

## INCE BLUNDELL PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016

63. **Attendance:** Cllr. K Sharpe (in the chair); Cllrs R Jenkins and M Ashton. Mr I Cowell – Clerk)
64. **Apologies:** Cllr M Mansour.
65. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Sharpe is Chairman of the H-Alt Group.
66. **Open Forum:** Nil.
67. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Resolved “Approved”.
68. **Matters Arising:** a) **Sefton Local Plan.** The Clerk said the Planning Inspector had published an initial report which indicated that with some modifications he found the Plan sound. He considered the selection of housing allocations and safeguarded land was rigorous, objective and robust. He also considered the Council was right to choose “meeting identified needs” and concluded the demographic led dwelling requirement for Sefton was 640 dwellings per annum. He mentioned it was possible that the situation may change once the forthcoming sub-regional Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA) is complete, but that would involve joint decisions by all affected authorities under the duty to cooperate and would trigger an early review of the plan. He noted the formidable constraints faced by Sefton as a result of the tightly drawn green belt, international nature conservation designations, high quality agricultural land and areas susceptible to flooding and that a difficult balance had to be struck between meeting growth needs and protecting the environment. Finally he considered only one of the two Formby employment sites is justified, not both. He pointed out that with regard to the southern site 42% was in the functional flood plain. b) **West Lancashire Wind Farm Application:** The Chairman said he had delivered 120 letters of objection against the Wind farm to the West Lancs Council Offices. He had also forwarded the major paper of objection to the Wind farm on behalf of the Village and the Parish Council. On the basis of advice he had received from the village and the Parish Council he had refused an invitation to meet with Coriolis. The matter was now in the hands of West Lancs Council and he would monitor and advise on any developments emanating from the Planning Department. c) **War Memorial:** The Clerk said though not listed the Conservation Officer had advised the War Memorial, nonetheless, came within the Ince Blundell Park Area which, in itself, was protected. However, as it is recorded in the National War Memorial Records it could, if necessary, be listed. Further consideration will be given to this option. The Chairman said he would review how, in the future, wreaths could be secured to prevent them blowing away, d) **Notice Board:** The Clerk said he had experienced difficulty in obtaining spare keys for the Notice Board and would consider the option of using a small padlock. It was noted that the plastic on the right side of the Notice Board had cracked. The Chairman said he would assist the Clerk to repair the Notice Board. e) **Village Planter:** The Clerk had explored Mrs Brown’s idea of introducing a planter on the green patch near the telephone box at the entrance to the Village. He had visited the Lady Green Garden Centre and identified a number of planters ranging in price up to £70/80. The Chairman pointed out the problem was not purchasing and installing a planter but actually maintaining and tending to the plants once the planter was in situ. Unless someone from the Village was willing to come forward and to carry out the task of maintaining the planter there was little point in purchasing planter. The Clerk pointed out that at Hightown a willing band of men maintained the War memorial

Island and the Gardening Club maintained the planters in the Village. Local inquiries will be made regarding identifying volunteers for these necessary tasks.

69. **Correspondence:** Letter of advice from Autela Payroll System re setting up of a pension scheme. The Council is advised to consider NEST a government scheme involving no cost. To be discussed at a future meeting. "Noted".

70. **Planning Matters:** *Prior notification procedure for change of an agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (Use Class C3) and for associated external and internal operations.*

DC.2016/00022: Despite an objection by the Parish Council the application had been approved by the Planning Committee. The application building was constructed following planning approval in 2006 as a workshop and storage building in connection with the fish farming business taking place on the site. The building has a footprint measured externally of 165m<sup>2</sup> and is of 2 storey height. The ridge height of the building is 7m. The proposed floor space is 330sqm and proposed building works will comprise: the replacement of existing sheet metal wall cladding with timber stud wall panels with kings span insulation – rendered off white finish on the ground storey and timber siding on the gable ends.; the replacement of existing sheet metal roof covering and roof lights with composite dark grey slates.; the insertion of doors and windows. The horizontal subdivision of the building to provide two floors of accommodation which will comprise a living room, kitchen, office, pantry, and cloakroom on the ground floor and 5 bedrooms, a dressing room and a bathroom on the first floor. Floor space on the two storeys measured externally will total 330m<sup>2</sup>. There will be no increase in the external dimensions of the building. In the view of the members this planning approval has set a precedent for any subsequent developments.

71. **Finances:** a) Current Account: £1,031.02 (29<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016). b) Accounts for Payment: I R Cowell - £9.25 New Cash Book cheque 100178; I R Cowell £30.87 – Stationery Expenses cheque 100179; Ince Blundell Village Hall Committee £25.00 – Hire of Room 3.3.16 cheque 100180. Ince Blundell Village Hall Committee; Ince Blundell Village Hall Committee £25.00 re hire of Room on 13.11.14 cheque 100098 which was not presented. **Resolved: "Accounts Approved."** c) The Members considered the **Local Audit**

**Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.** Unless the Council opted out of this scheme the Council would over the next five years be obliged to use an auditor appointed by the SAAA (Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd) for which a fee of £200.00 would be payable. The other alternative was to opt out of the SAAA Scheme and complete and publish an annual return and complete and return to the SAAA an annual exemption form. **Resolved: "That the Parish Council should seek to opt out of the SAAA Scheme"**

72. **Resignation:** Councillor Michael Ashton tendered his resignation on personal grounds. The Chairman thanked him for his support and dedication over many years in regard to the Parish Council and the Villagers of Ince Blundell. Cllr Ashton said he would continue to put the Council Minutes and Agendas on the Village Web Site. **Resolved: "Thar Cllr Kevin Sharpe be nominated to serve as the Council's Trustee of the Village Hall."**

73. **Next Meeting:** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016

***Draft Minutes subject to confirmation at the next meeting.***

***Chairman.***