

MAGHULL TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD 9th DECEMBER 2020

PRESENT - Councillor A Carr (In the Chair) and Councillors (Cllrs): Josh Burns, S Doherty, K & T Hughes, P McKinley & J Sayers.

ALSO PRESENT – A McIntyre (Town Clerk) D. Healey (Finance Officer), P. Dillon (Community Services Manager), A. Spencer (Amenities Manager), and S. Lawrence (Minutes). Anne Hill (Maghull in Bloom) and Public viewing via YouTube.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – None notified.
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** – None notified.
3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – due to the Covid 19 pandemic public participation is submission of comments or questions to the Council prior to the meeting commencing.

Anne Hill Maghull in Bloom – Anne provided an overview of what Maghull in Bloom have been up to over the past year. Despite the pandemic, works has carried on and they have received some very positive feedback from Maghull residents. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic funding has decreased. However, Maghull in Bloom are in the process of registering as a registered charity. The presentation fed into the budget process for the Council when setting the precept for the following financial year.

Anne Hill left the meeting.

4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2020 for Finance & General Purposes Committee were approved as a correct record.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31st OCTOBER 2020**

The Finance Officer provided an update and reported that some budgets are currently showing an under spend. Also, the loss of income from tenants was noted as the Council had agreed to waive the rent requirement for some of the year to assists with financial difficulties.

Cllrs requested a report with the projection of loss of income for the rest of the financial year.

RESOLVED that: -

1. **A projection of loss income for 2020/21 report to be brought to the next Full Council meeting;**
2. **The Financial Statements as of 31st October be noted.**

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6. PROJECTED LOSS OF INCOME FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/2021:

The Finance Officer reminded members the Town Hall was still closed due to Covid19 and the Government's lockdown requirements. At the Full Council meeting of 22nd June, it was agreed to rebate the rents owed to MTC from April 2020 to December 2020. This would give tenants an opportunity to raise funds to pay the remaining rent once lock down had eased. However, as another national lockdown was ordered in November it did not appear possible that tenants would be able to pay the remainder of their rent. Members were asked to decide to extend the rent rebate.

RESOLVED that: -

- 1. Agreed to continue to waive the rent due to the Council from voluntary, charitable/sports clubs and small businesses up until 31st March 2021;**
- 2. The report be noted.**

7. BUDGET REPORT:

Town Clerk provided overview of the report and updated Members on the current position. Members were asked for their recommendations for a precept proposal. MTC needed to set a balanced budget considering all relevant factors within the organisation.

Due to the pandemic Members required the projections for the rest of the financial year.

Members discussed the issues surrounding the current difficult financial climate and the stress that residents were facing given the Covid 19 restrictions and the issues within the job market. After a full discussion it was felt that the Committee could not make a decision regarding a recommendation to Full Council regarding the precept level until further information was provided.

RESOLVED that: -

- 1. No recommendation regarding a precept proposal would be submitted to the next Full Council meeting;**
- 2. The report be noted.**

8. S106 EXPENDITURE:

Members were informed that during 2019/20 the following projects were approved for S.106 expenditure:

- A. Play equipment and play area upgrades at King George V Playing Field
- B. Play equipment and play area upgrades at Glenn Park
- C. Soft landscaping at Maghull North Train Station
- D. Installation of an interactive information screen at Maghull North Train Station.

Projects A and B have been completed, Sefton Council have agreed to provide a further £10,000 from Ward Funds as this would cover the underspend in this project. Any unspent funds by the end of 2021 would have to be returned to Sefton Council. Cllrs were reminded that S.106. funding can only be used for capital expenditure.

RESOLVED that:-

- 1. Agreed to proceed with projects C and D;**
- 2. The report be noted.**

9. EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded due to confidential nature of the item under discussion.

10. MAGHULL TENNIS CLUB

The Town Clerk Informed Members that they had agreed to give notice to the Maghull Tennis Club for non-payment, at the last meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting. This notice had been given and the Club was given a date of 31st October to quit the premises. The Club contacted the Council to see if there was a way forward. A business plan was received from the Club and members were asked to consider the information. It was noted that the Business Plan was not comprehensive and that the current level of membership of the Club was very low.

Based the business plan the Chair proposed an extension on the lease for Maghull Tennis Club until 31st August 2021. All members agreed.

RESOLVED that:-

- 1. Revoke notice to quit premises for Maghull Tennis Club;**
- 2. Agreed to extend the Licence to Occupy until 31st August 2021;**
- 3. The report be noted.**



CHAIRMAN

