**HALEWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**

At a Meeting of the Town Council held on Thursday, 18th January 2024 (7.30 pm), at the Arncliffe Sports and Community Centre, the following Members were:-

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Cllr. I. Hamilton (Mayor/Chairperson)

Cllr. C. Rose Cllr. B. Dunn

Cllr. P. Bradley Cllr. B. Arnold

Cllr. J. Harvey Cllr. V. Berry

Cllr. C. Lunt Cllr. L. Berry

Cllr. E. Finneran

**Also in attendance:-**

G. Allen - Town Manager.

S Edwardson – Democratic Services and Administration Officer.

Members of the Public - 4

**96. APOLOGIES.**

Apologies for non-attendance were received and accepted from Cllrs. A. Flute and A. Harvey.

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

Cllr. J. Harvey - Agenda Item 11 - Planning

**98. PUBLIC FORUM.**

There were no questions asked at the meeting of the Council.

**99. MINUTES.**

It was **moved** by Cllr. J. Harvey, **seconded** by Cllr. Vicky Berry and all agreed,

**RESOLVED** that,

1. the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 16th November 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson. subject to the following amendment:-

Minute No: 78 – ‘Cllr. J. Harvey – Agenda Item 12 – Planning.’

be added.

**100. ANNOUNCMENTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER.**

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

1. Mayoral Engagements
2. Festive Lighting
3. Green Space Strategy
4. Arncliffe Lease
5. Exit from Halewood Centre
6. IT for elected Members
7. Annual Christmas Concert
8. Peninsula HR
9. Imminent Meetings
10. Farewell

The Town Manager discussed in detail some of the above items including the Green Spaces Strategy Consultation, IT kit for elected Members, and the Annual Christmas Concert.

The Chairperson, Cllr. I. Hamilton thanked everyone involved in the Green Spaces Consultation and went on to say that it was a huge amount of work obtaining and gathering the information.

The Deputy Chair, Cllr. C. Rose thanked staff and partners for the festive events, particularly the Christmas Concert, which was enjoyed by all.

**RESOLVED:**- That,

1. the report be noted.

**101. BUDGET MONITORING & 2024/25 PRECEPT SETTING REPORT.**

The Town Manager presented a report which provides Councillors with a Quarter 3, 2023/24, budget monitoring update.

There was a constructive debate amongst the Councillors regarding what percentage should the Precept increase to. Cllr. C. Rose proposed that a Precept of 6% which included 1% to be ringfenced for Buildings and Greenspace improvement. After a long discussion two proposals were taken to a recorded vote:-

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | **2% Precept**  Moved by Cllr.J.Harvey  Seconded by Cllr. V.Berry | **6% Precept**  Moved by Cllr. C.Rose  Seconded by Cllr.P.Bradley |
| Cllr. J. Harvey | **√** |  |
| Cllr. V. Berry | **√** |  |
| Cllr. L. Berry | **√** |  |
| Cllr. B. Dunn | **√** |  |
| Cllr. I. Hamilton |  | **√** |
| Cllr. E. Finneran |  | **√** |
| Cllr. P. Bradley |  | **√** |
| Cllr. C. Lunt |  | **√** |
| Cllr. B. Arnold |  | **√** |
| Cllr. C. Rose |  | **√** |

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

**RESOLVED:-** That,

1. the report be noted.
2. the Quarter 3 budget monitoring report for 2023/2024 was noted.
3. a precept increase of 6% was agreed for 2024/2025, with 1% to be ringfenced to specific reserves, Buildings and Greenspaces. This amounts to an increase of £5.40 per Band D household, from £89.97 to £95.27
4. Members agreed the proposed budget for 2024/2025.

**102. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT.**

The Town Manager presented a report which outlined the recommendation of the Appointments Panel consisting of two Members and the Town Manager, tasked with reviewing and scoring the expressions of interest for the council’s Grounds Maintenance Contract.

It was **moved** by Cllr. B. Dunn, **seconded** by Cllr. C. Lunt and all agreed,

**RESOLVED** that,

1. the report be noted.
2. Members approved the recommendation of the Appointments Panel for appointing Knowsley MBC to continue running the Council’s Grounds Maintenance contract from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.
3. the Town Manager writes to Caroline Holmes, the Head of Environmental Sustainability at Knowsley MBC asking to secure, within our contract, additional works including New Hutte Woods and use of the Park Rangers for other parts of Halewood, ie: Hollies Field, Doorstep Green etc.

**103. HALEWOOD COMMUNITY GRANT FUND APPLICATIONS – JANUARY 2024.**

Members received a report from the Town Manager which sought direction on the application received for the Community Grants Fund, summarised in the accompanying appendix.

Application 23/24 – 14 – Merseyside Tuesday Club

An application was considered from Merseyside Tuesday Club who are bidding for funds to take members on a weekend trip. The group are long established for persons with disabilities in the South Merseyside area and have been long-term users of Hollies Hall for many years.

It was **moved** by Cllr. I. Hamilton, **seconded** by Cllr. V. Berry and all agreed,

**RESOLVED** that,

1. the report be noted.
2. a payment of £500 be awarded to Merseyside Tuesday Club.

**104. 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 – Meeting on Saturday 20th January. The Town Manager was acting as the Area Secretary and with his departure from the organisation, he will no longer be preforming that role so has passed all the information to colleagues at LALC.

LALC – Council of the Year Awards held in London. Currently held AGM where Committee posts were given out. Cllr. Hamilton was elected to be on the Policy Committee, and the Larger Councils Committee, and elected as Chair of the larger Council’s Committee.

Airport Committee – No updates. There is a need to elect a Deputy.

Culturefest – Halewood Culturefest have been nominated for the Kings Award for Voluntary Service. Will be meeting the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire on the 25th January 2024

The Chairperson asked that the representatives pass on Town Council’s congratulations.

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

**105. CORRESPONDENCE.**

1. Planning Applications.

The following Planning Application was considered.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Application No | Applicant | Location | Details |
| 23/02808/FUL | Mr & Mrs Plunkett | 3 Tilstock Close, Halewood | Replacement of glass Edwardian roof to pitched gable fronted tiled roof on existing orangery. |

No Comments were received.

**RESOLVED:-** a. That the Planning Application be noted.

**106. NALC QUALITY AWARD STATUS.**

Members received a report from the Town Manager which updated Members on the Council’s successful application to NALC to regain Quality Award Status.

Just before Christmas, Halewood Town Council regained NALC Quality Award status which is an achievement.

The Chairperson, Cllr. I. Hamilton noted that a lot of work goes into the NALC Quality Award and went on to congratulate the Town Manager and all of the team.

**RESOLVED** that,

1. The report be noted.

Before the meeting closed the Chairperson, Cllr. I. Hamilton, on behalf of the Town Council Members, took the opportunity to congratulate the Town Manager for all his hard work over the past five years, and wished him well in his new role at West Lancs Borough Council.

Meeting closed at 21.24 pm.

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