

## **HALEWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2019 (7.00pm) at the Arncliffe Sports and Community Centre.

### **PRESENT**

Cllr. C Rose  
Cllr. K Dalton  
Cllr. F Martin  
Cllr. D Samuels  
Cllr. B Swann  
Cllr. B Dunn  
Cllr. S Harvey  
Cllr. A Harvey  
Cllr. T Lucock  
Cllr. Y Graves

Members of the public. 93

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

G Allen - Town Manager  
K Newton - Senior Administrator  
A McCaffrey – Support Officer  
J L Flynn – Support Officer

### **61. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were received and accepted from, Cllr. S Powell, Cllr. T Powell and Cllr. D Samuels

Before the meeting commenced, G. Allen explained that due to the ongoing dispute regarding the status of the Annual Meeting held on May 16<sup>th</sup>, there is no Chair for this evening's meeting. He invited Councillors to nominate a Chair for the meeting.

It was **moved** by Cllr. C Rose and **seconded** by Cllr. S Harvey and

**RESOLVED:** that Cllr B Swann chair the remainder of the meeting.

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

Cllr. B Dunn – Health and Adult Social Care  
Cllr. A Harvey – Planning  
Cllr. C Rose – Item no. 63  
Cllr. Y Graves – Item no. 63

### **63. PARTNERSHIP PRESENTATION**

**Alistair MacFarlane – Knowsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)**

Mr. MacFarlane addressed the meeting about Health issues in Halewood and responded to questions raised by Members and residents in the public gallery. Mr. MacFarlane shared an

overview of the responsibilities held by Knowsley CCG in respect of Health across Halewood – Doctors’ Surgeries, Pharmacies, Health Visiting and Specialist Services.

After Mr. MacFarlane’s presentation, Cllr Swann invited questions from Councillors before opening up the floor to members of the public.

**Cllr. A Harvey** – Commented that there is something going wrong with Halewood GP services and an investigation is needed.

**Cllr B Dunn** - Has received numerous complaints about people not being able to access GP services, some people waiting up to 20 days to see a GP. Hospitals are looking for additional beds due to people not being seen by their GP and having to attend the hospital’s A&E, winter is coming up and this will get even worse if something isn’t done.

**Alistair MacFarlane** responded and advised he was not a spokesperson for local GP services but he will work with everyone to make significant improvements.

**Cllr Swann** opened up the forum starting with pre-arranged questions.

1. **Mr. E. Mackintosh** - Mr. Mackintosh presented a wide range of statistical and research evidence concerning the alleged poor standards of care provided by Aston Health Care.

**Alistair MacFarlane** responded and advised that, as a Commissioner, he will take the issues raised by Mr. Mackintosh back to the ongoing discussions with Aston Health Care.

During the update from Mr. Mackintosh and response by Alistair MacFarlane there were a number of residents interjecting with comments.

2. **Mr. I. Hodge** - Mr. Hodge raised the issue of the new systems being used by the Boots Pharmacy in Halewood. Mr. Hodge described his experience of delays and problems for the receipt of a vital prescription.

**Cllr K Dalton** interjected and advised Mr. Hodge he can assist with taking forward a complaint about his poor treatment.

Alistair MacFarlane responded by sympathising with Mr. Hodge’s treatment and advised him to follow up the offer of support by Cllr Dalton. CCG don’t commission Boots, however he will feed up Mr. Hodges complaint.

3. **T. Malone** - Raised the issue of the serious challenges faced by vulnerable people (especially the elderly) who are now forced to request advice and support through a telephone system. The queues for advice are often lengthy and expensive. Ms. Malone shared her experiences of this system, which said caused her frustration and anxiety.
4. **Mr. T. Swift** - Mr. Swift asked Alistair MacFarlane how he was going to respond to the wide range of issues and concerns raised by residents. He was appreciative of Alistair MacFarlane’s attendance but stated that action was needed.
5. **Mr. T. Bell** - Raised a number of issues regarding the veracity of the data collected by GP surgeries, particularly Aston Health Care. In addition, he shared his experience of receiving the wrong prescription from a GP which could have proven dangerous to him.
6. **Ms. R. Ormandy** - Ms. Ormandy asked Alistair MacFarlane “where is the ‘red flag’ in the CCG systems when things go wrong”. What is the escalation process for members of the

public? She herself is an NHS worker and is highly concerned about the standards of provision in Halewood.

**Mr. MacFarlane** responded. He stated there is an improvement plan in place and which is regularly monitored. But he accepted the issues raised should not be happening. He asked people to make use of the complaints procedure.

- 7. Mr. D. Roberts** - Mr. Roberts shared his experiences with Aston Health Care and reiterated the previous points raised about poor standards. He used to get 2 lots of tablets per prescription but now it's only a month's supply so he pays more on prescription charges.
- 8. Mr. G. Tyrrell** - Raised an issue about the clear variable standards with Health Care across Halewood. In some parts of the community the experience of people was good. In other areas, however, the standards were poor – and this seemed to centre on the communities being served by Aston Health Care.

Another speaker asked how the CCG were planning for the future given Halewood is likely to have an additional 1,500 households within a few years.

