

MAGHULL TOWN COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD 4TH MAY 2011

374. PRESENT - Councillor G. G. Howe (In The Chair) and Councillors : B. L. Hubbard, (Ms) V. Jay, (Miss) N. Smith, C. A. Mainey, J. W. Byrne, A. Blackburn, (Mrs) S. Nelson, A. Robertson, (Mrs) J. Blackburn, (Mrs) J. Day, (Mrs) W. Maher. Mr. J. Farrell (Interim Town Clerk), Miss E. Skelly (Finance & Projects Officer), Mrs. P. M. Annal (Minutes)

ALSO PRESENT – Mr. M. E. Julius (Permanent Town Clerk)

374. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Mr. J. Sharpe, a resident of Maghull attended the meeting to express his concerns relative to the footpath leading from Dawson Gardens up to the canal. Mr. Sharpe stated that Sefton Council had raised the level of the footpath and a new surface has been laid which consists of large/hard pieces of gravel which is considered to be inappropriate and an unsuitable surface. In response, Councillor A. Robertson informed Members that he had spoken to the Neighbourhoods Division at Sefton Council who have confirmed that the surface does appear to be unsuitable.

Councillor Robertson stated that he would bring this to the attention of the Footpaths Officer at Sefton Council for further investigation.

375. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – *RECEIVED* from Councillors : C. R. Walker, (Mrs) S. Mainey.

376. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (MEMBERS AND OFFICERS) – Non indicated.

377. MINUTES – *RESOLVED* that the Minutes of an **Ordinary Meeting of Council, held 23rd March 2011** – copies of which have been printed and circulated – be taken as read and signed by the Chairman. This was *PROPOSED* by Councillor B. L. Hubbard, *SECONDED* by Councillor (Miss) N. Smith – *AGREED UNANIMOUSLY*.

378. QUESTIONS – No questions raised

379. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES –

- **Business Review Sub-Committee Meeting, held 1st April 2011** – *PROPOSED ACCEPTANCE* by Councillor B. L. Hubbard, *SECONDED* by Councillor (Mrs) S. Nelson – *AGREED UNANIMOUSLY*.
- **Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting, held 13th April 2011** – *PROPOSED ACCEPTANCE* by Councillor (Mrs) S. Nelson, *SECONDED* by Councillor B. L. Hubbard – *AGREED UNANIMOUSLY*.

400. OPPOSED ITEMS – No items opposed

401. QUESTIONS – No questions raised

402. PLANNING APPLICATIONS – No Planning Applications have been referred for consideration at this time.

403. DONATIONS – Councillor A. Robertson addressed this issue and informed Members that at a recent meeting of the Maghull in Bloom Steering Committee, a request was put forward to ascertain if Maghull Town Council would be in agreement to contribute towards several on-going community projects, and to support the Maghull Town entry into the North West in Bloom competition. Councillor Robertson stated that the work will be undertaken mid July in preparation for this competition.

Following a brief discussion, Councillor A. Robertson *PROPOSED* that £5000 from the Environment Fund be awarded to Maghull in Bloom for on-going community projects, *SECONDED* by Councillor (Miss) N. Smith – *AGREED UNANIMOUSLY*.

404. ADVERTISING BANNERS – Following recent complaints received from local residents, relative to the placement of Advertising Banners on the Town Hall Fence, it would seem appropriate for the Town Council to adopt a protocol for dealing with such Banners as detailed below :

All Commercial Banners are removed as soon as possible

All Charitable and Community Banners be allowed up for no longer than two weeks before an event

The Blood Transfusion Banners to be allowed as per the requirements of the Blood Transfusion Service.

PROPOSED by Councillor B. L. Hubbard, *SECONDED* by Councillor (Ms) V. Jay – **VOTING : 10 FOR, 1 AGAINST WITH 1 ABSTENTION.**

405. PROJECTS LOAN APPLICATION – The interim Town Clerk, Mr. John Farrell addressed this issue and highlighted the information as detailed in the Clerk's Report, which brings together all refurbishment works being carried out at the Town Hall. He stated that in order to fund the works it would be necessary for Maghull Town Council to take out additional borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). It is proposed that the Council borrow £220,000.00 from the PWLB and a breakdown of the costs and terms of the loan are highlighted in the Clerk's Report.

Councillor (Mrs) S. Nelson stated that a great deal of time and thought had gone into the refurbishment works, and Members of the Business Review Sub-Committee felt that the Town Hall roof is now in desperate need of repair. She further stated that the refurbishment works will greatly enhance the appearance of the building and feels that it is important for the Council to borrow this amount of money.

To this end, it was *PROPOSED* by Councillor (Mrs) S. Nelson and *SECONDED* by Councillor A. Robertson that the Council apply for a loan of £220,000.00 from the Public Works Loan Board, in order that the refurbishment works can be carried out. This was *AGREED UNANIMOUSLY*.

406. SPEEDING – LIVERPOOL ROAD SOUTH (MEADOWS SHOPS TO A59 AT THE ALT SECTION) – Councillor A. Robertson addressed this issue and informed Members that following previous discussions, the Town Council are asked, in principle, to consider contributing towards the cost of installing vehicle actuated signs which are aimed at slowing down vehicles travelling along this busy stretch of the A59. In order for these signs to be installed, some form of funding is required.

Following a brief discussion, Councillor A. Robertson informed Members that the cost of the signs is approximately £6000, and ideally one is required for traffic travelling in each direction this, would total £12,000.

To this end it was *RESOLVED* that **‘the Town Council agrees in principle to contribute towards the cost of erecting two flashing speed warning signs on the section of Liverpool Road South between the Meadows (Ormonde Drive junction), and Alt Traffic lights. A 50/50 costing split with the Area Committee is suggested and the matter to be taken forward at an appropriate meeting of SEPAC’** (*Sefton East Parishes Area Committee*). This was *PROPOSED* by Councillor (Miss) N. Smtih, *SECONDED* by Councillor (Mrs) S. Nelson – *AGREED UNANIMOUSLY*.

407. REPORT ON SEFTON AREA PARTNERSHIP OF LOCAL COUNCILS - Councillor J. W. Byrne, Maghull Town Council’s representative on this committee, stated that there were no issues to report at this time.

408. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – The Chairman, Councillor G. Howe, felt it appropriate at this stage to thank all Elected Members of Maghull Town Council for their hard work and sterling commitment to the community of Maghull.

Councillor B. L. Hubbard also took this opportunity to thank all members of Maghull Town Council staff for their help and support over the years. He thanked all Elected Members of the Council for their time, commitment and company over the years.

Councillor A. Robertson referred to recent car parking problems experienced at the Town Hall. He informed Members that a survey carried out by Sefton Leisure Services confirmed that 95% of people consulted would like to see extended car parking spaces made available. This situation needs to be resolved. Councillor A. Robertson suggested a future meeting with Maghull Town Council, Sefton Council Planning Department and Sefton Leisure Services.

At this point, the permanent Town Clerk Mr. Mark Julius addressed the Council. Mr. Julius wished to thank all Elected Members of the Council for their patience whilst he has been on long term sick leave, recovering from a serious illness.

He stated that he is back at work on a phased return basis which will increase over a period of time, and is very grateful for everything that Maghull Town Council has done for him.

On behalf of Members of the Council, the Chairman wished Mr. Julius well in anticipation of his full time return to work.

409. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Nothing to report.

CHAIRMAN