

Ince Blundell Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th September 2020

1) **Attendance** Cllr Sharpe (Chair), Cllr M. Jones, Cllr McCann, Cllr Waugh
Mrs C Birch (Clerk)

2) **Apologies** Cllr V Jones

3) **Declaration of Interests:** None

4) **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Resolved ‘Approved’

5) **Annual Governance statement:** Sworn

“We acknowledge as members of Ince Blundell Parish Council our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm to the best of our knowledge and belief with respect to the accounting statement for the year ended 31st March 2020 that they accord with the question raised under Section 1”

6) **Accounting Statement:** Resolved that the accounting statement shown in section 2 for the year ending 31st March 2020 be approved

7) **Appointment of Internal Auditor Resolved** – That Mr Nicholas Stark be appointed internal auditor to the council.

8) **Meetings under Covid Restrictions** Council agreed to meet and continue to meet as usual but without members of the public due to Government restrictions on numbers. Clerk to put Minutes from this meeting in Village noticeboard as usual and on website and Cllrs will continue to bring resident’s concerns to the meetings.

9) Cllr V Jones although unable to attend asked that it be reported that she had been in contact with the new Community Police Officer for Ince Blundell who would like to attend a future meeting ,Covid restrictions allowing and introduce the new wildlife officer to council. She reported that 48 penalty notices have been issued at the lake in Ince Blundell Hall and that the Police are watching the area in relation to drug dealing as well as trespass. Cllr Jones also warned council that illegal hare coursing had resumed in the fields around the Alt and asked that Councillors and residents report unusual dog activity immediately to the Police if they suspect that hares are being targeted.

10) : **AOB**

1) Hardstanding Carr House Lane. Clerk had made contact with Ian Mercer owner of North West Turf and he had confirmed that the hardcore has been dumped adjacent to 53 Carr House Lane to provide an area of hardstanding for the turf lorries entering and leaving the field to pick up the cut turf. This he said was his answer to the mud which had caused such a nuisance last year. The council has concerns as do residents about how the hardcore concrete slabs will

be broken up and the noise and dust such action will cause. Councillors also wanted to know if Mr Mercer had permission to put in hard standing in this field. Clerk to contact Sefton Council to seek advice asap.

2) Council were informed that Scottish Power will close Carr House Lane to traffic in parts from 6th October whilst removing the overhead electricity power cables from the Alt to the houses at the top of Carr House Lane. The electricity supply will now go underground.

3) Flooding Carr House Lane Cllr McCann will again ask Sefton Council official Mr Sam Dimba for progress on the usual winter flooding problem and ditch reinstatement as this appears to have stalled since last meeting.

4) Cllr McCann has reported to Dave Marrin at Highways for Sefton MBC this councils concerns over the dangerous junction at the Weld Blundell Garage on the A565. Cllrs have asked that signage and speed restrictions are checked as this appears to be missing in places and the regular accidents at this junction continue.

5) Cllr Sharpe reported that he had become aware that there is a footpath which has become completely covered by grass and foliage on the Liverpool side of the road through Ince Woods. He wants to find out if Sefton Council would clear this and cut back trees through the woods along the footpath as this is being used more by cyclists and pedestrians especially with the Governments request that we seek alternative transport during the Covid Pandemic. Clerk to ask Sefton MBC.

6) Defibrillator in Village Hall Cllr Sharpe reported that the battery needs replacing and will get this done asap. Council and Village Hall Committee to share the cost between them as in the past.

7) Cllr Sharpe reported that he had been successful in obtaining a Community Support Grant from Sefton for £6000 which will enable the necessary maintenance needed at the Village Hall to go ahead. This grant will enable the trustees to have work done on the roof, gutters and fire doors. Work has already taken place on the roof as a result.

8) Cllr Sharpe reported that the Sunshine Café has now started paying regular rent into the Hall and this will enable other necessary maintenance to be carried out. Cllr Sharpe joined the other councillors in wishing Kayleigh and Steve continued success.

9) Cllr Sharpe has been in contact with BT's Pole objection team on behalf of residents in Cross Barn Lane who objected to new poles being installed to enable telephone access to Ince Benet for the proposed retreat centre. He will keep Council informed on the outcome.

10) The helicopter flights from Orrell Hill lane continue to be a major cause of complaint and nuisance to residents. Cllr Sharpe updated Councillors informing them that the Pilot of the helicopter has to notify the Civil Aviation

Authority when flying from Mr Greenwood's field each time he flies, and is permitted to fly 26 times a year. Unfortunately there appears to be no limit set for the amount of take offs and landings which cause unacceptable levels of noise and intrusion to neighbours in Ince Blundell, Hightown and Formby. Cllr Sharpe and the landowner Mr Don Tracey who lives adjacent to the field are to investigate whether the operators of these pleasure flights have fully disclosed the nature of these flights and that they are being monitored correctly. As a council we will complain again to Sefton MBC.

11) Planning Matters New Farmhouse on Back o'the Town Lane, Mr D Ashton Passed. Trees crowning Cross Barn Lane, allowed.

12) Christmas Tree and Celebrations: Clerk to order tree from Ince Blundell Nurseries but planning for usual tree lighting ceremony and Carols will have to wait until nearer to the date due to Covid restrictions

13) Finances a) The Precept was received from Sefton in April of £2400

b) The current account stands at £3639.45

c) Bills for payment

Village Hall Committee £25 Room Hire

Nick Stark Auditor £75

Autela payroll services £45.17

Clerk 1st and 2nd quarter £431.80

13) Resolved that the payments be approved

14) Resolved that the Accounts be published on Village Website

15) Date of Next meeting: 26th November 2020 at 7:30

Draft Minutes subject to confirmation at the Next Meeting

Chairman