

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting Held Wednesday 28th June 2023 at 6:30 PM

Those present :

Mayor : Cllr K Hughes

Deputy Mayor : Cllr Jo Burns

Councillors : Cllr L Birchall, Cllr G Birchall, Cllr P Brougham, Cllr P Darlington, Cllr J Desmond, Cllr R Ferguson, Cllr M Lock, Cllr S May, Cllr C Parker, Cllr C Purcell

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

1 Apologies For Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Leatherbarrow, McCormack, McKinley, and Sayers.

2 Declarations of Interest

None received.

3 Public Participation.

None.

4 Grant Application - Maghull In Bloom

John Spicer - Chair of Maghull in Bloom and trustee Rosalynne Gill attended the meeting to present their grant application for the forthcoming year. A brief update on Maghull in Bloom was provided. All Members thanked Maghull in Bloom for their amazing work around the town.

Cllr Lock gave special mention to Betty Fletcher who unfortunately has passed, as she was a fantastic volunteer who would be sadly missed. Cllr Lock proposed, if grant application agreed, the amount of the grant be increased by 10% due to current inflation from £2000 to £2200. All members agreed.

RESOLVED that the grant application for Maghull in Bloom for £2200 be agreed.

5 Planning Applications.

Members discussed the planning applications listed on the agenda. Several residents attended the meeting for the application to place an advertising hoarding at the junction of Hall Lane and Northway (DC/2023/00930). It was noted that the permission to place this hoarding had already been agreed by MTC at a previous meeting and that the make up of the Council was different to that which had agreed the contract with the applicant. A resident handed in a petition objecting to the development which would be sent to Sefton LPA on the resident's behalf.

RESOLVED that the applications be noted.



6 To Confirm the Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 17th May 2023 be approved as a correct record.

7 Minutes for Noting

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

8 Civility and Respect Pledge

Members were informed of the Civility and Respect Pledge, which was an initiative brought by the Local Council Sector to encourage good behaviour amongst councillors and staff so that the working environment for all would be professional and considerate. By signing this pledge MTC would be the first Local Council in Sefton to sign the Pledge and the second in Merseyside. Halewood TC had already signed the Pledge.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. The Council would sign the Pledge;**
- 2. The report be noted.**

Cllr S May left the meeting.

9 AGAR - Annual Return to External Auditor

Members considered the Annual Return as part of the External Audit requirements. 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 2022/23 be approved and signed by the Town Clerk and Mayor;**
- 2. Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2022/23 be approved and signed by the Finance Officer and Mayor;**
- 3. The publication dates of the accounts be noted;**
- 4. The Annual Governance Statement be submitted to PKF Littlejohn, the External Auditor;**
- 5. The report be noted.**

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Business Plan 2023- 2027

Cllr C Parker, the Leader of the Council, provided an overview of the Business Plan 2023-2027. Members were informed:

- The Vision for Maghull Town Council.
- This business plan was only a overview as the details will be formed by the committees.
- MTC core business would be the parks and green spaces.
- Goal was to have a sustainable, greener Maghull.



- Improve accessibility, bio-diverse green spaces in our parks.
- Ensuring our spaces would be multi-generational.
- Review neighbourhood plan to link in Home Watch for safer Maghull.
- Continue ideas for the business network, collaborating with businesses in Maghull.
- Review the Maghull Advice Centre and how to improve the offer for residents.

It was noted that the Business Plan was weighted towards Community Services within the Council. Members discussed that this could prove an excessive level of commitment for the team and that some of the objectives could move to a different team to assist with the completion of the Business Plan's core features. It was also noted that this was a living document which would see some revisions during it's lifetime so that it was an agile and relevant document.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. The Business Plan 2023-2027 be approved and adopted by the Council;**
- 2. The report be noted.**

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Chair's Report

The Mayor thanked all for attending and stated that he would like the Council to work together as team going forward.

CHAIR



06/09/23.