**HALEWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**

At a Meeting of the Town Council held on Thursday, 15th June 2023 (7.00 pm), at the Arncliffe Sports and Community Centre, the following Members were:-

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Cllr. I. Hamilton (Mayor/Chairperson)

Cllr. C. Rose Cllr. A. Flute

Cllr. E. Finneran Cllr. B. Arnold

Cllr. P. Bradley Cllr. C. Lunt

Cllr. S. Harvey Cllr. B. Dunn

Cllr. A. Harvey Cllr. V. Berry

Cllr. L. Berry

**Also in attendance:-**

G. Allen - Town Clerk.

S Edwardson – Democratic Services and Administration Officer.

Members of the Public - 18

**9. APOLOGIES.**

There were no apologies for non-attendance.

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

Cllr. J. Harvey - Agenda Item 9 – Installation of ‘Gas Governor’ at the Arncliffe Centre.

Agenda Item 12 – Planning Applications.

Cllr. A. Flute – Agenda Item 9 – Installation of ‘Gas Governor’ at the Arncliffe Centre.

Agenda Item 12 – Planning Applications.

**11. PUBLIC FORUM.**

Adam Town – Had registered his intention to speak at the Public Forum on the subject of ‘Green Spaces’ but was not in attendance. The Town Clerk is writing a response to Mr Town at his earliest convenience.

Dawn Corrie – Green Spaces.

Is Wood Road and Doorstep Green included in the improvements of Halewood?

The Chair clarified to Ms Corrie that the item on the Agenda Item 8 is a continuation of work carried out as part of the council’s Neighbourhood Plan, that is to maintain & improve the Green Spaces around Halewood.

This work will be enhanced involving Councillors and other residents in its work. This would be discussed further at Agenda Item 8.

The Chair permitted Ms Corrie to raise other points on Parks and Green Spaces in Halewood. In turn, the Chair responded to Ms Corrie’s points with other members also contributing at points during the debate.

Gerry Tyrell -

Asked the question, Will the Town Council have any input into how the Levelling Up funding secured by Knowsley for Halewood will be spent? Mr Tyrrell provided reasons why he felt local people including the Town Council should be involved in considering how the funding is spent.

The Town Clerk advised that he had written to the Borough Council in March of this year congratulating them on the achievement of the grant and offering support from the Town Council. that letter was presented to the council meeting in March 2023. The borough subsequently acknowledged receipt of the letter. The Chair also added his support to Mr. Tyrrell’s statement, stating that if things are being improved in Halewood, then the Town Council wants to be involved in the conversation, and that Halewood residents should also be involved in the conversation.

The Chair thanked everyone that took part in the Public Forum.

**12. MINUTES.**

It was **moved** by Cllr. C. Rose, **seconded** by Cllr. V. Berry and agreed,

**RESOLVED** that,

1. the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 16th March 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.
2. the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 11th May 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor, subject to the following amendments:
3. To amend the statement made before Minute 1.
4. Min.1. ‘*Cllr. V. Berry nominated Cllr. A. Harvey for Mayor/Chairperson of the Town Council for 2023/2024.*’
5. Min.1. ‘***RESOLVED:-*** *by 7 votes to 5 abstentions that, Cllr. I. Hamilton is hereby elected as Mayor/Chairperson of the Town Council for 2023/2024.*
6. Min. 4. *‘by 7 votes to 3 and 2 abstentions’.*

**13. ANNOUNCMENTS FROM THE TOWN CLERK.**

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

1. Town Clerk Announcements
2. Town Council Elections
3. Councillors Contact Information and Register of Interests
4. Councillors Away Day
5. HR and Staffing Committee
6. Pride Flag Raising Event and Craft Fair
7. Mayor-Making Event on Friday 23rd June
8. Local Council Quality Award Scheme
9. Banking Hub
10. Councillors IT Needs
11. Local Council Clerk Week
12. Imminent Meetings

**RESOLVED:-** That the report be noted.

**14. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

Members were asked by the Town Clerk to consider, comment and approve the Internal Audit Report produced for good practice and is a legal requirement as part of the AGAR process.

Councillors and members of the community can take reassurance from this report that the internal control objectives relating to risk management, financial control and governance continue to be operated to the required standard, in accordance with proper practices.

Cllr. C. Rose asked that when you produce the reports it is clear who is accountable for the action, a deadline for when we’re thinking that will be done by and via a regular update to council.

Cllr. B. Dunn thanked the Town Clerk and the Business and Finance Officer for all the work they have put into this.

It was **moved** by Cllr. C. Rose, **seconded** by Cllr. V. Berry and agreed,

**RESOLVED:-** that,

1. the report be noted, especially around the comments made around the Action Plan
2. the Internal Audit Report 2022/2023, attached at appendix 1, be approved.

**15. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR).**

The report of the Town Clerk requested Members approval of the Annual Governance Statement for 2022-2023.

Cllr. P. Bradley – At Point 5, to remove the word ‘successfully’ from the statement.

It was **moved** by Cllr. P. Bradley, **seconded** by Cllr. C. Rose and agreed,

**RESOLVED:-** that,

1. the report be noted.
2. the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/2023, attached as an appendix to the report for reporting to the Government’s External Auditor, be approved.

**16. GREEN SPACES STRATEGY.**

The Town Clerk presented a report that seeks members approval for the Town Council to consult with residents across the township regarding the precious parks and green spaces for which it holds leases and initially approve the contents of the draft ‘Green Spaces Strategy’.

