

# Minutes of the Full Council Meeting Held Wednesday 6th December 2023 at 6:30 PM

Those present :

Mayor : Cllr K Hughes

Councillors : Cllr L Birchall, Cllr G Birchall, Cllr P Brougham, Cllr J Desmond, Cllr R Ferguson, Cllr D Leatherbarrow, Cllr C Parker

Officers : P Dillon, S Lawrence, A Mc Intyre

## 1 Apologies For Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Darlington, May, McCormack and Sayers.

## 2 Declarations of Interest

None received.

## 3 Public Participation.

None notified.

## 4 To Confirm the Minutes of the Last Meeting

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2023 be approved.**

## 5 Council Vacancy

Members were informed that MTC was currently running with 4 vacancies, one in North Ward and three in East Ward. This meant that the Council had only 75% of its membership. An election in East Ward would be held on 21st December 2023. This would fill three of the four vacancies on the Council. However, the vacancy in North Ward had not triggered a by election and this meant that the vacancy could be filled by co-option.

Members needed to decide whether to use the previous method of filling the vacancy which was the candidate answers two questions by email and was then interviewed by full council. The questions are:

1. What experience do you bring to the Council?
2. What do you hope to achieve?

If there were more than one candidate, then they would be interviewed in turn. Members then would vote on which candidate they preferred. The vote would be by a show of hands. The successful candidate then joined the Council as a co-opted (full) member.

The next Council meeting is proposed for 29th January 2024 when the co-option vacancy should be filled. The three vacancies for East Ward would be filled on 21st December 2023.

Members stated that they would prefer if it could be ascertained what social media the candidates used and to see what support structure was in place to ensure that mental health concerns were adequately addressed.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. MTC noted the update;
2. The vacancy would be filled at the next available Council meeting using the

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**procedure outlined above;**

**3. Candidates be asked about their social media presence and what support mechanisms were in place;**

**4. The report be noted.**

**6 Maghull Football Club Improvements**

Members were informed that Maghull Football Club had successfully obtained planning approval and the works were due to start in the new year.

As the landlord, the Council now needed to oversee the plans to ensure they were appropriate and to seek out the timetable for the works. It should be noted that the planning approval required the Club to mark out the car park with car parking spaces. As this land was not within their demesne, the Council needed to discuss the matter and see the plans before landlord's permission could be given.

**RESOLVED that:**

**1. The plans for the improvements to the football pitch were noted;**

**2. The report be noted.**

**7 World War 1 Project**

Members were informed that as there had been no contact with the artist to discuss the matter it would be advisable to defer the matter to the next available meeting.

Members discussed forming a small working party to take this matter forward as this would facilitate a more rational way to develop the plans. All members agreed.

**RESOLVED that:**

**1. A working group be formed to progress the matter;**

**2. The item be deferred to the next appropriate Council meeting.**

**8 Parking in Maghull**

**RESOLVED that this matter would be deferred to the next appropriate Council meeting.**

**9 Maghull Advice Centre**

Members were given an update regarding Maghull advice centre. Three quotes had been received for the service provider for next financial year. Once a decision has been made, following a tender opening exercise in line with MTC Financial Regulations, members would be informed.

**RESOLVED that the verbal update be noted.**

**10 Planning Applications.**

Members noted the planning application of the erection of a new Cooperative Foodstore (Class E), with new shopfront including signage zones, new access, car park / community space, and new secure yard/plant enclosure, including installation of external plant following the demolition of existing buildings. (Resubmission of DC/2023/01142 withdrawn 29.8.2023).

The Town Clerk informed members of the submission from Anwyl for 249 dwellings on the North plot of Land East of Maghull (DC/2023/01962). All members agreed MTC to liaise with Landor Planning consultants to send a response.

**RESOLVED the verbal report be noted.**



**11 Municipal Calendar 2023/24**

**RESOLVED that the changes to the Municipal Calendar as detailed be approved.**

**12 Christmas Close Down**

The Council offices would be closed from 1pm on Friday 22nd December 2023 until 9am on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

**RESOLVED all Members agreed the Christmas Close Down for MTC.**

**13 Chair's Report**

The Mayor Cllr K Hughes thanked the Cllrs for attending the meeting. This had been a sad and difficult year following the tragic loss of Cllr M Lock. He also wished everyone Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**14 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

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

**15 Update on Leases**

Members discussed the request from the Venue Licensees to increase their desmesne to cover the accommodation left vacant by the Radio Station. They very carefull considered the request but felt on the balance that it was too early to discuss what use the accommodation could be put to as the Council had not yet considered its full options.

An update, with timescales, was given regarding the lease negotiations with Maghull Football Club. In addition, Members were informed that correspondence had been received relating to the planning approval recently granted to Maghull Football Club and whether this was in contravention of the covenants on the land. Members reviewed their options and agreed to refer the matter to the Council's solicitors for a response.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1. The increase in accommodation for the Venue be put on hold;**
- 2. The progress in the lease negotiations for Maghull Football Club be noted;**
- 3. Sefton Legal Services be instructed to provide a response to the correspondence;**
- 4. The report be noted.**

CHAIR

*K.M.H.*

