

**MAGHULL
TOWN
COUNCIL**

Maghull Town Hall

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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting
of the FINANCE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE will be held in the
COUNCIL CHAMBER at MAGHULL TOWN HALL
on WEDNESDAY 8TH APRIL 2015
The meeting will commence at 6.30 pm**

Dated this 31st Day of March 2015

***Note:** DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – If a Member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote, he/she is advised to contact the Town Clerk at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.*

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Public Participation
3. Declaration of Interests
4. To confirm the Minutes of a **Finance & Amenities Committee Meeting**, held on **14th January 2015 (Pages 1 - 4)**

Finance

5. **Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements as at 28th February 2015 –** Members are asked to note the report - **To follow**

Amenities

6. **Wear a Red Carnation Hillsborough Awareness Campaign –** Mr D Hughes has requested that he address the Committee regarding this campaign.
7. **MaghullFest –** Members are asked to consider the entrance fee requirements for MaghullFest 2015 (**Page 5**)
8. **Dwyer Fund –** Members are asked to consider the request for funds from the Dwyer Fund as submitted by Maghull In Bloom (**Page 6**)
9. **Tennis Club Fencing –** Members are asked to consider the request for funding for fencing to be erected on the Tennis courts (**Page 7**)

P.T.O.



10. **Chairs' Reports** – for noting only.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. McIntyre".

**MISS A. McINTYRE
TOWN CLERK & TREASURER**

MAGHULL TOWN COUCL
FINANCE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD 14TH JANUARY 2015

PRESENT: Councillor McKinley (In the Chair) and Councillors : Burns, Deegan, Esterson, Jones, J. Robertson, Sayers

ALSO PRESENT – A. McIntyre (Town Clerk & Treasurer), M. King (Finance Officer), P. M. Annal (Minutes)

146. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors: Blackburn, Byrne, Day, Hubbard, Kermode, Moncur, A. Robertson

147. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

148. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None indicated

149. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2014 were approved as a correct record.

150. TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2014 – Members were informed that the Council had received a total income of £702,522 which was currently £14,399 more than the Council had budgeted for as at the end of December 2014. The extra income related to a grant of £5,895 received for the neighbourhood plan and a grant of £2,000 received from Sefton MBC and £7,636 income for yearly activities.

Members were also informed of an underspend of £13,421 on Utilities as at end of December 2014. Gas and Electricity bills for December had not yet been received. This code would be in line with budget once the recent utility bills had been received.

There had been no change in the Community Support and Development grant since the last budget report, which remains at £3,168. However there had been a significant increase in the Projects Expenditure of £20,605 as at the end of December. This figure includes the Community Support grant expenditure, modern apprenticeship salary costs and the remaining balance of £12,376 related to Maghull Fest, Fireworks display and Christmas events.

RESOLVED that:

The Treasurer's Report, Budget Monitoring Report and Financial Statements as at 31st December 2014 be noted.

151. REVISED BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014 / 2015 - The Town Clerk informed Members that the revised budget estimates for 2014/2015 were lower than anticipated at the beginning of the financial year. This was due to some of the projects undertaken by the Council being funded from various grants which had been received from other sources. Members were also informed that the Neighbourhood Plan was progressing well with professional help being provided by a graduate from Liverpool University at no extra cost to the Council.

RESOLVED that:

The revised Budget Estimates 2014 / 2015 be approved

152. BUDGET 2015 / 2016 - Members were referred to the Clerk's report which highlighted a variety of recommendations for the 2015/2016 Budget namely:

Budget proposals for the projects expenditure;
Scope and remit of the Dwyer Fund;
Level of increase to the schedule of Charges;
Level of increase to the precept;
Early redemption of outstanding loans

Members considered the Clerk's report very carefully and a discussion on the individual points followed.

Projects Expenditure - Concerns were expressed with regard to the level of funding available for the Neighbourhood Plan and the Community Support and Development Grant. Currently the expenditure for the Neighbourhood Plan is £7000 and the expenditure for the Community Support and Development grant is £6000. It was felt that the projects expenditure should be amended and the Neighbourhood Plan be increased to £10,000 and the Community Support and Development grant be increased to £8,000.

Dwyer Fund – Members were informed that the Dwyer Fund had been agreed by Council in 2012. The remit of the fund is quite restrictive in that it can only be used for certain projects which are detailed within the Clerk's Report.