The report generated a wide range of discussion in the meeting with all members contributing to the debate. Cllr. J. Harvey noted the attendance of 18 members of the public as testimony to the importance of the subject. Cllr. C. Lunt proposed a small rewording at 1.1 ‘*for the Town Council to inform and consult with residents….’*

After further debate it was agreed that, if approved, the Task & Finish Group of Elected Members would decide the final contents of the consultation to go to residents. In supporting the strategy and the involvement of members, Cllr. V. Berry proposed an amendment that the number of member participants should be 6 Councillors, not 4.

It was **moved** by Cllr. C. Rose, **seconded** by Cllr. J. Harvey and agreed,

**RESOLVED:-** that,

1. the report be noted.
2. approval is given for the contents of the draft consultation paper aimed at devising a ‘Green Spaces Strategy’.
3. approval is given for the recommendation of the Town Clerk to further discuss the strategy at the Councillors Away Day on 20th June and through a Task & Finish Group. The amendment to have 6 members, rather than 4, is approved.
4. the Members approved and nominated the following participants who are in the Task & Finish Group. The participants are:-

Cllr. A. Harvey Cllr. C. Rose

Cllr. V. Berry Cllr. C. Lunt

Cllr. L. Berry Cllr. P. Bradley

***Note:- Cllr. J. Harvey and Cllr. A. Flute, having declared an interest in this item left the room and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.***

**17. INSTALLATION OF A ‘GAS GOVERNOR’ AT THE ARNCLIFFE CENTRE.**

The report sought Members approval for the installation of a new ‘Gas Governor’ on the site of the Arncliffe Centre overflow car park.

The Town Clerk advised members that, contrary to the information in his report, the siting and installation of the Gas Governor would not require Planning Permission. The following advice had been received from Knowsley MBC regarding this matter:

*“A planning application is not being submitted as a regulated utility company which has statutory responsibilities for the provision of gas supply in accordance with Section 9(1) of the Gas Act 1986, Cadent benefit from permitted development rights afforded to gas transporters under Schedule 2 Part 15 Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015, as amended, for the provision of certain apparatus in order to meet this statutory duty. The proposals here include for the installation of apparatus to control the pressure and flow of gas and a kiosk in which to house this equipment. As the kiosk is below the threshold of 29 cubic metres (as stated in Part 15A.1(a)), Cadent are able to install the gas governor apparatus under their permitted development rights”.*

It was **moved** by Cllr. C. Rose, **seconded** by Cllr. V Berry and agreed,

**RESOLVED:-** that,

1. the report be noted.
2. the request of Knowsley MBC Planning department and Cadent to install a ‘Gas Governor’ at the Arncliffe Centre overflow car park, making sure that it is obscured/softened in some way, be approved.

**18. APPROVAL OF TOWN COUNCIL POLICIES**

The Town Clerk requested Members approval of four Council Policies.

**RESOLVED:-** that,

1. the report be noted.

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

1. that the ‘Social Media Policy’, be deferred to a future meeting.

It was **moved** by Cllr. C. Rose, **seconded** by Cllr. J. Harvey and agreed,

11 – 1.

1. that the ‘Complaints & Compliments Policy, be approved.

It was **moved** by Cllr. C. Rose, **seconded** by Cllr. I. Hamilton and agreed,

1. that the ‘Co-option into Councillor Vacancies Policy’, be approved with the removal of 50% +1, and that voting should be via a secret ballot.

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

1. that the ‘Flag Flying Policy, be approved with a minor amendment that to state that the ‘Progress Flag’ can be flown during specific LGBTQ+ events.

**19. REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES/REPRESENTATIVE BODIES.**

To receive any verbal reports from the Town Clerk and/or Members present who have attended conferences or representative bodies on behalf of the Town Council.

**MALC**

Town Clerk advised that the AGM is next Thursday evening 6.30pm at the Arncliffe Centre.

**LALC**

The Chair advised that there is a LALC meeting scheduled for Saturday 17th June 2023.

**Culturefest**

The Town Clerk shared leaflets of Culturefest 2023 activities. He advised that Culturefest Chair, Alison Shacklady, was hoping for a team of Town Councillors for the Quiz Night.

**Airport Committee**

The Town Clerk advised Cllr. V. Berry that he had received information about this meeting and would send this onto her.

**CCIN**

The Chair advised of his attendance at a seminar during the week, which was supposedly on the theme of ‘Banking Hubs’, but which focussed on opening a High Street Bank in a town or parish.

***Note:- Cllr. J. Harvey and Cllr. A. Flute, having declared an interest in this item left the room and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.***

**20. CORRESPONDENCE.**

1. Planning Applications.

The following Planning Applications were considered.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Application No | Name | Location |
| 23/00181/FUL | Ms Deborah Winder | 5 Gold Crest Mews, Halewood |
| 20/00063/NMA4 | Bellway Homes (NorthWest) | Plot 2 – Land to North of Railway Line by Lower Road, Greensbridge Lane and Ditton Brook Watercourse. Plot 4 – Land to South of Railway Line bounded by finch Lane, Baileys Lane and Higher Road, Halewood. |
| 23/00199/FUL | Mr Ian Currie | 8 Brambling Park, Halewood |
| 23/00011/FUL | Manor Hall Academy Trust | Finch Woods Academy, Halewood. |
| 23/00395/PDE | Mr Andrew Boyes | 102 Grassington Crescent, Halewood. |
| 23/00602/FUL | KMD | 3 Stokes Close, Halewood. |
| 23/00187/FUL | Mr Ali Gercek | 17 Stapeley Gardens, Halewood. |
| 23/00359/CLD | Mr Kevin McDonald | 9 Escort Close, Halewood. |

No Comments were received.

**RESOLVED:-** that,

a. the Planning Applications be noted.

The Meeting closed at 20.41 pm.

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