

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting Held Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 6:30 PM

Those present :

Mayor : Cllr K Hughes

Councillors : Cllr L Birchall, Cllr G Birchall, Cllr P Brougham, Cllr P Darlington, Cllr D
Leatherbarrow, Cllr R Mason, Cllr S May, Cllr C Parker

Officers : P Dillon, S Lawrence, A Mc Intyre, K Spofforth

1 Election of Chair

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Parker, SECONDED by Cllr Leatherbarrow that Cllr K Hughes be elected as Chair of Maghull Town Council for the forthcoming municipal year.

RESOLVED that Cllr K Hughes be elected as Chair of Maghull Town Council for the forthcoming year.

2 Election of Town Mayor

It was AGREED that Cllr K Hughes be elected to the Office of Town Mayor for the ensuing year. Cllr K Hughes confirmed his acceptance of this nomination, he agreed to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was duly witnessed and signed by the Town Clerk.

3 Appointment of Deputy Town Mayor

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Brougham, SECONDED by Cllr Parker that Cllr Ferguson be elected as Deputy Mayor of Maghull Town Council for the forthcoming municipal year.

RESOLVED that Cllr Ferguson be elected as Deputy Mayor of Maghull Town Council for the forthcoming municipal year.

8 Council Vacancy - Co-option

The Town Clerk informed members one vacancy remains within MTC. Two Candidates had expressed an interest in being co-opted to the Council. Members agreed to invite both candidates to Full Council on 19th June 2024.

RESOLVED that:

1. Both Candidates be invited to the Full Council meeting on 19th June 2024;
2. The report be noted.

4 Apologies For Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Desmond, Cllr Ferguson, Cllr T Hughes, Cllr B McCormack, Cllr P McCormack and Cllr Sayers.

5 Declarations of Interest

None received.

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6 Public Participation.

None notified. A member of the public was in attendance.

7 To Confirm the Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 29th January 2024 were approved as a correct record.

9 Review of Core Documents

Members were informed MTC has a series of Core Documents which govern how the Council conducts its business. The documents were the Constitution, Financial Regulations and Scheme of Delegation. There have not been any significant changes to the legislation and therefore, the documents remain the same as last year.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Members agreed the Core Documents (Constitution, Financial Regulations and Scheme of Delegation) for the forthcoming municipal year;
2. That the report be noted.

10 Committee Places

Members were informed that MTC had previously adopted a Committee system of delegated decision making to action its work programme. MTC has 3 Committees and 1 Sub Committee. Each Committee has 10 members, based on political balance, and the Mayor of Maghull is an ex officio member, able to attend if they so wish.

The Council runs an informal Chairmen's Group, of the Chairs of the Committees, which meets on an ad hoc basis. It has been suggested that this system is exclusionary as not all members are aware of the working of the Committees and do not get a chance to influence/decide matters which may be of interest if they are not a committee member.

In order to improve Councillor participation in the decision making process in the early stages, it was proposed a system of Working Groups be created which would feed into formal Council agenda items based on their recommendations. It was proposed to have three broad Working Groups, supported by Lead Members for particular projects to be agreed on an ad hoc basis. The Groups would be Community and Heritage, Parks and Recreation and Youth.

Appointment of Finance & General Purposes Committee, Membership and Substitution Arrangements for the Municipal Year 2024/25

It was RESOLVED that:-

1. Membership of Committees would be as follows:

- Finance & General Purposes:- Chair Cllr P McCormack, Members Cllr K Hughes (Mayor), Cllr Parker, Cllr Brougham, Cllr T Hughes, Cllr L Birchall and Cllr J Sayers.

2. Membership of Working groups would be as follows:

- Community and Heritage:- Chair Cllr Ferguson, Members Cllr K Hughes (Mayor), Cllr G Birchall, Cllr L Birchall, Cllr Brougham, and Cllr Darlington.
- Parks and recreation:- Chair Cllr B McCormack, Members Cllr K Hughes (Mayor), Cllr Mason, Cllr Desmond, Cllr Parker.

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- Youth:- Chair Cllr Leatherbarrow, Members Cllr K Hughes (Mayor), Cllr T Hughes, Cllr Brougham, Cllr Desmond, Cllr L Birchall, Cllr P McCormack.

3. Remaining places and Vice Chairs to be decided at the next meetings.

4. Members adopted the Working Group Meeting Protocol as set out in the report.

5. The report was noted.

11 Appointment of Representatives on External Bodies

It was RESOLVED that Maghull Town Council's Representatives on external organisations be appointed as follows:

- Sefton Rights of Way Liaison Group – Cllr Parker
- Maghull in Bloom – Cllr Desmond
- Maghull Parish Hall – Cllr K Hughes
- Sefton Council Standards Sub Committee – Cllr G Birchall
- MALC - Cllr Leatherbarrow

12 Municipal Calendar 2024/25

RESOLVED that members all agreed the Municipal Calendar for 2024-25.

13 Chairman's Closing Comments

The Mayor thanked members who attended Sefton's Ball. Congratulated Cllr Parker being elected as borough Cllr for Park Ward Sefton.

14 Exclusion of the Press and Public

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

15 Maghull Hub

The Town Clerk informed members The Big Help Project wishes to withdraw from the Service Level agreement (SLA) awarded after a tender exercise in November 2023 for the year January to December 2024. For the service to close immediately would cause problems for MTC and the clients at the Advice Centre.

From a practical viewpoint to continue the contract until June 30th, to ask an unsuccessful tenderer to complete the SLA, at the costs detailed in November, would be a minimum increase of £5,060 which would be the CAB who have been keen to be involved from the beginning. It should be noted that the BHP has agreed to keep to the training of the volunteers arranged for the next few weeks.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Members agreed for Town Clerk to inform BHP to withdraw from 30th June 2024;
2. Members agreed for Town Clerk to approach CAB to take over services if costs remain the same;
3. That the report be noted.

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Maghull Football Club Improvements

The Town Clerk informed members MTC and MFC have been in lease negotiations for a while. The progress had reached draft lease stage when the Club approached the Council to say that they wished to increase the demise of the area to be leased from the pitch and the sides to the boundary edge on their side of Old Hall Playing Fields.

MFC wishes to increase the demise due to the availability of funding from the Football Association (FA) and they wish to access this to keep the boundary treatments in an appropriate condition for their league and ground improvements. It is proposed that if this acceptable to Council, that the rent p.a. be increased to £1,500 from £1,000 as is current.

MFC also requested the potential to raise revenue through sponsorship of the ground. MFC would like to request permission to name the ground. This will help to raise revenue to cover the increase costs we will face next season.

MTC does not have a naming/sponsorship policy in place. Also the pitch is shared with another tenant.

Cllrs comments:

Old Hall Playing field name should remain.

MFC could rename their pavilions.

If both tenants approached with a mutual agreement to change the name of the playing field MTC may re-consider.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Members agreed to the increase in demise for the lease and the increase in rent from £1000 to £1500 for MFC;
2. Members refused the request to rename Old Hall Playing field;
3. That the report be noted.

CHAIR


19/06/24