**HALEWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**

At a Meeting of the Town Council held on Thursday, 19th October 2023 (7.00 pm), at the Arncliffe Sports and Community Centre, the following Members were:-

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Cllr. I. Hamilton (Mayor/Chairperson)

Cllr. A. Flute Cllr. P. Bradley

Cllr. C. Rose Cllr. B. Arnold

Cllr. A. Harvey Cllr. E. Finneran

Cllr. C. Lunt

**Also in attendance:-**

G. Allen - Town Manager.

S. Edwardson – Democratic Services and Administration Officer.

Members of the Public - 1

**63. APOLOGIES.**

Apologies for non-attendance were received and accepted from Cllr. B Dunn, Cllr. J. Harvey, Cllr. V. Berry and Cllr. L. Berry.

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

Cllr. A Harvey - Agenda Item 6 – Appointment of HR Provider.

Cllr. A. Flute – Agenda Item 6 – Appointment of HR Provider and Agenda Item 14 – Correspondence.

Cllr. E. Finneran – Agenda Item 6 – Appointment of HR Provider.

Before the commencement of the meeting, Cllr. I. Hamilton updated Members and the public regarding the removal of trees and damage to the Town Council-owned festive lighting at the Halewood Shopping Centre Car Park. He talked about the actions taken through the day to deal with the issues including contact with the Leader of Knowsley MBC, local MP’s and the representative of LCP. He read out the statement the Council will share advising Halewood residents of the Council’s response to these issues:-

“Halewood Town Council and the residents of Halewood were outraged to see contractors cutting down and removing trees from the car park at Halewood Shopping Centre. In addition to the environmental vandalism of removing perfectly healthy trees, this decision will also have a negative impact on the plans that the Council were developing for a festive light switch on next month. Residents will recall that the trees in the car park have been a feature for a light display for a number of years and this has been well received by many residents and especially the children.

The Mayor of Halewood has joined with the Town Manager and council staff to seek answers from LCP, the owners of the land and retail units at the site. In his conversation with the company, Cllr. Hamilton read out the serious objections of the Council and residents to the act of removing the trees and sought reassurance that any further work will be halted until the legality of their actions is investigated. The representative of LCP understood the objections and agreed further action will cease for the time being. The Mayor has joined forces with the Councillors in seeking the support of Knowsley MBC to express our anger at the decisions made by LCP and seek clarity on whether their actions are legal. Many residents will know Knowsley MBC has legal responsibility for woodland management, employing a tree specialist to deal with such matters and it is widely known that the removal of trees is generally subject to planning permission. The Mayor has also personally contacted the office of Maria Eagle MP, and other MP’s in the area to seek support in this matter. We are hopeful that Simon, from Maria Eagles office, as Maria is ill, will visit tomorrow to assess the situation. We have already emailed photographs of the area where the trees were cut down. Halewood Town Council will continue to work with their partners to address this serious matter, it is also the council’s intention to continue with the festive light switch on next month. Please watch out for further announcements on the Town Council website and social media platforms.”

Cllr. Hamilton concluded this section of the meeting by stating that Members and the public would be kept appraised of developments.

**65. PUBLIC FORUM.**

Mr. Craig McNamara – The Town Manager read a letter from Mr McNamara who couldn’t attend the meeting personally.

I am a resident of Halewood and have noticed in recent minutes of the Council Meeting, that you and the Councillors have discussed the closure and opposed the decision to close the ticket office at Halewood Railway Station. I was wondering if part of that discussion it has been raised about the appalling and inadequate services at the station due to frequent cancellations of the train services, made worse by an already very limited service when the rest of the line has half hourly services. It seems to be happening a lot lately, if a train is cancelled in the morning, which results in a two hourly service, which then seems to last all day! You cannot rely on this service at all! I must now resort to other modes of transport, such as using my car. With the increased population of residents in Halewood, within the proximity of the station, I am wondering if there are any plans to improve services?

The Town Manager, who has already spoken to the Mayor, is responding to Mr McNamara’s letter, and will inform him that the Council intend to take this forward via MALC. That an invitation has already been issued to the Office of the Metro Mayor, Steve Rotherham, to attend a meeting to update on transport in Halewood and the City Region area.

