

MAGHULL TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL
HELD 29th JANUARY 2020

PRESENT - Councillor Josh Burns (In the Chair) and Councillors (Cllrs): June Burns, Carr, Carlsen, Desmond, Doherty, Ferguson, K & T Hughes, Lloyd, McKinley, Mullen, J & Y Sayers and Sharp.

ALSO PRESENT – A. McIntyre (Town Clerk), A. Spencer (Amenities Manager), P. Dillon (Community Services Manager), D. Healey (Finance Officer), S. Lawrence (minutes) & two members of public.

The Mayor welcomed all to the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**: Cllr Carragher.
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**: All Cllrs (apart from Cllr Carr) live a property in Maghull and pay precept, therefore is a general dispensation to allow Cllrs to decide the forthcoming budget.
3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**: None.
4. **COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS TO MTC**:

Cllr Lloyd previously forwarded Questions below to The Town Clerk:

- 1 How are pay rises decided for MTC staff, are they decided at the budget or at via a committee?

Town Clerk: Staff at the Town Council are employed under National Joint Council or NJC Terms & Conditions. Pay rises are negotiated nationally by the National Joint Council Consultative Committee or NJCCC and are notified to all Councils for implementation. The % increase is also negotiated nationally.

- 2 Is there a criteria for a pay rise or a pay freeze? Like performance related pay, or if the precept increase is frozen are pay rises frozen too?

Town Clerk: The criteria are set nationally during the negotiations. As employers we are not informed what the criteria are other than the general economic conditions. The Council does not have performance related pay as this is not part of the agreed T&Cs.

- 3 How and who sets the budget for the amount of money available to spend on pay rises?

Town Clerk: Maghull Town Council sets aside money in the budget to pay for any increase. Unfortunately we are usually informed of the pay increase (if any) after the budget setting process has been completed. Therefore, the officers rely on previous years' proposals to inform Council of the money they suggest setting aside which is this year 2%. 2% is the most the pay has increased since 2010. Each year this has been less than inflation.

JB

- 4 How and who decides if increases to the number of staff are needed and can be afforded?

Town Clerk: Council decides the level of staffing it needs. The Council has undertaken 2 staffing reviews since 2013 the last being November 2018 when all posts were benchmarked and evaluated. The majority of the recommendations of the staffing review were implemented save for the recruitment of an Events Co-ordinator and a part time admin post. Any additional posts required would be considered by Personnel Sub Committee based on a robust business case.

- 5 Should the MTC publish the wage structure that shows what each role is paid within the MTC?

Town Clerk: MTC is not required to publish data on the pay levels of its staff and this is considered personal data under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). The Council would be in breach of the GDPR if it published the information.

- 6 Should the MTC publish these figures on pay / pay rises, bonus, benefits, pensions etc. Like other councils?

Town Clerk: Councils are required to publish data on the roles within their organisation which attract salaries over £50,000 as determined by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 in pay multiples of £5,000. This does not affect Maghull Town Council as no employee receives £50,000 or more. The Council does not offer bonuses or any other financial benefits.

- 7 How is the budget set for the money available to run public events like Maghull Fest and Firework display.

Town Clerk: Committees decide how much budget to ask for which is fed into the budget setting process. Budget Council then decides the budget for the forthcoming financial year.

Cllr McKinley reminded Cllr Lloyd that the issues raised about Council Finances had been covered in Training sessions available to all Cllrs.

Cllr Lloyd stated he had the right to ask the questions he had put forward and that he was a volunteer therefore had limited available time.

Town Clerk also reminded that all Agenda and Papers for all meetings are available to Cllrs and members of the public for Transparency via MTC website.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

RESOLVED that the minutes of Full Council held on 27th November 2019 were approved as a correct record.

6. BUDGET REPORT:



Town Clerk made apologies for incorrect information within the papers and provided an addendum for section 3, all changes highlighted in red.

