**HALEWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**

At a Meeting of the Special Town Council held on Thursday 3rd August 2017 (7.00 pm), at the Arncliffe Sports & Community Centre, Halewood, L25 9PA the following Members were:-

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Ms C Harris (Chairperson)

Cllr. K Dalton Cllr A Harvey

Cllr Miss C Rose Cllr. N Hogg

Cllr. Mrs. E Finneran Cllr. D Samuels

Cllr. I Hamilton Cllr. B Swann

**Also in attendance:-**

Mr. G MacKenzie, Town Manager

Members of the Public – 2

**52. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were received and accepted from Cllr. S Ball, D. Perry and Cllr. Mrs. A Farrell.

**53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Cllr Mrs E Finneran declared a personal interest in item 4 (Hilton Grace Recreation Ground) remained in the meeting but took no part in the debate or in the decision.

Prior to the next agenda item, Cllr Harvey wished ‘good luck’ to the England Ladies Football Team playing in their semi final this evening, a sentiment endorsed by the Town Council.

**54. PUBLIC FORUM**

(i) Mr. J. McGuinness

Mr. McGuiness, on behalf of Halewood Junior Football League, reiterated some of the comments he made at the meetings of the Town Council held on 15th June and 20th July 2017, concluding that Halewood Junior Football League had no objection to any proposal that allowed Kingsthorne JFC use of Hilton Grace Recreation Ground.

(ii) Mr P.Brennan

Mr Brennan stated that he ‘could not understand what the problem was’. He recounted the history of the usage of Frederick Lunt Playing Field and how it came to be used by Kingsthorne JFC. Concluding, Mr Brennan expressed the view that the issue was ‘nothing to do with the Town Council.’

**55. HILTON GRACE RECREATION GROUND.**

Subsequent to consideration of this matter at the Town Council meeting held on 15th June 2017 (Minute 23 refers) the Town Manager presented a report which outlined a request by Kingsthorne JFC to use Hilton Grace Recreation Ground on three week day evenings and Saturday and Sunday mornings at various times throughout the year.

The Chairperson suspended Standing Orders to allow an open discussion.

In doing so, the Chairperson explained that the matter under consideration was an issue for the Town Council in that a request had been made for use of Hilton Grace Recreation Ground by Kingsthorne JFC using an area currently maintained by the Town Council as adult football pitches and that furthermore, the matter was unresolved from the Town Council meeting held on 15th June 2017.

During the subsequent discussion....

Cllr Harvey stated that, in his view, there was ‘enough room for everyone’ and that ‘no one needs to move’ and furthermore that he ‘didn’t want to lose adult football’.

Cllr Hogg expressed grave concern regarding a telephone call he had received which he considered was made to put pressure on him to make a certain decision on the matter.

Cllr Hamilton expressed concern at the issue raised in the Town Manager’s report concerning car parking. The area of Church Road that forms the boundary of Hilton Grace Recreation Ground had been an area of concern for the Borough Council a short while ago, hence the installation traffic calming measures; that we must have regard to the Sunday church services at St Nicholas Church opposite the Recreation Ground and finally, that if, as stated in the Town Manager’s report, part of the reason

Members expressed a further consideration in that if the request was granted and an alternative use of Frederick Lunt Playing Filed was identified and approved and for whatever reason Kingsthorne’s use of Hilton Grace Recreation Ground ceased, Kingsthorne JFC would effectively be homeless, something the Members of the Town Council wished to avoid.

Cllr Swann acknowledged that the Business Case, whilst making sense, we should not knowingly create traffic congestion in an area which has been a concern in the past.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

It was moved by Cllr. N Hogg and seconded by Cllr. A Harvey and

RESOLVED:- (i) That the proposal by Kingsthorne JFC to use Hilton Grace Recreation Ground as an alternative to their long-standing use of Frederick Lunt Playing field be declined for the following reasons:

1. Members had grave concerns over the added pressure that would be brought about on already existing traffic and parking congestion in the area.
2. In the event of Kingsthorne JFC vacating Frederick Lunt Playing field and its subsequent re-allocation to another User, should Kingsthorne JFC’s use of Hilton Grace Recreation Ground cease for any reason (other than voluntary cessation) they would effectively be ‘homeless’ which the Members of the Town Council wished to avoid.

Meeting Closed at 8.15pm

Signed ....................................... Date ...............................................