**HALEWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee held on Thursday 24th September 2020 (6.12pm) via Zoom

**PRESENT**

Cllr K Dalton (Chair)

Cllr B Dunn

Cllr T Lucock

Cllr C Rose

Cllr B Swann

Cllr F Martin

Cllr S Harvey

Cllr D Samuels (joined the meeting at 6.50pm)

**Also in attendance:**

G Allen - Town Manager

**8. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr S Harvey.

**9. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**10. Previous Minutes**

Agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the minutes from June 25th 2020 were agreed and will be sent to the next full council meeting for approval.

**11. Finance Update (to August 31st)**

Councillors considered the report of the Town Manager which highlighted the financial context of the council to August 31st 2020. Councillors were in receipt of a wide range of information including the new budget monitoring spreadsheet which aligns the council budget into six distinct areas for the purpose of easier scrutiny by members.

Commenting on the documentation, **Cllr K Dalton** commended the increased level of detail and ease of scrutiny afforded by the new documentation.

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the report be noted and,
2. That the new budget line for the Neighbourhood Plan with ‘Cost Centre 3 – Community Events and Provision’ is created and an allocated ion £2,500 is made from reserves.

**12. Christmas – Tree and Festive Lighting**

Councillors considered the report of the Town Manager which outlined the cost of the Christmas Lights display in the Halewood Centre. In addition, the report asked Councillors to agree an allocation of funding for the purchased and work to facilitate a Christmas Tree in the Halewood Shopping area.

**Cllr Y Graves** noted that Christmas Trees should also be purchased for Hollies Hall and The Arncliffe Centre. The Town Manager advised that the budget will cover those purchases as well.

**Cllr B Swann** requested that the contract for Christmas lighting with Field and Lawn is reviewed for 2020/21 and a higher quality display (perhaps involving lasers) is researched for 2021 and beyond.

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the report be noted.
2. Funding for the Festive lighting and the Christmas Trees be approved.
3. That the Town Manager and staff explore new arrangements for higher quality Christmas lighting for 2021 and the active involvement of local businesses is also considered.

**13. Capital Upgrade of Buildings**

Councillors considered the report of the Town Manager. The report presented an overview of proposals for the potential refurbishment of Hollies Hall and/or The Arncliffe Centre. The Town Manager advised that an allocation of funding sits in reserves for the work at The Arncliffe Centre. The proposal for The Hollies is based on a larger upgrade that could be considered whilst there are no bars/functions likely to happen during the Covid-19 crisis

In supporting the proposal to refurbish The Arncliffe Centre, **Cllr T Lucock** requested that consideration be given to encouraging local companies to bid for the contract to undertake the work. The Town Manager advised that this can be factored into the specification.

**Cllr C Rose** further advised that any companies bidding for the contract should be those utilising the Living Wage. She further advised that local companies could be encouraged to fill in the documentation on the Living Wage.

**Cllr C Rose** encouraged the Town Manager to ensure building users, staff and others are consulted on the planned changes at The Arncliffe Centre. In terms of The Hollies, that other town/parish council buildings are researched as some are very good examples of effective refurbishment. Cllr Rose noted the new Hale Parish Council building as an example.

**Cllr B Swann** advised that the plan for The Hollies will require a longer lead-in as it will require time to explore funding options as well as the wider vision for the centre. The work for The Arncliffe can commence, however, and he supported giving the Town Manager the ‘green light’ for both proposals.

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

**It was unanimously RESOLVED:**

1. That the report be noted and,
2. The Town Manager given the green light to develop a specification for the refurbishment of the reception area of The Arncliffe Centre.
3. The Town Manager is also tasked with exploring the funding options for the major upgrade of Hollies Hall ‘as soon as is practicable’.

Meeting closed at 6.58pm

Signed ………………………. Date…………………….