

MAGHULL TOWN COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD 12TH OCTOBER 2011

123. PRESENT – Councillor (Ms) S. Williams (In The Chair) and Councillors :- (Mrs) R. Knight, M. Byrne, S. Kermode, (Mrs) C. Esterson, P. McKinley, M. Jones, A. Robertson, (Mrs) J. Day, A. Blackburn. Mr. M. E. Julius (Town Clerk & Treasurer), Mrs. P. M. Annal (Minutes)

ALSO PRESENT – Sefton MBC Councillor C. Mainey

124. WELCOME BY THE MAYOR OF MAGHULL – The Mayor Councillor (Ms) S. Williams welcomed colleagues and members of the Public to the meeting.

125. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – *RECEIVED* from : Councillors : A. Lewis, P. Tweed, (Miss) C. Traynor

126. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – The meeting was attended by Reverend Oatridge from Maghull Baptist Church. He spoke about a Community Carol Service ‘Carols in the Park’ which took place on KGV playing field last year. This was held to promote a sense of community amongst residences of all ages in Maghull and Lydiate at Christmas time. It would also provide an opportunity for people of faith or none to share in remembering the events of the first Christmas. All Churches, Primary, Secondary and High Schools within the community of Maghull participated, and he is hopeful that they will take part again this year. This year the invitation will extend to schools within the Lydiate community.

He informed the Council that as this was very successful last year a second Community Carol Service is being organised again for this year, and it is hoped that Maghull Wind Orchestra will also take part. He further stated that the Town Council provided generators and members of the Facilities Department also assisted in helping with this event.

Reverend Oatridge confirmed the date of the event as **Tuesday 6th December at 7.00 pm** on KGV Playing Field and invited the Mayor of Maghull to attend also. He asked that the Town Council support this special Community event by way of a contribution towards running costs.

The Mayor and Members of Maghull Town Council thanked Reverend Oatridge for attending and confirmed that the Council would support this event and offered a donation.

127. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (MEMBERS AND OFFICERS) – None Indicated at this point.

128. MINUTES – *RESOLVED* that the Minutes of an **Ordinary Meeting of Council (Public Session), held 20th July 2011** – copies of which have been printed and circulated – be taken as read and signed by the Chairman – *PROPOSED* by Councillor S. Kermode, *SECONDED* by Councillor (Mrs) J. Day – *AGREED UNANIMOUSLY*.

129. MATTERS ARISING – Councillor M. Byrne referred to (**Min. No. 79) Public Participation (car parking provision at Meadows Leisure Centre)**. Councillor Byrne highlighted that this is an on-going problem. He suggested a meeting between himself, the Town Clerk, Councillor Kermode and Mr. Sands to discuss a way forward.

130. EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT – The Town Clerk referred to the External Audit Report and Annual Return – copies circulated for members perusal - The Clerk asked that the Council accept and approve the Report and Annual Return.

To this end, it was *PROPOSED* by Councillor M. Byrne that the External Audit Report and Annual Return be *APPROVED* and *ACCEPTED* by the Town Council, *SECONDED* by Councillor A. Robertson – *AGREED UNANIMOUSLY*.

131. CONFIDENTIALITY OF ITEMS AT COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS - Following a very brief discussion Councillor (Ms) S. Williams felt it appropriate to refer this issue back to a future meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee.

PROPOSED by Councillor P. McKinley, *SECONDED* by Councillor M. Byrne – *AGREED UNANIMOUSLY*.

132. FORMATION OF NEW COMMITTEES – Councillor M. Byrne addressed this issue and informed Members of proposed changes in the structure of Committees of the Council. The proposed changes are :

Amalgamation of Amenities and Town Hall & Pavilion Management Committee
Composition of Committee : Chair : Cllr. S. Kermode, Vice Chair : Cllr. (Mrs) R. Knight – plus Cllrs : I. Moncour, M. Byrne, M. Jones, (Ms) S. Williams and two representatives from Liberal Democrat party.

PROPOSED by Councillor I. Moncour, *SECONDED* by councillor (Mrs) R. Knight – *AGREED UNANIMOUSLY*.

Changes in Personnel Committee :

Composition of Committee :- Chair : Cllr. (Mrs) C. Esterson, Vice Chair : Cllr. S. Kermode – plus Cllrs : **P. Tweed**, (Mrs) R. Knight, **(Miss) C. Traynor**, **M. Byrne** and two representatives from Liberal Democrat party.

PROPOSED by Councillor P. Mckinley, *SECONDED* by Councillor (Ms) S. Williams – *AGREED UNANIMOUSLY*.

Changes in Audit & Governance Committee :

Composition of Committee : - Chair : Cllr (Ms) S. Williams, **Vice Chair : Cllr. S. Kermode** – plus Cllrs : P. Dowd, (Miss) C. Traynor, A. Lewis, A. Blackburn, A. Robertson, **(Mrs) R. Knight**

(New) Community Sub-Committee – Composition : Three Labour Councillors plus one representative from Liberal Democrat party (Councillors names yet to be decided).

Representatives on External Organisations :

Sefton Area Partnership of Local Councils (10 Parishes) – **Cllrs: (Mrs) C. Esterson, S. Kermode**

PROPOSED by Councillor M. Byrne, *SECONDED* by Councillor P. McKinley – *AGREED UNANIMOUSLY*.