**Mr. MacFarlane** responded by stating that the budget for Halewood will rise in line with the numbers of residents. Numbers of available appointments would therefore rise – the current formula is 70 appointments per 1,000 residents.

**Cllr B Dunn** - Asked about NHS preparations for flu vaccinations

**Mr. MacFarlane** responded by outlining the plans in place for vaccinations for Halewood residents and advised the public to seek out the opportunities as they are advertised.

**Cllr Swann** Thanked Mr. MacFarlane for his attendance. He stated that a future invitation will be given to Knowsley Health Watch for a future meeting with residents. He advised the public that Mr. MacFarlane had agreed to continue listening to resident's views in the boardroom.

**Cllr Swann** Then allowed a short adjournment to allow those members of the public attending for the NHS presentation to depart the meeting. After a 5 minute break, Cllr Swann invited other questions from members of the public

## **64. PUBLIC FORUM**

In accordance with Standing Order 1.8 – 1.17, members of the public, having made prior arrangements with the Town Manager, may be invited to speak to the meeting of the Town Council on a matter concerning the Township of Halewood.

- 1. Mr. E. Mackintosh** - Mr. Mackintosh raised the issue of the 'Hate Crime' alleged to have occurred on May 16<sup>th</sup> 2019. He also advised that many residents in Halewood remain angry that this issue was raised at the Knowsley Council AGM on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Cllr Swann responded for the Town Council by proposing that a request is made to Knowsley MBC for information from Cllr Graham Morgan regarding the background to the statement he made at the Knowsley Council AGM on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

- 2. Ms. T. Wynne** - Informed the Town Council about major problems faced by residents concerning a rat infestation across many parts of Halewood.

Responding for the council, **Cllr B Dunn** informed the public about her recent work liaising with Environmental Services from Knowsley Council. She also advised that all Halewood Town Councillors had met earlier in the day and have agreed to respond by using the council website and social media platform to provide information and advice to residents and to allocate resources to respond to the issues.

There were other comments from members of the public advising on the problems of the rat infestation.

## **65. MINUTES**

### 1. Meeting of June 27<sup>th</sup> 2019

It was **moved** by Cllr C Rose and **seconded** by Cllr A Harvey

**RESOLVED:** (a) That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 2. Meeting of August 8<sup>th</sup> 2019

It was **moved** by Cllr C Rose and **seconded** by Cllr S Harvey

**RESOLVED:** (a) That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **66. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS.**

<b><u>PAYEE</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley	<b>£724.00</b>
Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley	<b>£601.00</b>
Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley	<b>£2,931.60</b>
Unitel Network Services	<b>£66.95</b>
CF Corporate Finance Limited	<b>£180.00</b>
SLCC	<b>£350.00</b>
B & M Office Machines	<b>£22.20</b>
AD Electronic Security	<b>£60.00</b>
Celtic Fire Security Limited	<b>£126.00</b>
Celtic Fire Security Limited	<b>£108.00</b>
EDSL	<b>£2,500.00</b>
Water Plus	<b>£923.59</b>
Water Plus	<b>£923.59</b>
The Wigan Beer Company Limited	<b>£1,847.04</b>
The Wigan Beer Company Limited	<b>£2,251.21</b>
Wray Bros Limited	<b>£101.86</b>
Viking Direct	<b>£103.31</b>
St John Ambulance	<b>£172.80</b>
Tesco Mobile (GA)	<b>£36.00</b>
B & M Office Machines	<b>£58.12</b>

Wirral Borough Council	<b>£268.25</b>
HMRC - Inland Revenue	<b>£3,839.40</b>
Merseyside Pension Fund	<b>£4,333.51</b>
Unison	<b>£25.50</b>
Asda Stores Limited	<b>£158.60</b>
Argos Stores Limited	<b>£39.98</b>
Asda Stores Limited	<b>£127.71</b>
Asda Stores Limited	<b>£76.56</b>
Trutex Schoolwear	<b>£57.99</b>
Asda Stores Limited	<b>£55.31</b>
Asda Stores Limited	<b>£57.60</b>
Asda Stores Limited	<b>£68.10</b>
King Bounce-a-Lot	<b>£1,300.00</b>
Xtreme	<b>£1,950.00</b>
GiggleTotz	<b>£120.00</b>
West Lancs Dogs Display Team	<b>£500.00</b>
Graham Johnson	<b>£40.00</b>
Amy Spelman	<b>£30.00</b>
SSE	<b>£3,384.36</b>
SSE	<b>£761.70</b>
SSE	<b>£627.76</b>
SSE	<b>£13.27</b>
George at Asda	<b>£108.50</b>
Ecoblueheating Ltd	<b>£475.00</b>
Virgin Media Business	<b>£48.00</b>
Virgin Media Business	<b>£48.00</b>
SSE	<b>£326.61</b>
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	<b><u>£32,928.98</u></b>

It was moved by Cllr C Rose and seconded by Cllr Y Graves

**RESOLVED:** That,

- a. That the schedule of payments, addendum and direct debits amounting to £14,627.47 be approved for payment

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

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