**66. MINUTES.**

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

**RESOLVED** that,

1. the minutes of the Town Council Meetings held on:-

Town Council Meeting – 21st September 2023 and

Town Council Meeting – 5th October 2023

subject to the following amendments on the Minutes of 21st September 2023, both Minutes be approved as correct records and signed by the Chairperson.

Minute 41

Insert that Cllr. C. Rose gave her apologies.

Minute 49

(b) change ‘enforce’ to ‘deliver’

Before Minute 57

Cllr. J. Harvey left the meeting at 21.09pm.

**67. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER.**

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

1. Mayoral Engagements

2. Concessionary Use Approval

3. Green Spaces Strategy

4. NALC Quality Award

5. Doorstep Green: Winter Works and Play Provision

6. IT for Elected Members

7. Grounds Maintenance Tender

8. Annual Plan of Events – 2024/25

9. DBS Checks

10. Imminent Meetings

The Town Manager discussed in detail some of the above items including the Concessionary use approval, of Imaginarium Theatre Company, who have cancelled their scheduled performance in Halewood.

**RESOLVED** that,

1. the report be noted.

**68. APPOINTMENT OF HR PROVIDER (FROM JANUARY 2024).**

The Town Manager presented a report with the proposed service offer from the HR Division of Knowsley MBC. As per previous discussions, this is proposed for agreement thus allowing the Borough’s HR team to act as the provider of HR support and advice to Halewood Town Council.

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

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

**RESOLVED** that,

1. the report be noted.

b. Members agreed that the internal payroll system stays within the Town

Council.

c. Members also agreed the ‘Workforce Development Core Offer’ which is an online learning tool for all substantive employees, that the Town Manager investigate the cost for all Town Council employees to access online learning.

d. Members approved the proposal that the HR Division of Knowsley MBC will provide support and advice to Halewood Town Council as per the draft service agreement shared at the meeting.

**69. TENDER FOR FESTIVE LIGHTING 2024 AND BEYOND.**

The Town Manager presented a report to seek the Members direction on the installation of Festive Lighting in Halewood from winter 2024 onwards. Principally, it is to seek permission for a one-year extension to the arrangement with Blachere Illuminations ahead of a full tendering exercise.

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

**RESOLVED** that,

a) the report be noted.

b) approval be given at the recommendation 3.4, regarding the Festive Lighting for 2024 and beyond in the township of Halewood.

**70.** **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT – OCTOBER 2023**

Members received a report from the Town Manager, which provided Councillors with a Quarter 2, 2023/24 budget monitoring update.

The Town Manager discussed the problem with our energy provider Corona Energy and informed the Members that we can sign up with a new provider from January 1st 2024. The Town Manager also referenced item 3.12 ‘and refurbishment costs’ this would be better described as planned maintenance. He also mentioned that the Council would need to strongly consider some planned maintenance on several issues which are quite basic to do with our two settings i.e., fire doors / access and egress to buildings.

It was **moved** by Cllr. B. Arnold, **seconded** by Cllr. E. Finneran and agreed,

**RESOLVED** that,

a) the report be noted.

**71. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS 1ST JULY – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023**

Members received a report from the Town Manager, which provided Councillors with a comprehensive list of all Council spending between 1st July and 30th September 2023.

The Town Manager mentioned that the reimbursements given to some hirers, wanted to donate the money to the Mayors Charity Fund.

The Mayor asked that the Council send a letter of thanks to all said hirers.

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

**RESOLVED** that,

a) the report be noted.

b) Members approved the spending as detailed in the appendix.

**72. PINDER’S CIRCUS (REQUEST TO USE HOLLIES FIELD)**

The Town Manager presented a report which provided Members with an overview of the request by Pinder’s Circus to hire Hollies Field in July 2024 to operate a circus for the enjoyment of people in Halewood.

A discussion took place between the Members.

It was **moved** by Cllr. A. Harvey, **seconded** by Cllr. E. Finneran and agreed,

**RESOLVED** that,

a) the report be noted.

b) Members rejected the request from Pinder’s Circus to hold a Circus on Hollies field in July 2024.

