

**Present:** Cllrs: McGill (in the Chair), Beardwood, Bundred, Fonseca, Hawkins and Struth  
**In Attendance:** V Swift (Clerk & RFO), 2 Members of the Public

**2741: To elect a Chair for 2025-26, who will then sign the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office'**

Nominations were received for Cllr McGill.

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr McGill be elected as Chair.

Cllr McGill signed 'The Declaration of Acceptance of Office' and this was witnessed by the Proper Officer.

**2742: To elect a Vice-Chair for 2025-26, who will then sign the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office'**

Nominations were received for Cllr Bundred.

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Bundred be elected as Vice-Chair.

Cllr Bundred signed 'The Declaration of Acceptance of Office' and this was witnessed by the Proper Officer.

**2743: Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Dale.

**2744: Members declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**2745: Minutes of the previous meeting**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of an ordinary meeting held on Wednesday, 2 April 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**2746: Matters of report arising from previous minutes**

There were no matters to report.

**2747: Public forum**

*The meeting was adjourned for this item.*

Resident, Hartdale Road, reported that Tesco Express has been leaving cages filled with cardboard boxes out for waste collection without any cover. As a result, strong winds frequently lift the boxes from the cages, scattering them along the road. Cllr Beardwood confirmed that he had spoken with the new Tesco Express manager, who assured him that the cages would now be kept at the back of the store to prevent further issues.

*The meeting was reconvened.*

**2748: 2024-25 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)**

**RESOLVED:**

**2748.1** Members approved the certificate of exemption page 3.

**2748.2** Members accepted and noted the internal auditors report page 4.

**2748.3** Members approved the annual governance statement page 5.

**2748.4** Members approved the accounting statement page 6.

**2748.5** Members noted the dates set for the exercise of public rights: 3 June to 14 July 2025.

**2748.6** Members approved the appointment of Batten Hughes as internal auditors for 2025-26 and approved the fee of £120.00 (including VAT).

**Proposed:** Cllr Ricardo. **Seconded:** Cllr McGill. **Agreed:** Unanimously.

**2749: 2024-25 statement of accounts**

**RESOLVED:** Members approved the accounting schedules and summary.

**Proposed:** Cllr McGill. **Seconded:** Cllr Bundred. **Agreed:** Unanimously.

**2750: 2025-26 revised budget**

**RESOLVED:** Members approved the revised budget.

**Proposed:** Cllr Bundred. **Seconded:** Cllr Hawkins. **Agreed:** Unanimously.

**2751: Keeping Thornton Tidy**

**RESOLVED:**

**2751.1** That an update by Cllr McGill regarding community litter-pick initiatives, including sharing equipment with the Scouts and collaborating with the Headmaster of St William of York Catholic Primary School on weekday dates, which will be shared in the school's newsletter to encourage participation, be noted.

**2751.2** Members noted the date of the next community litter pick, 10 May 2025.

**2751.3** That Cllr Beardwood to share the litter picking date with the wombles and the clerk to file a risk assessment with Sefton Council.

**2751.4** Members noted that the damaged planter on The Crescent has been removed. That all the new planters are now in place (two on The Crescent, one by the Stocks and two by the Nag's Head). And that during the next few weeks, Cllr McGill will be visiting garden centres to select plants for them.

**2751.5** That the clerk to contact Kevin Rathbone to ask if he is available to assist in planting out the roadside planters.

**2751.6** That Cllr McGill thanked Manor Ward councillors for arranging the delivery of a skip at The Crescent, which aided the clearance of the alley behind the shops. He noted, that two of the businesses had shown an interest in joining FoT, highlighting future potential opportunities for transforming the space into a community area, pending consultation.

**2752: Traffic and public safety**

**RESOLVED:**

**2752.1** Members noted an update by Cllr Hawkins regarding a request to Peter Hillsdon, Sefton Highways, for a target timeline on the rollout progress and ongoing delays in the provision of additional signage for The Crescent.

**2752.2** Members noted the response received from Peter Hillsdon, Sefton Highways, stating that there is currently no specific timeline for the rollout. The ongoing modelling work with consultants involves an iterative process of exploring options and making adjustments to determine the best solutions before final plans can be shared with ward members. In the meantime, efforts are underway to assess the feasibility of installing an additional traffic calming feature at the entrance to the Crescent to lower entry speeds from Edge Lane. The council is also continuing to chase the installation of the promised 20 mph signage.

**2753: Buckley Hill playing fields**

**RESOLVED:**

**2753.1** Members received an update from Cllr McGill regarding parking issues at Sundial Place, attributed to inconsiderate users of Buckley Hill playing fields, particularly on weekends.

