

MAGHULL TOWN COUNCIL
REPORT ON ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
HELD 5TH APRIL 2017

1. PRESENT – Councillor June Burns (Town Mayor in the Chair) and Councillors: Josh Burns, Carlsen, Desmond, Esterson, Hart and McKinley

2. ALSO PRESENT – A. McIntyre (Town Clerk & Treasurer), A. Spencer (Operations and Contracts Manager), D. Healey (Finance Officer), P. Challinor (Events Co-ordinator), S. Larking (Minutes) and 26 residents (see list at end).

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Byrne, J. Deegan, R. Deegan, Mullen, J.Sayers and Y.Sayers.

Councillor (Cllr) June Burns, Town Mayor and Chairman of Maghull Town Council, welcomed colleagues and members of the public to the Annual Assembly Meeting. She noted the attendance was much higher than in previous years.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Cllr June Burns, Town Mayor, gave a summary of activities and achievements by Maghull Town Council over the last 12 months. Key points:

- Extra facilities in the park including new play equipment including equipment suitable for disabled children in Dodds Park
- Looking to improve parks to reduce anti-social behaviour
- Continued with apprenticeship scheme. Currently employ 3 apprentices. An engineering apprentice has moved to a permanent post within the Council
- Saved money following loss of double rating
- Working to develop a neighbourhood plan. Residents feedback very welcome
- A community police station will open in the Town Hall in May. This will help reduce anti-social behaviour around the Town Hall
- Continued to work with the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). The service has moved out of the Town Hall. Council working to find CAB a new home in the Square
- Maghull in Bloom won gold awards and continue to receive funding from Maghull Town Council
- Supported the Leeds Liverpool Canal 200th year celebrations at Maghull Cricket Club and a fun run at Aintree. Canalfest at the Cricket Club was a good day despite the weather.
- First literary festival was held which celebrated 100 years since Road Dahl's birth
- Health month was organised in July in Maghull Square
- The first Maghull Battle of the Bands was won by the Devil's Henchmen
- Resolution passed giving the Council the Power of General Competence. Exciting time for the Council as its looks at different projects to improve the public spaces and provide different services
- The Town Council are committed to fulfilling the aspirations of the community to help make Maghull a great place to live and work.

The Mayor spoke about her chosen Charity, the Honeysuckle Team, and civic events she had attended:

- The Honeysuckle Team, based at Liverpool Women's hospital, provide a bereavement service for parents and siblings.
- Hosting two fundraising events, all very welcome:

- 22 April: Family event at the Square Bar and Grill from 1pm
- 12 May: Motown charity night at the Venue.
- Attending an Away Day at Liverpool City Council on 13 April. This includes the revealing of the Minton Floor at St Georges Hall.
- Attended a range of interesting events including Liverpool Pride and Merseyside Jewish Representative Council annual service

5. QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

The Mayor explained that the criteria to ask a question are:

- over 18; and
- be registered to vote in Maghull.

There were a number of questions/ statements from Electors. These have been split into themes.

Precept

| Question | Answer (Town Clerk unless otherwise stated) |
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| There has been no increase in the precept for 6 years. The Council have been pursuing a policy of cost reduction. How has this progressed and what savings have been achieved? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Double rating ceased in 2013. From 2014 there has been a 25% (£134,000) reduction in funding ● There's been a comprehensive review of all contacts and suppliers; the council has robustly sought to reduce costs ● Staffing reviewed. Made savings e.g. posts not filled ● Costs have increased ● Council has made savings of £120,000 ● If the Council had used reserves it would have folded after 4 years ● Have tried not to impact on precept payers |
| How much has the precept increased? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9p a week on band D properties. |
| Despite there being no precept increase for 6 years, the amount of reserves held by Maghull Town Council (MTC) is showing as £590,211 as at end of January 2017. Cricket Club. Furthermore the budgeted profit and loss for the year ending 31/3/2017 is £13,478. This has grown to a profit (at end of Jan 2017) of £78,201. What are the revenue surpluses to be used for? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Council needs to hold reserves. ● Outstanding loans of £408,000. Would pay off if could ● Approximately 6 months running costs in reserves. ● Current reserves would not cover redundancies and loans. |
| Why wasn't precept increased? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Officers have recommend increases of between 1% and 3% ● Council didn't want to increase the precept as Sefton Council tax was increasing |
| Who pays out if the council folds? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Council would not be liable |
| Could you use the money in reserves for the People of Maghull | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The money could be used in Maghull |

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| Question | Answer (Town Clerk unless otherwise stated) |
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| If making savings of £23,000 what will the admin team do? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team will take forward projects as directed by Council for example the waste water project which is checking if charging is appropriate and if can get a reduction • Continue to make savings e.g. contracts • Yes, the Council works in partnership |
| You don't need to do this by yourselves. Do you work with voluntary organisation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council legally required to seek market value |
| Why have MTC adopted an ideology that all assets must provide a commercial return? This has resulted in the fiasco of huge increased for Bowling clubs, most of which have left the Councils greens. Surely MTC have a dual role – to spend precept monies wisely and to provide facilities for residents? What has happened to partnership within the Community? Residents did not vote for the relentless pursuance of dogma, to the exclusion of any who fail to conform. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council legally required to seek market value |