Merseyside Association of Local Councils – Cllr. P. Mckinley

PROPOSED by Councillor M. Byrne, *SECONDED* by Councillor (Ms) S. Williams

Mr. Jim Sharpe, the Town Council's representative on Merseytravel Advisory Group informed Members that he had received a letter from Merseytravel, stating that Merseytravel are proposing to dissolve the Advisory Group Committee, and replacing it with Area Panels. Mr. Sharpe advised that this will possibly take place in the new year but was uncertain of his position as the Town Council's representative on Merseytravel. The Chairman requested the Town Clerk to write to Mersytravel to clarify this point.

133. OUTCOME OF FINANCIAL REVIEW – The Chairman, Councillor (Ms) S. Williams addressed this item and expressed her concern regarding the cost to the Council for the recent refurbishment works that have been carried out :-

(i) Roof Refurbishment – a very expensive project, a loan for which was applied for and is to be repaid back over a lengthy period of time.

(ii) Refurbishment of the Function Suite – again a very costly project

Councillor Williams is very mindful that long term loans carry severe penalty clauses if paid off early. In relation to equipment leased by the Council it was noted that although short term leases can be more costly, long term leases are not always the best option.

A very lively and heated debate followed in which several other elected members expressed their concerns also. Councillor Williams' concerns were noted by the Town Clerk and the debate was left open.

134. PLANNING APPLICATIONS – Sefton MBC Councillor C. Mainey referred to a planning application for a change of use of the former Ethel Austin site at Maghull Central Square, to a J.D. Wetherspoon public house. He expressed his concern in relation to the site being unsuitable, increase in noise pollution and excess parking issues.

Councillor M. Byrne received information that this planning application will be presented to a full planning committee at Sefton Council in the very near future. At this point Sefton and Maghull Town Councillor A. Blackburn declared an interest in Licensing issues as he is a member of the Licensing Committee on Sefton Council.

135. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES –

Audit & Governance Committee Meeting, held 21st September 2011 – PROPOSED ACCEPTANCE by Councillor S. Kermode, **SECONDED** by Councillor A. Blackburn – **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting, held 28th September 2011 – PROPOSED ACCEPTANCE by Councillor I. Moncour, **SECONDED** by Councillor S. Kermode – **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

136. MATTERS ARISING –

- a) **Audit & Governance Committee Meeting, held 21st. September 2011 –** No issues raised
- b) **Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting, held 28th September –** The Town Clerk referred to Min. No. 111 Public Participation – A recent meeting between the Town Clerk and Mr. R. Reid (Tea Dance Group Member). The Town Clerk confirmed that the recent incident between Mr. Reid and a member of the Administration staff had now been resolved.
- c) **Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting, held 28th September –** Councillor A. Blackburn referred to the discussion in Public Participation (Min. No. 111) relative to J. D. Wetherspoon Public House and asked that the following amendment be made :
“Councillor C. Mainey highlighted two issues of concern:... (i) Northway slip road etc.”

137. ANY OTHER BUSINESS - The Town Clerk addressed this issue and gave a verbal update on the Firework project. He stated that all the major systems have been put in place and has liaised closely with the Firework Company, Merseyside Police and Sefton Council. The Clerk tabled a Fireworks Display Planner for members perusal.

The Clerk also confirmed that Posters have been printed and Press coverage in the local newspaper has been arranged to advertise this event. A Risk Assessment has been carried out and the Police and Fire Service have agreed this.

Councillor M. Byrne added that one of the risks identified by the Police is that this will be the only firework display in the area, which will have an impact in crowd capacity. This has been taken into account within the Risk Assessment. He also confirmed that funding has been obtained from SEPAC (Sefton East Parishes Area Committee) and St. Oswalds and Netherton Ward.

Councillor M. Byrne took this opportunity to thank the Town Clerk and Facilities Manager, Mr. Peter Taylor for all their help and hard work in organising this display. He was also hopeful that his colleagues on the Council would assist on the night.

At this point Councillor A. Blackburn declared an interest in the Merseyside Fire Service as he is a member of the Merseyside Fire Authority.

138. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC – It was *PROPOSED* by Councillor (Mrs) R. Knight, *SECONDED* by Councillor S. Kermode and *AGREED UNANIMOUSLY* that members of the press and Public be *EXCLUDED* for the remainder of the meeting due to confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

CHAIRMAN

Page 5

139. PRESENT – Councillor (Ms) S. Williams (In The Chair) and Councillors :- (Mrs) R. Knight, M. Byrne, S. Kermode, (Mrs) C. Esterson, P. McKinley, M. Jones, A. Robertson, (Mrs) J. Day, A. Blackburn. Mr. M. E. Julius (Town Clerk & Treasurer), Mrs. P. M. Annal (Minutes)

ALSO PRESENT – Sefton MBC Councillor C. Mainey

140. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – *RECEIVED* from : Councillors : A. Lewis, P. Tweed, (Miss) C. Traynor

The following issue was discussed 'In Committee' at a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, held 12th October 2011.

141. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES –

Audit & Governance Committee Meeting, held 9th June 2011 – *PROPOSED ACCEPTANCE* by Councillor I. Moncour, *SECONDED* by Councillor S. Kermode – *AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.*

Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting, held 22nd June 2011 – *PROPOSED ACCEPTANCE* by Councillor (Mrs) R. Knight, *SECONDED* by Councillor (Mrs) C. Esterson – *AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.*

142. MATTERS ARISING

- a) **Audit & Governance Committee Meeting, held 9th June 2011** – No issues raised.
- b) **Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting, held 22nd June 2011** – No issues raised.

CHAIRMAN