**2753.2** Members noted that Sefton Highways are considering a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce double yellow lines along Lydiate Lane and are exploring the implementation of a permit-holder parking scheme for Sundial Place residents.

- 2753.3** Members noted that Andrew Taylor, DWH North West, is willing to attend a Parish Council meeting in June or July to provide an update on the process and timescales.
- 2753.4** Members noted that Sefton Council has commenced legal proceedings to evict the travellers encampment at Buckley Hill playing fields.

**2754: Friends of Thornton CIC**

**RESOLVED:**

- 2754.1** Members noted an update by Cllr Bundred on the registration process for the additional seven directors.
- 2754.2** Members were invited to appoint three signatories for the Co-Op bank account: Cllrs Beardwood, Hawkins and McGill.  
**Proposed:** Cllr Bundred. **Seconded:** Cllr Fonseca. **Agreed:** Unanimously.
- 2754.3** Members noted that the creation of a WhatsApp group was postponed until the next strategic planning meeting.

**2755: Phone box on The Crescent**

**RESOLVED:**

- 2755.1** That an update by Cllr McGill on the removal of the Scout's library from Masfield Road park by Green Sefton, following incidents of vandalism by young children, be noted.
- 2755.2** Members noted potential new locations for the Scouts library, including the adaptation of the phone box on The Crescent.

**2756: Summer event**

**RESOLVED:**

- 2756.1** Members noted an update by Cllr McGill on collaborating with the 4<sup>th</sup> Crosby and District (St William of York) Scouts Group for a summer event.
- 2756.2** That Cllr McGill to invite Catherine Ashcroft, Scouts Leader, to the next strategic planning meeting.

**2757: Strategic planning**

**RESOLVED:**

- 2757.1** Members noted that Cllr Beardwood had contacted NetWise, website hosting, support and maintenance provider, regarding updates to plugins, themes, WordPress, as well as seeking their approval for proposed changes for a 'new look'.
- 2757.2** Members noted that NetWise directed Cllr Beardwood to their online products, videos and tutorials and requested further details on the proposed changes, suggesting they may be able to offer recommendations.
- 2757.3** Members noted that Cllr Struth had brought her camera to take profile photos of councillors at the end of the meeting for inclusion on the website.
- 2757.4** Members noted the next strategic planning meeting will be held at the King's Church on Saturday, 17 May 2025, at 10:00am.

**2758: Community Governance Review**

**RESOLVED:** Members noted Cllr Hawkins' response to Neil Middlehurst, recognising the complexities of the proposal to extend Thornton Parish into St Oswalds ward. It was also noted that the matter would be left with Sefton, for the CGR working group to consider in due course, which will include a period of consultation.

**2759: Cuppa with a copper**

**RESOLVED:**

- 2759.1** That an update by Cllr Hawkins on Neighbourhood Police drop-in surgeries, be noted.  
**2759.2** Members noted that Cllr Hawkins had contacted the Neighbourhood Police Team to remind them of the PC's interest in holding an event and to request any statistics gathered from their Greggs event, held on 14 April in Crosby village.

**2760: Planning Applications**

**RESOLVED:** Members considered the planning applications set out in the schedule circulated and also available on Sefton MBC website.

**2761: Accounts paid and for payment**

**RESOLVED:**

- 2761.1** Members noted the insurance quote from Clear Councils Insurance at £696.78, alongside a lower quote of £363.00 from Zurich Town, Parish and Community Insurance. Following consideration, the decision was made to renew the policy with Zurich.  
**2761.2** That the clerk to pursue a refund from Armadillo Self Storage for insurance charges.  
**2761.3** That the payments set out in the schedule of payments circulated be agreed.

**2762: Correspondence**

- 2762.1** Resident, Green Lane, raised an ongoing concern about the use of Hartdale Road as a rat run and is seeking clarification on when action will be taken to address this issue.  
**2762.2** Headteacher, St William of York Primary School, is working towards achieving the "Live Simply" award and is exploring ways to contribute to community initiatives.  
**2762.3** Resident, Green Lane, reported a missing "Finger Post", now replaced by a "Give Way" sign, by the Stocks and Sundial, and is seeking clarification on whether the council is responsible for preserving such signs as part of the village's heritage.  
**2762.4** Resident, Green Lane, requested the planning number for the new mobile base station near the crematorium, noting its installation resulted in the loss of a newly planted tree.

**2763: Date of next meeting**

**RESOLVED:** Wednesday, 4 June 2025 at 7:00PM.

**2764: Deadline for agenda items**

**RESOLVED:** Tuesday, 27 May 2025.



**Signed** .....

(Chairman)

**Date** 4 June 2025