Following a brief discussion Members felt it appropriate to broaden the scope of this fund and to remove the previous restrictions. This would enable individuals and/or organisations to apply for funding on the submission of appropriate business costs.

Schedule of Charges for use of Town Hall Facilities – Members were asked to consider an increase in charges of either 3% or 5% as highlighted within the Clerk's Report.

Members considered the schedule of Charges very carefully and following a discussion it was felt that, given the economic climate, no increase in charges for the use of Town Hall facilities be imposed at this time but that they be reviewed next year.

This was *PROPOSED* by Councillor Sayers, *SECONDED* by Councillor Burns – **VOTING: 6 IN FAVOUR, 1 AGAINST**

Early Redemption of Loans - Following a short discussion Members gave approval for further information to be sought from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) i.e. to obtain early redemption notices on the loans outstanding on the two KGV Town Hall loans and the 2000 Projects Loan. This would allow the loans to be repaid early giving a significant saving over the terms of the loans.

Precept - Members were informed that the Maghull Town Council Precept for Band D properties had not been increased since 2011. Members were asked to consider the options for an increase to the Precept of 0%, 1%, 2% and 3%.

Following a brief discussion Members were unanimous in their decision that there should be no increase to the Precept for the new financial year.

RESOLVED that:

1. **The Budget proposals for the projects expenditure be approved;**
2. **The Neighbourhood Plan budget be increased to £10,000 for 2015/16;
The Community Support and Development grant budget be increased to £8,000 for 2015/16;**
3. **The restrictions for the use of the Dwyer Fund be removed in order that individuals/organisations may now apply for funding on the submission of appropriate business costs;**
4. **There be no increase to the Schedule of Charges for the use of the Town Hall facilities;**
5. **Further information to be sought from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) i.e. to obtain early redemption notices on the loans outstanding on the two KGV Town Hall loans and the 2000 Projects Loan in order that the loans be redeemed early;**
6. **The level of increase of the Precept be agreed at 0% for the next financial year;**
7. **That the report be noted.**

153. DEFIBRILATORS - Members were informed that Boots the Chemist in Maghull Central Square had been approached to ascertain whether they would be willing to house the Defibrillator. Associated costs for the installation had been obtained by the Finance Officer.

The Finance Officer informed Members that she is awaiting a response from Boots confirming their willingness to install the Defibrillator on their premises, as this would be the preferred place for putting it. Members were in agreement that the Town Council purchase a Defibrillator to be housed on a suitable site within the Town.

RESOLVED that:

1. **The Town Council purchase a Defibrillator to be housed on a suitable site within the Town;**
2. **The report be noted.**

154. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - The following issues were highlighted:

The Local Plan - The Chairman referred to Sefton MBC's decision relating to the Local Plan. He informed Members that the Town Council's decision/views also relating to the Local Plan, had been forwarded to Sefton Council for their consideration.

He further stated that Maghull Town Council is performing well as a Council and he took this opportunity to thank all elected Members for their dedication and commitment.

Councillor Jones read out a letter from Mr. Dave Hughes, a member of Maghull Community Radio Team, thanking the Mayor and all elected Members of the Council for their Christmas messages which had been broadcast on Maghull Community Radio and which was supported by all political parties.

155. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC -

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

156. MAGHULL TOWN COUNCIL COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES - The Town Clerk gave a brief overview of the Town Council's Commercial activities to date. Members were informed that the Council had acquired three grounds maintenance contracts and had undertaken a limited number of individual garden projects. The revenue from the commercial activities had been circulated for Member's perusal.

It was further stated that the additional revenue of £13,404 up to 31st December 2014, had allowed the Council to maintain the level of service to residents. The profits raised from these projects had been reinvested in the equipment used by the Facilities Team. However, a reduction in staffing numbers within the Facilities Team would have an impact on the continuance of the commercial work undertaken by the Council. Members were further informed that the Facilities Team also undertakes the maintenance of St. Andrew's (new) churchyard on a free basis. The Clerk stated that this should now be examined to ascertain if it would be appropriate for the Council to continue with this service, in light of the reduction in the budget for the forthcoming year.

