**HALEWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**

At a Meeting of the Town Council held on Thursday, 19th May 2016 (7.00 pm), at Arncliffe Sports & Community Centre, Arncliffe Road, Halewood, the following Members were:-

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Ms. C L Rose (Chairman)

S Ball N Hogg

Ms. C Harris I S Hamilton B Swann D Samuels

A Harvey

**Also in attendance:-**

G MacKenzie, Town Manager

S Edwardson, Admin & Comm. Officer

Members of the Public – 11

**8. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were received and accepted from Cllrs. Mrs. E Finneran, D Perry and K Dalton

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

The following declarations of interest were received:-

Cllr. A Harvey - Agenda Item 16 – Vacancy for Town Councillor

Cllr. N Hogg - Agenda Item 20b – Halewood Academy – Sixth Form closure

**10. PUBLIC FORUM**

J. McGuinness – HJFL – Outlined the history of the ‘Bolt-On’ to the Arncliffe Sports and Community Centre, funded jointly by Barclays Spaces for Sport, the Football Foundation and others and provided ‘for use by Junioor Football’. Significantly, Mr McGuinness complained about HJFL not being allowed to use the changing rooms / toilets provided as part of the facility during the HJFL’s Summer (and Winter) League when the Sports Hall was being used by a Dance Group. Mr McGuinness went on to say that there are five other toilets in the main building that could be used by the Dance Group.

P. Brennan – HJFL – Stated that the HJFL and the class in the Sports Hall are constantly at loggerheads every weekend when the Summer League takes place. Mr Brennan noticed that there were new faces around the Councillors table and he suggested they should familiarise themselves with HJFL and to come along one weekend and see for themselves just how popular the children’s football is.

Suspending Standing Orders, the Chairperson said that she would have a meeting with the Town Manager and others involved to try to bring harmony to all concerned and reach an agreement on the use of toilet facilities.

P. Whiteside – Mentioned that dog fouling on the pitches is a much bigger issue and that the Town Council should provide more dog bins and signage to inform the dog owners that dog fouling is not allowed.

G. Tyrrell – Mentioned the 80th Anniversary of the International Brigade who fought against the Fascists and in particular the part played by former Town and Borough Councillor, Harry Keidon. Mr Tyrrell went on to say that we should celebrate this great anniversary and Cllr. A Harvey suggested we set up a Steering Group and put aside an amount of money for such celebrations; a figure of £1,000 was mentioned and a suggestion made that the former ‘Pink Room’ be dedicated to former Cllr Keidon and that a commemorative plaque erected.

The Chairperson asked the Town Manager to consider the suggestions made and provide a report for future consideration by Members of the Town Council.

**11. MINUTES.**

To approve and sign the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 12th May 2016.

It was moved by Cllr B Swann and seconded by Cllr. A Harvey, and

RESOLVED:- That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 12th May 2016, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

**12. FINAL OUT-TURN 2015-2016**

The Town Manager presented a report which outlined the final out turn figures for 2015-2016. Councillors thanked the Town Manager for doing an excellent job in turning the Town Council financial problems around.

It was moved by Cllr. Ms. C Harris and seconded by Cllr. D Samuels , and

RESOLVED:- (a) That the Town Manager’s report be noted. (A copy of the report is filed with the minutes).

(b) That approval be given to an increase of £2,000 to the Festive Specific Reserve as outlined in the report.

(c) That approval be given to retain the remaining surplus in the Town Fund Balance.

**13. ARNCLIFFE SPORTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE – SYNTHETIC PLAYING SERVICE**

The Council considered the report of the Town Manager which sought approval to proposed hire charges for the newly installed 3G pitch at the Arncliffe Sports and Community Centre.

It was moved by Cllr. D Samuels and seconded by Cllr. I S Hamilton, and

RESOLVED:- (a) That the Town Managers report be noted. (A copy of the report is filed with the minutes).

(b) That approval be given to the hourly charge of £25 for the use of the 3G surface, applicable to all potential users, including Junior Football and other sports clubs.

(c) That approval be given to the discounted hourly rate of £20 for Halewood Residents / Groups and EiC.

(d) That approval be given to the occasional lunchtime use by Holy Family Primary School children free of charge.

(e) That approval be given to pay the recently received invoices from the installation contractors in the combined sum of £30,026.88.

**14. HOLLIES PLAYGROUND**

The Council considered the report of the Town Manager which provided an update on the successful application for grant funding from Cory Environmental Trust to upgrade the Children’s playground adjacent to Hollies Hall and sought approval to payment of a 10% third party contribution of £4,222.80, as part of the grant conditions to be allocated against the Playgrounds Specific Reserve.

It was moved by Cllr. A Harvey and seconded by Cllr. I S Hamilton, and

RESOLVED:- (a) That the Town Managers report be noted. (A copy of the report is filed with the minutes).

(b) That the payment by the Town Council, of the 10% third party contribution of £4,222.80 be authorised and allocated against the Playgrounds Specific Reserve.