**73. COMMUNITY PROJECTS UPDATE – FESTIVE ACTIVITIES 2023**

The Town Manager presented a report to Members which provided an update on proposals for Town Council activities in the period up to Christmas 2023. The report specifically requested approval of the Town Council’s funding for the Halewood Festive Lights Switch-On Event and the Annual Christmas Concert.

There was a long discussion between Members about the Festive Activities.

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

**RESOLVED** that,

a) the report be noted.

c) Approval was given for the funding allocated for the Halewood Festive Lights Switch-On Event scheduled for Monday 13th November.

b) Approval was given for the proposals and funding for the 2023 Annual Christmas Concert scheduled for Wednesday 13th December.

d) Members noted the proposals for the commemoration of Remembrance Sunday on 12th November.

**74. COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS.**

The following grant applications were considered:-

(i) Application 23/24 – 10 – Halewood Community Choir

An application was considered from Carol Blakeborough who is hoping to hold ‘open nights’, free of charge, to engage with the community and hopefully attract new members into the Choir.

It was **moved** by Cllr. C. Rose, **seconded** by Cllr. E. Finneran and,

**RESOLVED** that,

a) the report be noted.

b) Application 23/24 – 10 Halewood Community Choir

a grant of £500 be awarded to Halewood Community Choir.

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

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

MALC – MALC meeting was held on 12th October 2023. At the meeting, Cllr. Iain Hamilton was elected to the role of MALC Chair and Cllr. B. Arnold was elected as Vice- Chair. Cllr. Hamilton also gave an update on issues pertaining to the MALC meeting.

LALC – The Annual Conference is coming up which Cllr. Hamilton and Cllr. Rose are both already booked on. Cllr. Hamilton is emailing information to Cllr. Bradley hoping for his attendance at the conference. The Town Manager advised that LALC have appointed an Area Support Officer, John Ashurst to support area committees. Mr. Ashurst attended the MALC Meeting and will be an enthusiastic advocate of LALC.

Airport Committee – Cllr. B. Dunn has resigned as the Deputy, to Cllr. V. Berry on the Liverpool Airport Committee. A Deputy will be appointed at the next meeting of the Council.

Culturefest – The Town Manager gave a brief update on the Annual Cricket Match and the Culturefest Committee’s plans to produce and perform their own Murder Mystery play in 2024.

CCIN – Cllr. Bradley gave a brief update advising that his participation in CCIN will be limited to receiving emails and leaflets.

**76. CORRESPONDENCE.**

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

a) Planning Applications

The following Planning Applications were reviewed and considered.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Application Number | Applicant | Location | Details |
| 3/02042/FUL | Brenda Jackson | 9 Camborne Avenue, Halewood | Erection of first floor side extension |
| 23/02377/FUL | Ford Halewood | Getrag Ford, Speke. | Proposed Car Park to the East of Existing Car Park. |
| 23/02672/FUL | Barnabas | 36 Lower Road, Halewood | Erection of single storey rear extension and two storey side extension. |
| 23/02684/FUL | Mr & Mrs Howard | 17 Higher Road, Halewood | Erection of two storey side extension with erection of a single storey rear extension. |
| 23/02313/CLD | Mr J. Langton | Brewery Cottages,  Tarbock | Proposed lawful erection of a single storey rear extension. |
| 22/00355/NMA | Mr & Mrs Dickson | Valleyfield, North End Lane, Halewood | Amendment of planning permission to approved plans. |
| 23/02640/FUL | McKenna | Land at North End Lane, Halewood | Change of use of part agricultural land to a dog exercise area. |
| 23/02646/FUL | Mr Barry Molloy | Tarbock hall Lodge, Tarbock | Demolition and rebuild of east section of north boundary wall. |
| 23/02653/FUL | Clare & Karen Lewis | Shippon One Tarbock Hall, Ox Lane | Erection of a tree house and a timber structure to form covered open patio area. |

No questions were asked about the above planning applications.

It was **moved** by Cllr. C. Rose, **seconded** by Cllr. E. Finneran and,

**RESOLVED** that,

a) the Planning Applications be noted.

Meeting closed at 20.30 pm.

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