Key Points made by Town Clerk:

- Auditor recommended MTC complete Asset maintenance plan which provides current state of all assets.
- Current Reserves is £352,000, this is not currently at the correct level as should be at 6-9 months' worth of running costs, also noted once spent they are then gone.
- The Council tax base has changed in two ways, first the number of new builds within the MTC area, secondly Sefton Council have now decided to decrease discounts on certain properties. Which means the council tax base will increase for MTC by about £12,000.
- 2 new vehicles are recommend for facilities, this may come from Section 106 monies, however this not a guarantee. Therefore this has been proposed into the budget for 20-21.
- No change to schedule of charges – apart from MTC will charge an extra £1.20 per session for VAT.
- Uncertain at this time whether a Judicial Review of £30,000 will take place, this is depending on housing Planning application decision. If this does go ahead MTC will need a fighting fund.
- Recommendation for Staffing increase, MTH re-wire, Cemetery Health & Safety check, proposed £5.41 increase to the precept £708,280.
- If MTC decide for judicial review to be incorporated within the budget a recommendation increase of £9.92 making the precept £731,797.

Key Points made by Cllrs:

- Cllr McKinley referred to section 1.6 in the budget report, wants the MTC to clarify that income generation activities have not stopped, and MTC need to be more creative to bring additional monies.
- Precept has only increased twice in 9 years.
- Recommendation to use Reserves for Judicial Review and not raise the precept.
- Cllr Carlsen suggested further investigation into Government funding for the possible TH re-wire.

Cllr McKinley Proposed increase precept amount of £5.41 seconded by Cllr Carr.
Agreed 14 to 1 vote.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. That Council set to increase precept at £5.41 at £708,280.00, and that this be notified to Sefton MBC;**
- 2. That Council approved the budgets as detailed in the report.**
- 3. Town Clerk to meet with Cllr Carlsen to discuss possible government funding interest free loan for TH re-wire.**



4. **Town Clerk to clarify income generation has not stopped within section 1.6 of budget report.**
5. **The report be noted.**

7. LAND EAST OF MAGHULL – PLANNING APPLICATIONS DC/2017/01528 & DC/2017/01532:

Town Clerk provided a brief explanation of the current position. The decision on the two planning applications was deferred – from actions of our Planning Consultant, Maghull and Lydiate action group and two Cllrs, also petitions were put forward. This is now pending as developers must produce a construction management plan, and an improved flood risk assessment. No date has been set as of yet for the next meeting.

Land East Maghull is now no longer apart of the Green Belt, therefore development will happen. MTC want developers to come off the motorway and come through the Northern part of the site. As this site could be 'live' for potentially 10-15 years.

Key Points made by Cllrs:

- Letter of Thank you to be sent to Edward Landor.
- Concerns regarding time that the developers had to speak within the meeting and MTC representatives were set to time.
- Support from all Cllrs, need to ask for later meeting so other Cllrs can attend.

RESOLVED that:

1. **Thank you letter to be sent to Edward Landor**
2. **The report be noted.**

8. REPORT ON SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS:

Cllr June Burns - Frank Hornby won vote for at 28% for Maghull Sefton Borough of culture stories.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

9. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair made two points:

- Cllr Josh Burns raised a concern regarding the mayoral chain. Mayor would not feel comfortable to attend functions etc. without the mayoral chain. Therefore proposed this to be sent to be repaired in quieter months i.e. August/September.
- Silcock family would like to help assist with upcoming events.

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- Silcock family would like to help assist with upcoming events.

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RESOLVED that:

- 1. Cllrs Agreed for the mayoral chain to be repaired August/September 2020;**
- 2. Website will be updated and Silcock family will have to bid.**
- 3. The report be noted.**

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that two members of public left the meeting.

11. CONFIDENTIAL - MAGHULL TOWN COUNCIL CIVIC AWARDS:

Cllrs had a discussion and a vote for each category for the winners of the Civic awards 2020:

Award	Winners
Civic	Bar Du Fey Cyclists
Environment	Maghull Station Volunteers
Good Neighbour	David
Local Business	Andrea Watkins – Manager – Morrisons
Youth	Maghull ATC

Cllrs agreed a separate mayor's award is to be awarded to William who helped to clean up the park.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. Cllrs Agreed on Civic award winners;**
- 2. Mayors award to be presented to William.**
- 3. The report be noted**


CHAIRMAN

