

# Minutes of the Full Council Meeting Held Wednesday 23 June 2021 at 6:30 PM

Those present :

Mayor : Cllr J Sayers

Deputy Mayor : Cllr Jo Burns

Councillors : Cllr Ju Burns, Cllr A Carr, Cllr C Carragher, Cllr J Desmond, Cllr S Doherty, Cllr R Ferguson, Cllr K Hughes, Cllr T Hughes, Cllr P Mc Kinley, Cllr D Mullen, Cllr Y Sayers

In attendance : Ms P Landor, Mr E Landor

Officers : P Dillon, D Healey, S Lawrence, A Mc Intyre

## 1 **Apologies For Absence**

Cllrs Carlsen, Lloyd and Sharp.

## 2 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Carragher made the following declaration - 'I would like to declare that I enter this meeting with an open mind, and make my voting decisions based on the full facts presented to me'.

## 3 **Public Participation.**

None Registered.

## 4 **To Confirm the Minutes of the Last Meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of Full Council meeting held on 5th May 2021 were approved as a correct record.

## 9 **Planning Applications.**

Members considered additional information provided at the meeting relating to this item which included a map, a memorandum and appeal decision document, all regarding Land East of Maghull. Miss Landor discussed the highlighted conditions and provided a summary of the memorandum. As this information was only received by Landor Consultants recently, there had not been time to produce a letter. Cllrs were generally happy with the level of information provided, and all agreed for the Landors to draft a letter to Sefton Council including additional submissions on phasing, and request that deficiencies in the information submitted relating to the flood relief channel, construction environment management plan, and the travel plan be addressed prior to the discharge or partial discharge of the relevant conditions.

RESOLVED that:

1. A draft letter based on the information and analysis provided by the consultants be sent to the Town Clerk;
2. The letter be forwarded by the Town Clerk to Sefton Local Planning Authority as the formal consultation submission on the application to discharge the conditions listed;
3. The report be noted.

Edward and Philippa Landor left the meeting.

## 5 AGAR - Annual Return to External Auditor

The Town Clerk read out the following questions to Elected Members of the Council as detailed in Section 1 of the Annual Return:-

1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Council has answered 'yes' to this question and asked if elected members agreed. Members confirmed their agreement.

2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Council has answered 'yes' to this question and asked if elected members agreed. Members confirmed their agreement.

3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Council has answered 'yes' to this question and asked if elected members agreed. Members confirmed their agreement.

4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Council has answered 'yes' to this question and asked if elected members agreed. Members confirmed their agreement.

5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Council has answered 'yes' to this question and asked if elected members agreed. Members confirmed their agreement.

6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Council has answered 'yes' to this question and asked if elected members agreed. Members confirmed their agreement.

7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audits. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Council has answered 'yes' to this question and asked if elected members agreed. Members confirmed their agreement.

8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Council has answered 'yes' to this question and asked if elected members agreed. Members confirmed their agreement.

9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as



the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Council has answered 'not applicable' to this question as the Council do not have any Trust Funds, and asked if elected members agreed. Members confirmed agreement.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 be approved and signed by the Town Clerk and Mayor;
2. Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2019/20 be approved and signed by the Finance Officer and Mayor;
3. That the publication of the accounts be noted;
4. That the Annual Governance Statement be submitted to PKF Littlejohn;

**6 Activity Room Improvements**

Members were informed that MTC had applied for funding from Veolia Land Trust in their most recent bidding round which closed on 15/4/2021. MTC were advised on 9/6/2021 that the application had been unsuccessful. Whilst recognising the hard work and detail that had gone into the application Veolia Land Trust were oversubscribed, and were only able to fund a limited number of projects that most closely matched the organisation's priorities. MTC would be able to reapply in twelve months time and were advised to search for alternative Distributive Environmental Bodies in the area (there were currently none).

