planning Committee regarding renovations and improvements to the White House.

74. **Parish Newsletter:** It was agreed that a further Parish Newsletter should be published in the near future.

75. **Finances:** a) *Current Account:* £922.57 at 26 November 09; b) *Payments:* Cllr R Jenkins: To purchase of goods relating to the Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration and Printing of Parish Newsletter in November 2009 - £79.14 cheque 100075 dated 3.12.09; Society of Local Council Clerks - £30.00 cheque 100076; Village Hall Committee for Hall Hire - £15.00 cheque 100077. **Resolved:** “That the payment be approved.” c) *Precept for 2010/2011:* **Resolved:** “That a precept of £1,500.00 be set for the financial year 2010/2011.

76. **Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 11th March 2010 at 7.30pm.

Draft Minutes subject to confirmation at the Next Meeting.