

## **HALEWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Extraordinary Halewood Town Council Meeting held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
(7.00pm) at the Arncliffe Sports and Community Centre.

### **PRESENT**

Cllr. C Rose  
Vice Chairperson of the Town Council  
In the chair

Cllr. K Dalton  
Cllr. F Martin  
Cllr. B Dunn  
Cllr. T Lucock

Cllr. A Harvey  
Cllr. B Swann  
Cllr. S Harvey  
Cllr. Y Graves

Members of the public. 13

#### **Also in attendance:-**

G MacKenzie - Town Manager  
G Allen - Town Manager  
K Newton - Senior Administrator  
S Edwardson -Admin. & Comm. Officer

#### **9. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. T Powell, Cllr. S Powell and Cllr. D Samuels.

#### **10. SILENCE**

A period of silence was observed as a mark of respect for D-Day.

#### **11. DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None

#### **12. PUBLIC FORUM**

Dawn Corrie, having registered a request to address the Town Council, stated that she wished to ask a question of Cllr. T Powell and so in his absence, will ask her question at a future meeting.

Eric McIntosh sought and was provided with, clarification on the preference to register an interest to address the Town Council and thereafter registered a request to do so at the next meeting.

#### **13. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr B Swann, addressing the Council, made reference to the petition presented to the Town Council at the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 considering that the petition had been ignored. When the matter was considered previously by the Town Council the statement made during the debate that some of the signatures were from non Halewood residents didn't detract from the request by well over 400 residents that a Neighbourhood Plan be developed. Cllr Swann wished the Town Council to endorse the petition and start work on the Neighbourhood Plan with immediate effect.

Cllr. B Dunn commented we have a responsibility to listen and work with the public and would like to work together with the residents on the Plan. The petition reflects what the public want to happen. She also feels that it has taken so long that the public may lose faith which she doesn't want to happen. In agreeing to do the Neighbourhood Plan she feels we will have a better relationship with the residents.

Cllr C Rose asked about the costs of developing a Plan asking whether Cllr Swann has a figure in mind, whilst willing to go ahead with this, we need costings and more information.

Cllr. T Lucock commented that we will need to set up a committee then we can work out costs.

Cllr K Dalton commented he has nothing against the Neighbourhood Plan but this needs specialised planning, will need a lot of work doing but is willing to look into it.

Cllr B Swann considered that the Council is at present 'running on part time staff' which should be fulltime and he doesn't feel like an apprentice should be taken on at this point. The plan will take at least 2 years to put into place and the Council at this point can afford Council support.

**It was moved by Cllr. B Swann and seconded by Cllr. S Harvey and**

**RESOLVED** that 'The Town Council endorse the petition and that the wheels be set in motion with immediate effect to start work on a Neighbourhood Plan for Halewood.

at the request of a Member the vote was recorded as follows;

FOR THE MOTION – Cllrs Swann, Dunn, A. Harvey, S. Harvey, Lucock and Graves

AGAINST THE MOTION - 0

ABSTENSIONS – Cllr Rose, Dalton and Martin

#### **14. VILLAGE GREEN STATUS**

Cllr B Swann has asked that we move forward and develop the request made at the Annual Parish meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018 with regards to 'Village Green Status' for some of the open spaces in Halewood. The residents want to protect their land but the want help from the Town Council to do it. The three areas envisaged are Halewood Doorstep Green, Grace Park and Fredrick Lunt Playing Field.

Cllr. A Harvey proposed that all of the Town Council leased land be included in the request but after discussion, withdrew the proposal.

**It was moved by Cllr. B Swann and seconded by Cllr. C Rose and**

**RESOLVED:** - To progress a request to Knowsley MBC for the 'Village Green Status' to be afforded for Halewood Doorstep Green, Grace Park and Fredrick Lunt Playing Field.

#### **15. THE FREEHOLD ACQUISITION OF LEASEHOLD LAND**

Cllr. B Swann requested that progress be made towards the acquisition of the Freehold of all leased land presently leased to the Town Council by Knowsley MBC as requested at the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018. In Cllr Swann's view, with a (now withdrawn) proposal by Knowsley MBC to set up Knowsley Parks Trust there is no reason why Halewood Town Council couldn't do this as there shouldn't be a cost implication.

Cllr. K Dalton expressed the view that the land would not just be 'passed over' as its worth millions.

Cllr. A Harvey noted that his election success in 2014 and 2018 was due to supporting the 'Green spaces' agenda. In Cllr A Harvey's view, despite the Town Council 'owning' the spaces and paying for their maintenance, the Borough Council still retain a strong interest and wish 'to build homes everywhere'.

Cllr. B Dunn The Green spaces need to be protected as they are needed for play, sports activity and leisure. Green spaces are proven to be beneficial to good health and mental wellbeing  
There are many people in Halewood seeking counselling due to anxiety, mental health issues including depression. There is currently a ten week wait to be seen.  
Can we offer another service provider a free room to run a service to take the pressure off our much valued 'Listening Ear'?

**It was moved by Cllr. B Swann and seconded by Cllr. C Rose and**

**RESOLVED:-** That a request to be put forward to Knowsley MBC to transfer to Halewood Town Council, the freehold interest in all leasehold land currently held by Knowsley MBC.

## **16. ACCESS TO TOWN COUNCIL FACILITIES**

Cllr B Swann addressed Members, stating that the request made at the Annual Town Meeting held on 10th May 2018 for the community to gain more access to Council facilities that are free at the point of use had not been recorded correctly and wished the matter be put back to the Town Council. The Township wanted to work with the Town Council to make this happen. There is scope to develop people's educational skills free of charge. We are operating on £10 hr for room hire. No reports have been put forward to what action has been taken to do this.

Cllr. A Harvey stated that the European Cup final on 1<sup>st</sup> June was an opportunity to get the public in to watch it on the 'Big Screen' but no effort was made, we should put a bar on when football matches are on the TV to encourage the community to get together. There's lots of poverty and loneliness in Halewood and the Town Council are, in Cllr A Harvey's view, not listening to the people, we should encourage people to come through the door.

Cllr. B Dunn commented on the number of people suffering with mental health and depression. People wait 10 weeks for an appointment for counselling why can't we offer them this with Listening Ear so that they can see someone sooner.

**It was moved by Cllr. B Swann and seconded by Cllr. Y Graves and**

**RESOLVED:-** that steps be taken with immediate effect to identify and develop time periods when Town Council centres can be used further by the community free of charge.

## **17. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OPEN FORUMS**

Cllr. B Swann requested urgent progress be made on the request made at the Annual Town Meeting held on 10th May 2018 to establish working groups and opportunities to communicate with the Township through 'Open Forums'. He feels the Township is crying out for things to happen but also want to work with the Town Council. There is a need to develop the Neighbourhood Skills and have, Cllr Swann suggested, quarterly forums need to happen to obtain information from the public.

Cllr. A Harvey expressed a wish to split Town Council meetings between our two Centres having at least two a year at Hollies Hall as people deserve the best; ‘different people may attend if at different centres’. Cllr Swann advised that this is not advisable given the lack of recording facilities at this venue.

Cllr. C Rose observed that an opportunity exists to make this happen and recent training on ‘appreciative enquiry’ she had attended may prove a useful tool.

**It was moved by Cllr. B Swann and seconded by Cllr. S Harvey and**

**RESOLVED:-** that work commence on establishing ‘Open Forums’.

The Chairperson thanked residents for their attendance at the meeting

Meeting Closed at 8.05 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....