**HALEWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**

A Meeting of the Town Council was held on Thursday 14th January 2021 (7.00 pm), the following Members were present:

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Cllr B Swann

(Chairman)

Cllr K Dalton Cllr C Rose

Cllr F Martin Cllr B Dunn

Cllr D Samuels Cllr Y Graves

Cllr A Lucock

(Cllr Samuels arrived at 7.13pm)

**Also in attendance:**

G Allen – Town Manager

Members of the public – 7.

Statements Prior to the Meeting

Before the meeting commenced the Chair requested a one-minute silence in honour of former Councillor and Mayor, Norman Hogg.

The Chair and Cllr Dalton also advised on recent discussions with the Knowsley CCG regarding the commencement of the Covid-19 vaccinations at Hollies Hall.

**83. APOLOGIES**

Cllr A Lucock

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

None.

**85. PARTNERSHIP PRESENTATIONS**

The Mayor introduced and welcomed Geoff Conway from the National Census Bureau.

Geoff provided an update on the plans for the 2021 Census in England and Wales. Census Day is March 21st and, given the challenges with the pandemic, there is a big push from government for the Census information to be provided electronically. He was keen to emphasise the support systems in place for digitally excluded residents who can request an opportunity to complete the form over the telephone or request a form to be sent in the post. Geoff requested Councillors and members of the public take a lead in promoting the Census and encourage participation

**Cllr B Dunn** – Wished Geoff well in his work and asked that particular care and attention is taken to the support the needs of older and more digitally excluded residents.

**Cllr B Swann** – Thanked Geoff for his attendance and wished him well with the planning and undertaking of the 2021 Census.

**86. PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no questions at Public Forum.

**87. MINUTES**

Agreed

**It was unanimously RESOLVED** that,

1. The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 10th December 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.
2. The minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting held on 10th December 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**88. TOWN MANAGERS INFORMATION UPDATE**

The Town Manager gave a written update on the following items:

1. Town Council response to the Covid-19 Crisis
2. Staffing
3. Reopening in 2021
4. Arncliffe Centre refurbishment
5. Neighbourhood Plan
6. Imminent meetings

The Town Manager also advised Councillors that the Knowsley Foodbank is operating 5 days per week out of the Arncliffe Centre.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the report be noted.

**89. TELEPHONY AND INTERNET UPGRADE**

Members’ received a report from the Town Manager and considered recommendations.

The Town Manager provided a lengthy summary of the report advising Councillors of the need for change and an upgrade to telephony systems and the internet access at Hollies Hall.

**Cllr B Swann** advised Councillors the council have looked at the need for upgrades on a number of recent occasions.

**Cllr C Rose** asked that any investigations into changes also consider the impact on other Town Council systems like the CCTV cameras which are connected to Knowsley MBC.

**Cllr K Dalton** suggested he should be involved in the liaison work alongside Cllr Swann and the Town Manager.

**It was moved by Cllr K Dalton** and **seconded by Cllr C Rose** and,

Unanimously **RESOLVED** that,

1. The report be noted
2. That Cllr Dalton, Cllr Swann and the Town Manager are given permission to open discussions with British Telecom about potential changes to the telephony and internet connections at Town Council settings

**90. CO-OPTION INTO COUNCILLOR VACANCIES**

Members’ received a report from the Town Manager and considered recommendations. The Town Manager shared a proposal to hold a physical Co-option sometime after March 1st which may be permissible through vaccinations and testing of Councillors and candidates.

**Cllr C Rose**, in opposing the recommendation, provided a range of specialist information advising that a ‘physical’ meeting will not be possible for a significantly longer period than March 2021. She sited specific issues related to the fact that vaccines and the lateral flow tests do not allow for people to change their behaviour in such a way that it would allow for them to attend a physical meeting.

**Cllr C Rose** further proposed that the council moves forward with conducting a ‘remote’ Co-option Meeting to finally resolve the issue of co-option which has been outstanding for over 12 months. A number of Councillors supported the proposal of Cllr Rose.

**Cllr B Swann** and **Cllr B Dunn** raised concerns about the proposal for a ‘remote’ process to be conducted for the Co-option meeting. In response, **Cllr C Rose** shared a resolution for how the Co-option process should be conducted. This was seconded by **Cllr S Harvey**.

The proposal of **Cllr C Rose** was put to a vote of Councillors. **Cllr C Rose** further requested this be a recorded vote.

RECORD OF VOTE

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **For the resolution** | **Abstaining** | **Against the resolution** |
| Cllr. S Harvey  Cllr. K Dalton  Cllr C Rose  Cllr D Samuels  Cllr B Dunn  Cllr. F Martin  Cllr. Y Graves | None | Cllr. B Swann |

The proposal to proceed with filling the Co-options via a remote meeting using the process proposed by **Cllr C Rose** was therefore approved.

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

**RESOLVED** by 7 votes to 1,

1. That the report be noted and,
2. That the Town Manager makes provision to hold a remote Co-option meeting in either the final week of February or first week of March 2021 and,
3. That the process should be:

* Each Co-option candidate is invited to attend for a 10-minute interview.
* The candidate then leaves the meeting.
* After the final interview and discussion, all Councillors are placed in the Waiting Room. The Town Manager will then telephone each Councillor to ascertain their votes for up to three candidates.
* Once a result is determined, the Town Manager brings Councillors back into the meeting to announce the results and allow Councillors to formally resolve the decisions made about Co-option.

**91. TREE PLANTING SCHEME**

Members’ received the report from the Town Manager and considered recommendations.

Members were broadly supportive of the proposal, however Cllr Y Graves raised a concern that if the trees are ‘crowded’ together this could create new spaces for anti-social behaviour. She asked that Knowsley Council are made aware of this concern.

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

**RESOLVED:** That,

1. The report be noted.
2. The proposal to plant the 30 trees is approved. However, Knowsley Council are asked to be mindful of the specific locations of the new trees to avoid creating new spaces where anti-social behaviour might occur.

**92. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVE BODIES**

There were no reports.

**93. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Planning Applications

The following Planning Applications were considered:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Application Number** | **Applicant** | **Location** | **Comments** |
| 20/00652/COU | Mrs Wendy Talbot | 24B Mackets Lane Halewood L25 0LQ | The Town Manager is asked to write to Knowsley Council requesting further information on this application. This area of Halewood has significant issues related to traffic in particular. In addition, the application is for a flat rather than an apartment. |
| 20/00710/FUL | Mr Dean Johanson | 51 Lightoaks Drive Halewood L26 6BJ | None |
| 20/00533/FUL | Bashar Zienab | 9 Haresfinch Close, Halewood Knowsley | None |
| 20/00729/FUL | Mr Rajad Sharma | 76 Mackets Lane Halewood L25 0LJ | None |

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

**RESOLVED:** that,

1. That the planning applications be noted.
2. The Town Manager is requested to seek further information regarding Planning Application 20/00652/COU.
3. If a planning objection is required, the Mayor is empowered to instruct the Town Manager to make such an objection.

***Exempt Items***

*That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act*

**94. STAFFING REPORT**

Members’ received a report from the Town Manager and considered recommendations.

After a short discussion among Councillors,

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

**RESOLVED:** that,

1. That the report be noted.
2. The recommendation to award the honorarium payment is approved.
3. That the payment is reviewed by 31/03/2021 with the option to extend the payment if this is required.

Meeting closed at 8.58 p.m.

Signed ………………………. Date…………………….