(c) To agree not to publicise the grant until registration has been made to ENTRUST which itself is linked to a Legal Agreement between the Town Council and CETB yet to be received and which will be subject of a further report.

**15. ELWYN GARDENS**

The Council considered the report of the Town Manager which provided an update on the proposals to upgrade Elwyn Gardens following the Town Council’s resolution at its meeting on 16th July 2015 (minute 26c refers) that the area be prioritised for improvement. The Town Manager advised members of the successful bid to the Big Lottery Awards For All fund which had conditionally granted the sum of £10,000 towards the cost of improvements.

It was moved by Cllr. D Samuels and seconded by Cllr. Mrs T Harris, and

RESOLVED:- (a) That the Town Managers report be noted. (A copy of the report is filed with the minutes).

(b) That the conditional grant, as outlined in the attached letter dated 13.05.16. be accepted.

(c) That approval be given to pay the Town Council’s contribution of £2,512 towards the total cost of the project, to be allocated against Specific Reserves as outlined in para 3.6. of the report.

(d) That authorisation be given for the Town Manager to sign the offer letter on behalf of the Town Council.

**Note:-** Cllr. A Harvey, having declared an interest in the following item left the room and took no part in the discussion.

**16. VACANCY FOR TOWN COUNCILLOR TO REPRESENT WEST WARD**

**Note: This minute was amended at the Town Council meeting held on 22nd June 2016.**

The Council considered the report of the Town Manager which sought direction regarding an expression of interest shown in filling the current vacancy on Halewood Town Council. Members were advised that, since writing the report, the Town Manager had received a further expression of interest i.e. there are currently two in total.

A discussion took place on the current vacancy and on implementing the NALC guidelines attached to the report.

It was moved by Cllr. I S Hamilton and seconded by Cllr. Ms. C Harris, and

RESOLVED:- (a) That the Town Managers report be noted. (A copy of the report is filed with the minutes).

(b) That the Town Manager seek advice from LALC / NALC on whether it is permissible for the Town Council to appoint an Independent Panel, comprising Elected Members and residents of Halewood West Ward, to advise the Town Council on whom is the best candidate to fill the vacancy, the final decision to be made by members of the Town Council.

(c) That the Town Manager draft a framework for selection of a candidate which follows the NALC guidelines, to be Approved by the Town Council at a future meeting.

**17. APPLICATIONS FOR FREE OR CONCESSIONARY HIRE OF FACILITIES**

The Council considered an application for free or concessionary hire from Nouveaux Morris Dancers for a Fundraising Event to be held at Hollies Hall on 10th June 2016.

It was moved by Cllr. Ms. C Harris and seconded by Cllr. N Hogg, and

RESOLVED:- (a) That the report be noted.

(b) That free hire be approved for the event listed above on the date indicated.

**18. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

RESOLVED:- a) That the schedule of accounts, amounting to £7,250.51, be authorised for payment under

Standing Order 3d Delegated / Emergency Decisions on 12th May 2016 be ratified.

**19. REPORTS FROM CONFERENCE/REPRESENTATIVE BODIES**

1. LALC Conference – Cllr. I S Hamilton discussed the Conference he attended with Cllr. N Hogg.

RESOLVED:- (i) That the reports be noted.

**20. CORRESPONDENCE**

**(a) Report of the Independent Panel on Town / Parish Council Allowances 2016**

To note the report from the Independent Panel on Town / Parish Council Allowances 2016.

RESOLVED:- (i) That the report be noted.

**Note:-** Cllr N Hogg having declared an interest in the following item, remained in the room, but took no part in the discussion.

**(b) Halewood Academy – Proposed Closure of Sixth Form**

To note receipt of the response at the end of the consultation period.

Members of the Town Council were disappointed with the lack of a direct response to the concerns they raised during the consultation period and

RESOLVED:- (a) That the response be noted and requested that the Town Manager write accordingly to Vicky Beer (Regional Schools Commissioner) to express the Town Council’s disappointment at a direct response .

**(c) Planning Applications**

The following Planning Applications were considered:-

Application Reference No:- 16/00176/FUL

Application Reference No:- 16/00181/FUL

Application Reference No:- 16/00229/FUL

Application Reference No:- 16/00275/TCA

Application Reference No:- 16/00246/FUL

Application Reference No:- 16/00300/PDE

Application Reference No:- 16/00270/FUL

Application Reference No:- 15/00599/NMA1

Application Reference No:- 16/00183/FUL

Application Reference No:- 16/00231/FUL

Application Reference No:- 16/00306/CLD

Application Reference No:- 16/00311/FUL

Application Reference No:- 16/00296/FUL

RESOLVED:- (a) That the Planning Applications be noted.

(b) That the Town Manager seek more information regarding Planning Application 16/00275/TCA and having regard to the environmental benefits of such trees, if there is no valid reason for their felling, that the Town Council object to the application.

Meeting closed at 8.30p.m.

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