

**INCE BLUNDELL PARISH COUNCIL**  
Minutes of Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 20215

62. **Attendance:** Cllr K Sharpe(In the Chair), Cllrs'. R Jenkins, R Waugh, M Ashton and M Mansour. Mr I Cowell Clerk in attendance.

63. **Others in Attendance:** Cllr Catie Page Sefton Council. I member of the Public

64. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Page declared, as a Reserve on the Planning Committee, an interest regarding 120, Carr House Lane.

65. **The Men's Club:** Cllr Ashton, the Council's Nominee as Trustee of the Ince Blundell Hall Committee and the Chairman, Cllr Sharpe, confirmed that the outstanding issues regarding the now defunct Men's Club had now been resolved between Thwaites Brewery and the Trustees' with the able assistance of a local Solicitor My Alan Cunningham. A final settlement figure had been agreed upon by the Trustees' and the new Club that had taken its place has now started off on an even footing.

66. **Open Forum:** a) **Carr House Lane Nuisance:** A complaint was made that the bottom of Carr House Lane by Searchlight Plantation had become a site for suspected drug, sex, litter and other nuisance activities. The Police had first been called about 2300hrs and called again 50 minutes later but were busy and eventually arrived at 0155hrs the following morning by which time the activity had ceased. Concern was expressed at the speed of cars travelling up Carr House Lane from the site allegedly at 50mph. There was some discussion as to the policing cover of Ince Blundell, whether from Southport or Crosby, and the Clerk said he would seek to clarify the matter. In the meantime the Chairman is to speak to Mr Gary Fairbrother who represents the Police/Sefton Liaison Team about the matter. b) **Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Police Act 2014:** This issue neatly coincided with the 'triggers' necessary under this new Act . Under the Act policing bodies will need to prepare and publish a Community Remedy Document for their particular area. This will set out a number of informal remedies to deal with ant-social behaviour without the need to go to Court The act also introduces a Community Trigger, which requires the Police and local authorities to take action against recurring ant-social behaviour when at least three complaints are a received. This appears relevant to the Carr House situation reported above. c) **Special Constables:** The Council was asked whether it was policy of the Merseyside Police to recruit Special Constables with, perhaps one or two based Special Constables based at ince Blundell. The Chairman also agreed to take this up with Mr Fairbrother. d) **Hare Coursing:** Apparently there are reports of Hare Coursing taking place with Lurchers on Sunday mornings on the field around Ince Blundell. It was pointed out that it

was now in breach of the law appeared to be carried on by outsiders. Again the Chairman said he would take this matter up with Mr Fairbrother.

**67. Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Resolved 'Approved'.

**68. Local Plan:** The submission drafted on behalf of the parish by the Clerk was approved except with the reference to the proposed Gypsy and Traveller Transit Site proposed to be sited in the Parish. A "straw poll" in the Village had revealed opposition to such a Transit Site being set up in Ince Blundell on grounds of nuisance and crime. The Clerk agreed to write to the Local plan Team withdrawing the support of the Parish for the site.

**69: Correspondence:** Sefton Council are currently considering whether to continue with the Sefton Rights of Way Committee: Cllr Catie Page said it was probably associated with the cost cutting exercise Sefton is currently in the process of making. When she first came on the Council the budget was over £300 million and was now down to £184million. Moreover, there is yet to be a further £27million shaved off Sefton's budget. Furthermore, there were likely to be further reductions in staff. The Clerk also said he had been advised by the Sefton Revenue and IT Team that the top up grant that Sefton was supposed to give to Local Councils like Ince Blundell was to be withdrawn in 2016/17. The Clerk was then asked why the Precept had been reduced. The Clerk said, as he understood it, the Parish Council were conscious that many residents lived on restricted incomes and were reluctant to increase the burdens on such people.

**70. Street Lighting – Sefton** has 31,000 street lights and there is a proposal by Sefton Council to turn off 18,000 of them from 8pm from 6<sup>th</sup> April this year as a cost saving exercise. The Clerk said he had seen a letter from Mr Lunt of Sefton Council indicating the exercise is more complex than originally understood with the consequence that the exercise may be delayed until 2016/17. The Clerk said it had also been suggested every other light except at junctions would be switched off. The Parish Council were outraged at this suggestion and said the lighting in the Village already left much to be desired. Indeed, Cllr Jenkins observed that the Champion Newspaper was not be delivered to his address owing to the poor street lighting. The grounds for concern included the likely increased incidence of crime and traffic accidents.

**69. Parish Election 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015;** The Clerk explained the Parish Election would take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May and that there were 5 vacancies and that nominations would close on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015. Any person willing to stand should contact the Clerk in the first instance.

**70. Finances: Current Account:** £996.67: Accounts to be paid: Clerks Tax for 3 months - £30.00 cheque 1000112; Clerks Salary for 3 months - £132.00 cheque 100113; Ince Blundell Hall Committee – Hall Hire £25.00 cheque 100114; I R Cowell – Stationery - £28.36 cheque 100116; Cllr M Ashton – Village Web Site

£57.53 (1&1 (Internet Ltd) cheque 100117. **Resolved:** Accounts approved. The Clerk said he was no longer paid monthly but quarterly.

71: **Thanks:** Cllr Catie page who is to stand for election in Ravenmeols Ward was thanked for her regular attendance at Parish Councils meetings together with the support and advice she had tendered to the Council during her time in Office.

72: **Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 7.30pm