The issue also remained of finding a permanent base for MTC's Grounds Maintenance team. Where applicable, future funding applications would include reference to the plan and the staff room that was currently incorporated in the room's proposed design.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**7 World War 1 Project**

The Town Clerk reminded Cllrs Carr, Doherty and Carragher they could not take part in the discussion as they did not attend the original debate, as per the custom and practice of the Council's Rules of Debate. Cllr Carragher queried this as she wanted to be a part of the discussion, as she was on zoom for the original debate and it was out of her control that her connection was unreliable. Cllr Carragher proposed to make an amendment to audit and governance policy that this rule be discontinued. Members were advised that this would need to be examined further and that recommendations for changes to the Rules of Debate would need to be scrutinised by the Finance and General Purposes Committee as part of their scrutiny function.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the matter was debated at the meeting on 14th April 2021 but deferred the matter requesting more information. MTC queried the status of the statue as a war memorial and its listing on the War Memorials website. It has been confirmed that peace memorials could also be listed on the War Memorials site. The Town Clerk informed the statue was never intended to be a war memorial, but a recognition of the work of Moss Side Hospital in pioneering the treatment of shell shock, and to recognise the iniquity of executing those who were unable to serve their country due to the effects of shell shock.

Andy Edwards, the artist stated that he was unhappy with the current sitting of the statue without the accompanying panels which was not the vision originally intended. There was no legal restriction on the moving of memorials. Merseyrail has been contacted for their response to the way the statue has been left and the disrepair of its surroundings, together with the aspiration (and previous agreement) that the decorative panels would be placed next to the statue.

Cllr June Burns proposed that the Statue would remain indefinitely at Maghull North train station, and that negotiations should continue with Merseyrail regarding the panelled art work. This proposal was Seconded by Cllr Ferguson. The votes cast were as follows: 7 votes in favour and 4 votes against therefore the proposal was approved.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. A review of the Rules of Debate be taken to the next available Finance and General Purposes Committee for scrutiny and recommendations to full Council;
2. The Statue not be removed from its site at Maghull North train station, and continue negotiations with Merseyrail regarding the siting of the panelled art work;
3. The report be noted.

**8 Oiyaa Consumer Loyalty App**

Members were reminded about the Oiyaa consumer loyalty App, whether to sign up in partnership.

**RESOLVED that:-**

1. MTC would not be a party to the Oiyaa app;
2. The report be noted.

**10 Report on Sefton Borough Council Matters**

Cllr Carragher reminded all members of the Garden Festival, any nominations need to be submitted to MTC on 12pm Friday 24th June 2021.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**11 Chairman's Closing Comments**

None Given.

**12 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

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

**13 The Venue Lease Arrangements**

The Town Clerk informed members The Function Suite (The Venue) has previously been leased to Anthony Simons although the lease lapsed in 2016. MTC is now in a position to propose Heads of Terms. It is proposed that the lease commence on 1st October 2021 with the first rent review in April 2023.

During the course of the negotiations Mr Simons has requested two things:

That the Venue would be decorated before he signed the lease. The Venue was decorated in 2016 but was looking rather tired.

2. He also requested that the rent be rebated for the first 3 months of the lease in order to allow him to build his business up again. The 3 months period would cover the run up to Christmas, traditionally a busy time within the hospitality sector.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. All members agreed the request for the 3 month rent rebate (October, November, December 2021) the Venue;
2. Mr Simons to be responsible for redecorating the Venue;
3. The progress on the lease negotiations be noted;

**14 Town Hall Rewire**

Members were informed as to the progress of the rewiring and relighting project within the Town Hall. The Invitation to Tender had been issued and two tenders had been received. These were opened according to Financial Regulations requirements. MTC had been unable to award the tender due to the considerable increase in costs. When opened the costs for the rewire had increased by over 80%. As the figures were so much higher than anticipated MTC had spoken to the Project Manager, to see if there is a way of reducing costs. These included postponing the works until after the school summer holidays and widening the number of companies asked to tender.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Council would resubmit the tender opportunity to see if costs could be reduced to the planned budget;
2. The Report be noted.



**CHAIRMAN**

