**HALEWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**

A Special Meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday 6th May 2020 (4.12 pm) via the Teleconferencing facility ‘Zoom’, the following Members were present:-

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Cllr C Rose

(Chairperson)

Cllr K Dalton Cllr B Swann

Cllr F Martin Cllr B Dunn

Cllr Y Graves Cllr D Samuels

Cllr S Harvey Cllr A Lucock

**Also in attendance:-**

G Allen Town Manager

The Chairperson thanked Councillors for attending and outlined the necessity for Councillors to adhere to a measured and disciplined approach in their comments due to the meeting taking place via Zoom. Given the extraordinary nature of the current Covid-19 crisis, the Council has applied the guidance at Section 1.8 of Standing Orders – “*Meetings shall be open to the public unless their presence is prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons”.* The reason for exclusion on this occasion is for ‘special reasons’.

**131. APOLOGIES**

No apologies received.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

**133. TOWN MANAGERS INFORMATION UPDATE**

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

1. Town Council response to the Covid-19 Crisis:

* Buildings
* Partnerships
* Grants

1. Staffing
2. Precept 2020/21
3. Financial impact of the crisis on Town Council business

**RESOLVED:**

1. The Town Manager thanks the staff for their support to ‘writing off’ TOIL still owed to some staff members.
2. The Town Manager to share a report with Councillors on the current work patterns of staff.
3. The Town Manager to advise Councillors on any actions taken with regard to an insurance claim (for loss of business income) and furlough.
4. That the report be noted.

**134. Annual Meeting of Halewood Town Council**

Councillors and the Town Manager considered the challenges to holding the Annual Meeting of the Council at its proposed date of May 14th and the Town Meeting.

Broadly, Councillors were in favor of using the teleconferencing facilities to conduct the Annual Meeting but acknowledged a short deferment would assist the Town Manager with preparations for the meeting. The challenges of involving the public in this process were also discussed. Councillors were very keen, however, to ensure public participation through the ‘Town Meeting’ which traditionally accompanies the Annual Meeting

Following this discussion,

**It was moved by Cllr B. Swann and seconded by Cllr D. Samuels and,**

**RESOLVED:** That,

1. The Annual Meeting be deferred to Thursday May 21st at 5.00 p.m. The meeting to be held via Zoom with Standing Order 1.8 applied to public participation.
2. A recording of the Annual Meeting to be published on the council’s website and social media platforms.
3. The Town Meeting to take place via Zoom on Thursday June 11th at a time to be identified. This meeting would encourage full public participation and a process to allow the public to ‘join’ the meeting and raise questions for the new Mayor will be devised.

**135. Electricity supplier contract for Halewood Town Council**

The report of the Town Manager was considered, this outlined options for setting up a new arrangement for a 3-year contract with an electricity supplier for the Town Council.

Following this discussion,

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

**RESOLVED:** That,

1. The recommendation of the Utility Alliance broker to move the contract to ‘Corona Energy’ be accepted. This would be subject to the Town Manager sharing some further information on customer reviews with Councillors.

Meeting closed at 5.31 pm

Signed ………………………. Date…………………….