

**MAGHULL TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FULL COUNCIL – ADDITIONAL MEETING**  
**HELD 4<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2018**

**PRESENT** - Councillor Carragher (In the Chair) and Councillors (Cllrs): Josh Burns, Byrne, Carlsen, Desmond, Hart, McKinley, Mullen, J. Sayers and Y. Sayers.

**ALSO PRESENT** – A. McIntyre (Chief Executive). A. Spencer (Business Development and Contracts Manager) and S. Larking (Minutes).

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Apologies received from Cllrs June Burns, J. Deegan, R. Deegan, Duffy, Esterson and Shaw.

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** - None received.

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None notified.

**4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 were approved as a correct record.

**5. FIREWORKS 2018**

The Chief Executive thanked everyone for attending the additional meeting. The meeting was required due to the need to present proposals to Sefton’s Event Safety Advisory Group (SESAG) as soon as possible. She explained that the item was presented to Annual Council but was deferred for a comparison for hosting a fireworks display at Whinney Brook Playing Field with Old Hall Playing Field.

The Chief Executive explained that she and the Contracts & Business Development Manager had met with Inspector Ian Jones, Merseyside Police to discuss proposals. Officers recommended that the event remains at Old Hall field for safety reasons. It was noted that Inspector Jones was an experienced officer who was the Bronze Commander for the recent Tall Ships event.

Key points from discussion:

CLLRS	OFFICERS
Noted that concerns about Whinney Brook not raised during past events	Until 2017 event had always been held at Whinney Brook. More people attending event and increase in Anti Social Behaviour.
Viewing capacity (page 13 of report) suggests a higher capacity than recommended by guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and advice from Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS)	Maximum capacity of 56,000, based on a standing event  In 2017 approximately 6,000 people attended  There will be space for prams and children

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	<p>Stewarding, cordon and improved lighting will encourage people to use the field rather than stay on the hard standing.</p> <p>Hard stand will be cordoned off for catering and fairground rides. Cordons will be moved during Firework display to improve exit at end of event</p> <p>Cllrs will not be required for stewarding. Budget includes costs for 30 professional stewards. 20 will provide event security to manage crowds and 10 to manage entry/exit.</p> <p>Chief Executive will have overall responsibility for the event as required under Health and Safety Legislation</p>
Capacity to be limited to 6,000	
Preference for 3 Police Officers and to have good cover at entrance	<p>Proposal for 3 police officers to be on duty (1 officer and 2 PCSOs)</p> <p>3 Police officers would cost approximately £850</p>
No sparklers to be sold on site	
No drinks to be served in glasses	
Maghull Cricket Club to sign lease and pay rent before agree to host fireworks at Old Hall field.	All issues raised by Cricket Club been resolved including Water Plus charges
Why have costs increased so much?	More accurate costs as they have been firmed up. Paying for Stewards so no requirement to train volunteer stewards
Net cost (to Maghull Town Council) of £8,288.60. Estimated income of £5,000 including increase in entrance charge from £1 to £2. In 2017 cost for family of 5 was £3.50 in 2018 will be £10.00	<p>Providing change was an issue at 2017 event. Will be easier for officers to take notes.</p> <p>Halsall charge £10.00 for family of 4 at their event</p>
If costs are not increased, the net cost to Maghull Town Council will be substantially higher. Event growing in sizing, but is costing more to the organisation.	

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Entrance fee discussed at de-brief in November. Estimated that 5,000 attended the event.	
Concerns about income if wet night and people do not attend.	
Why have Police recommended a soft start?	Having a soft start (provision of food, drink and entertainment) encourages attendees to arrive on site earlier, thereby making crowd control easier for stewards.
Entertainment at 2017 event, did not incentivise people to attend early. Attendees queued and tried to attend minutes before the event was scheduled to start.	Maghull Town Council's firework display was the only event in the Merseyside area, with the exception of Liverpool City Centre.  Another significant change (from 2017 event) will be to clearly publish the gate closing time on all promotional material.
If gates close people will still try to get in	All promotional material will clearly state that attendees need to be inside site by gate close time; otherwise they will be refused entry.
What about lighting?	Lighting will be improved – as set out in operational plan. Lights will be switched off as a signal to begin the fireworks display.  Officers are looking at changing existing bulbs in lighting columns to improve on-site lighting.
How will stall holders generate further income?	2018 event will offer more food, drink and entertainment options, which will generate more income for the event.
Do not understand objections raised by Merseyside Police regarding advance ticket sales.	The view of Merseyside Police is that advance tickets will be difficult to police, and could lead to confrontation with stewards.
Concerns about safety of canal entrance/exit in an emergency	Operational Plan for bonfire event will show methods of exit in event of emergency:  1. Hall Lane Entrance Point 2. Canal towpath (through second entry) 3. Red Lion Bridge (through second entry)

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<p>Addressed concerns raised last year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bronze Commander</li> <li>• Advice from SESAG</li> <li>• Professional Stewards</li> <li>• Paying for 3 Police Officers to be on duty</li> <li>• More Lighting</li> </ul>	Options discussed with Inspector Ian Jones
Support for Option 1. Concerns about discharge of fireworks into Whinney Brook	<p>Would require more stewards at Whinney Brook as reduced hedge</p> <p>Fireworks could be discharged from bridge into Old Hall Field; although this area will be steward to prevent this happening.</p>
Close gates 30 minutes before event	
It was noted that the plan should build in more space for a disabled access and access for prams and provision for evacuation in an emergency.	The Chief Executive agreed to review Operation Plan regarding these points.

After a full discussion, Cllrs moved to vote on Recommendation One - Old Hall Playing Field as the location to stage the 2018 Bonfire Event. It was requested that the following conditions be applied:

- No drinks to be served in glasses on site
- No fireworks or sparklers to be sold on site
- Maghull Cricket Club to pay rent by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018. Failure to do so will result in the event not being held at Old Hall Playing Field.

The Leader of the Council proposed a press release for the local media "Based upon recommendations from Merseyside Police the event will be held at Old Hall field"

Cllr Desmond requested a recorded vote regarding recommendation one, and was duly seconded by another councillor.

Recorded vote for recommendation one:

Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
Cllr Josh Burns			X
Cllr Byrne			X
Cllr Carlsen	X		
Cllr Desmond			X
Cllr Hart	X		
Cllr McKinley	X		
Cllr John Sayers	X		
Cllr Yvonne Sayers	X		
Cllr Carragher	X		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>3</b>

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Cllrs moved to vote on recommendation two – Option One costs (identified to date) in order to stage Maghull Town Council's 2018 Bonfire event at Old Hall Playing Field.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. Option 1 (Old Hall Playing Field as the location to stage Maghull Town Council's 2017 Bonfire Event) be approved;
2. Option 1 costs (identified to date) in order to stage Maghull Town Council's 2018 Bonfire event at Old Hall Playing Field be approved;
3. The report be noted.

  
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CHAIRMAN

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