Following a short discussion it was

RESOLVED that:

1. **Commercial Activities within the Council be continued for the forthcoming year;**
2. **Approval be granted for a full review of the level of support given to voluntary and faith groups for services provided by the Council;**
3. **The report be noted.**

CHAIRMAN

**REPORT OF THE
TOWN CLERK**

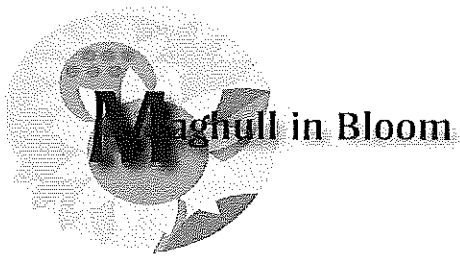
To the Chair and Members
of Finance and Amenities Committee
Meeting held 8th April 2015

2. **MAGHULLFEST**

Members will recall the success of both MaghullFests in 2014 with attendance successively increasing. For 2015 it is proposed to hold MaghullFest on Saturday 11th July. This date avoids school holidays and allows schools and sports and social clubs to field young teams in order to provide entertainment etc. Contacts have already been made with the clubs and schools as this needs to be booked early to ensure attendance. A minimal charge was levied at the previous events of £1.00 per adult and 50p per child. Members are asked to agree an appropriate pricing structure for the next MaghullFest. Further publicity for the event will start with an article in the Champion in the near future.

Recommendations:

1. That Members agree the charging policy for MaghullFest;
2. That the report be noted.



Ms Angela McIntyre
Town Clerk
Maghull Town Council

Dear Angela,

This is an application to Maghull Town Council for a grant of £500 to paint A59 underpass. The application may fit the Bill Dwyer fund, or the Community fund, or the Section 106 criteria.

We painted the underpass some years ago and have a guy who regularly removes graffiti, but the surface paint has deteriorated.

We hope to organise a group to undertake the task. Will seek support in staff time and/or in kind from appropriate companies, such as B&Q, ASDA.

The costings, [taken from the B&Q website] are:

Masonry paint	200.00
Rollers & trays	70.00
Brushes	70.00
Floor covering	100.00
Wet paint signs	50.00
Polythene bags	10.00
total	£500.00

We would expect to submit invoices for the grant, so that any savings we are able to make, would not be charged to the Council.

We do hope the Council is able to support this improvement to the local environment and, in particular, to the main shopping centre of Westway/Central Square.

We look forward to hearing Council's decision.

Anne Hill
Treasurer

Contact details – John Harrison on 0151-527-2795 or johnf.harrison@talktalk.net

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

To the Chair and Members
of Finance and Amenities Committee
Meeting held 8th April 2015

1. FENCING OF THE TENNIS COURTS

Members will be aware that Maghull Tennis Club are the current tenants of the Tennis Clubhouse situated beside the six tennis courts on KGV Playing Fields. The lease runs until 1st April 2017 whereupon it will be up for renewal/renegotiation.

The lease allows for the Tennis Club to use Courts 1-4 exclusively with the remaining 2 courts available for public use. The courts are open to the public and no charge is made for their use.

Members will also be aware that complaints have been received from the Tennis Club relating to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) experienced by their members during club events and matches which has been the subject of debate by the Committee. This ASB has continued and minor damage has been caused to the clubhouse which is currently being repaired. The Club maintain that the openness of the courts is having an impact on membership and restricting the growth of the club as there is no incentive to join a club when the courts are available for free and younger members of the club are intimidated by the ASB.

The Executive Committee of the Tennis Club have again approached the Committee to ascertain whether it would agree to putting fencing between Courts 4 and 5 thereby making their courts secure. This would not need planning permission as it was included in the original permission for the courts.

The Facilities Manager has costed the work and, if completed in house, would be £1392. This is a significant sum for the Council to fund. However, as a compromise it is proposed that the Tennis Club pay for the fencing over a fixed ten year period. The additional sum would be paid together with the rent for the clubhouse and courts. The fencing would allow a clear demarcation between the public courts and the Tennis Club and significantly reduce the level of ASB currently suffered. By spreading the cost of the fencing over this period the Tennis Club would take the opportunity to increase its membership which would pay for the fencing plus any other improvements the Club sought.

This above proposal would be subject to written confirmation with the Tennis Club. Should the Club fold at any time during the repayment period the Club would be liable for the outstanding amount which would need to be factored into closing costs.

The Club is happy with the proposals outlined above.

Recommendations:

1. That Members agree to fund the cost of the fencing between Courts 4 and 5;
2. That Members agree that the Council invoice the Club for £140 p.a. for the following ten years;
3. That Members delegate to the Town Clerk in conjunction with the Chair of Amenities or Chair of the Council the authority to sign the agreement with the Tennis Club;
4. That the report be noted.