

Minutes of the Virtual Full Council Meeting Held Wednesday 14 April 2021 at 6:30 PM

Those present :

Mayor : Cllr Jo Burns

Deputy Mayor : Cllr J Sayers

Councillors : Cllr Ju Burns, Cllr C Carlsen, Cllr C Carragher, Cllr J Desmond, Cllr R Ferguson, Cllr K Hughes, Cllr T Hughes, Cllr P Mc Kinley, Cllr D Mullen, Cllr Y Sayers, Cllr F Sharp

Officers : P Dillon, S Lawrence, A Mc Intyre, A Spencer

1 Apologies For Absence

Cllr Adam Lloyd.

2 Declarations of Interest

None received.

3 Public Participation.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic public participation is by submission of comments or questions to the Council prior to the meeting commencing. None received.

4 To Confirm the Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of Full Council held on 3rd March 2021 were approved as correct record.

5 Consultation - Merseyside Association of Local Councils

This item was deferred until the next available meeting.

6 Municipal Calendar

Members were informed MTC must hold an Annual Council meeting by 1st June 2021 but cannot meet face to face until at least 21st June 2021. The last date for virtual meetings would be 7th May 2021. Therefore, it was proposed to hold a virtual Annual Council on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 6.30 pm. No further meetings would be held until Wednesday 23rd June 2021 which will be held face to face either in the Council Chamber if social distancing is no longer in place. Or in the Venue if it is.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The Municipal Calendar for 2021/22 be approved;
2. The report be noted

7 World War 1 Project

Cllr McKinley informed members that in 2018 MTC commissioned a piece of public art to commemorate Moss Side Hospital and the inspiring work in the treatment of shell shock that the hospital pioneered. The intention was to have the project in 3 parts; the statue "Compassion in Conflict", an explanation of the history of the site by information panels and artwork and a peace garden. Part 1 of the project was completed in 2018 and the statue unveiled. The second part of the information boards was also completed in 2018 with the boards being placed on the station platform itself. A further piece of art, a set of decorative panels which told the story of the work of the hospital, were also commissioned in 2019. Permission was sought from Merseyrail together with Network Rail to place the panels instead of the fence next to the statue. Network Rail sought assurances that the weight of the panels would not cause problems to the embankment above the platform. This was confirmed and the procurement of the panels commenced.

However, Merseyrail has now said that the panels cannot replace the fence and can only be fitted

alongside it. This would ruin the effect of the panels which have been created to give a stained glass effect visible from both sides. This would result in the project being incomplete on its original site and the panels would need to be placed elsewhere.

A proposal to move the statue to a new home on KGV Playing Fields was put to the Council. Its final position would be on the grassy mound by the Edible Garden maintained by Maghull in Bloom. This would allow the decorative panels to be placed next to the statue and for sympathetic planting to be put around it, creating a calm space for contemplation. There was an opportunity to focus on a sensory garden which would be evocative and a fitting centrepiece for the park. The raised elevation would also be a fitting place for the statue and panels given that they would face into the West with all the connotations that would bring. This was an opportunity to bring artwork to Maghull which would capture the imagination of the young residents and visitors and spark memories in the older generation.

Members discussed the issues raised by the difficulties with completing the project in its original site. Members were concerned that moving a war memorial was inappropriate and that the statue should remain in situ as it was the site of the hospital it commemorated. It was confirmed that the statue had been registered as a war memorial, although its intent was as a memorial to both the work of the hospital and in remembrance of those soldiers who had been shot by their own side for cowardice which was a symptom of their intense mental health battles. Members also queried the original correspondence with Merseyrail prior to the commissioning of the additional artwork and sought clarification of the agreement.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. This item be deferred until the Full Council meeting of 23rd June 2021 in order for more information to be provided regarding the agreement with Merseyrail, the position with moving a war memorial and the costs which would arise from the moving of the statue;**
- 2. The report be noted.**

8 Asset Improvement Plan

Members were informed that at the meeting of Full Council on 27th January 2021, Members agreed to use £100,000.00 of council reserves for playground asset improvements during 2021/22. A detailed plan was produced informing where improvements could be made with a particular emphasis on additional playground items.

Two options were provided. However, a full tendering exercise would need to be held once the outlay was agreed. Officers would use the preferred option to produce the specification to be delivered by Knowsley Council as per our Procurement Service Level Agreement the full tender exercise.

Members asked if the new play equipment would be suitable for disabled users? Alex Spencer (Amenities Manager) informed all new equipment is disability compliant.

It was also suggested that the Grounds Maintenance Team become Park Rangers. This would allow for a wider range of duties to be undertaken, was more easily understood by residents, was more customer friendly and would allow the staff to be upskilled in more duties.

RESOLVED that:-

- 1. Option A within the report be utilised to provide the specification for the**

playground improvements across the sites in Maghull;

2. The proposed planned asset maintenance works for 2021/22 and 2022/23 be approved;

3. A consultation exercise be undertaken to ascertain the staff views on the Park Ranger proposal and any associated costs;

4. The report be noted.

9 Activity Room Improvements

Members were informed that, following the use of the Town Hall's Activity Room as a vaccination centre, there would be an opportunity to alter the configuration of the room, to provide a broader range of uses for the community. This could improve accessibility and provide a much needed resource to a wider group of people. This could be achieved by attracting external funding with initial attention focussed on the Veolia Environmental Trust as MTC met the application criteria.

The Roy Evans Foundation have showed interest in using the Activity Room for engagement with youth and residents in Maghull.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Members agreed to an "in principle" investigation to alterations to improve the Activity Room;

2. A bid for external funding for the alterations be submitted to the Veolia Environmental Trust;

3. Members agreed that Graham Powell of Keith Davidson Partnership be appointed to lead the initial project management;

4. That the report be noted.

10 Chairman's Closing Comments

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone good night.

J.A.S. 
05.05.2021