Maghull Cricket Club

| Question | Answer (Town Clerk unless otherwise stated) |
|---|---|
| Council will make savings of £23,000 a year which will be passed onto the Cricket Club? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It costs Maghull Town Council that amount due to overheads • The Cricket club will be able to make savings • The Cricket Club Management Committee is considering proposals |
| What did Maghull Town Council do for the Cricket Club? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admin e.g. bookings • Maintenance of building • Paid for Hygiene contact including nappy and sanitary bins • Paid for water and waste water • Monthly checks of emergency lighting and alarm systems • Collected waste • Paid bills and arranged recharge |
| How many bookings? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately £3,000 in bookings |
| Can you share the admin costs? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately £9,000 for admin. This is inclusive of admin staff time including paying bills |
| What will happen if you put an additional £23,000 onto the cricket club | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not sure as not seen accounts since 2011 • Have asked for accounts. • Not received detailed/full accounts |
| Shocking the level of subsidy to the cricket club. Why has this been allowed to continue? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council have been supporting the Club |

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| Question | Answer (Town Clerk unless otherwise stated) |
|---|---|
| You may not like the set-up of Maghull Cricket Club accounts. ECB happy with accounts. Are MTC's counted audited? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, procedures in place. • The council pays for independent audits – quarterly Internal Audits and an annual External Audit. • Audited accounts are available for inspection. |
| Are the admin charges broken down? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes |
| <p>1. You want to improve the Neighbourhood. The Cricket club is packed with young people. There is nothing in Maghull and nothing about promoting being healthy.</p> <p>2. Not seen any Cllrs at the Cricket Club. Lots of people are getting the benefit,</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council can't support the Cricket Club to the level that it has been • Cricket club need to pay market rent • Issues about legality of the lease dual use agreement is illegal • Putting in place arrangements consistent with other clubs e.g. Maghull Football Club • Promote the cricket club and pass on bookings |
| What is a dual agreement? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It about Council and Cricket club splitting bills • Costs not being covered by Cricket Club |
| What are the currents water costs for the Cricket Club? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx. £3,500 |
| Does the water bill include the football club and car park? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requested maps from United Utilities to show how they calculate the waste water • If there is a reduction in the charge that will be a benefit to the Cricket Club |
| What about security costs? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council pay for key holding service and alarms • Key holding service paid to December 2017 |
| Don't see security at the Cricket Club. Had to ask children to leave the pitch | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is not covered by the security contract • Anti-social behaviour (ASB) should be reported to the Police |
| Costs of running a football club less that a cricket club. Can't take on £23,000 for running cots | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £23,000 is what it costs the Council to run the Cricket Club • Costs will be less as Cricket Club can negotiate deals with utilities and won't be paying for overheads • Council can't continue to illegally support the Cricket club any longer |
| Massive turn out. Pay a premium to live in Maghull but don't feel that get value for money. Disappointed by reaction from Cllrs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted |
| Has the Council got plans for the land, e.g. to sell it off | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a covenant on the land for use for sport purposes • Anticipate that the Cricket Club will sign the lease so not looking for alternative tenants |

AS

| Question | Answer (Town Clerk unless otherwise stated) |
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| Would like to challenge the admin fee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy to share the admin costs |
| Any views from representatives? | <p>Cllr Carlsen responded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Cricket Club • Costs to council £23,000 but haven't charged Cricket club £23,000 • Need to work in partnership • Council have helped bring money into the club – Canal fest and will hold future events at the Cricket Club • Offered to help explore water charging • Lease needs to be made legal; it is fraud and it needs to stand up to scrutiny |
| What are the costs? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed rent is £2,250 a year plus bills • As a sports club will get rebate on rates for the club and will make savings • Cricket Club will have opportunities to apply for grants that Council aren't eligible for • Council will support Cricket club in a different way – in a way that is legal |
| Views from other MTC Cllrs? | <p>Cllr Hart responded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trying to do best for Cricket Club • Challenge anyone to come up with a better deal • Bowlers were paying 9p a game. Now paying £1.50 a game |
| Bowling increases in local paper. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs £10,500 to maintain greens. Received £1,500 from bowlers • Council providing a massive subsidy to the bowlers • Leaves very little money to do other things in Maghull |
| Why can't you subsidise the Cricket Club? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not able to continue to subsidise costs of Cricket Club |
| Would pay rate rise for sports facilities to engage young and old people. Need thing for young people to do | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted |
| Why didn't discussion with Cricket Club start earlier? Need a least a year to prepare. You started discussions before lease was up for renewal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had discussions with Cricket Club for over 2 years • Meeting with Cllrs and John Miller back in 2011/12. • Council took decision to review tenancy in June 2016 following legal advice from Sefton Council • Letter sent to the Cricket Club in September requesting a meeting • Cricket Club deferred discussions until January 2017 • Unable to give Cricket Club another year as there are risks to the Council |

| Question | Answer (Town Clerk unless otherwise stated) |
|---|--|
| Need more time to consider | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had time to consider |
| What are the risks and how high? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council may be challenged and taken to Court • Risk is high. Tax players subsidising the Cricket Club • Council taken decision that can't continue to subsidise the Cricket Club |
| Just want a fair price for the cricket and pavilion. Can there be a joint partnership? Understand that need to pay more but not had a full season to seek grants. Lease not drawn up and season starts in 2 weeks | <p>Cllr Hart responded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllrs met John Miller 5 years ago to discuss moving the club onto a more commercial footing • Council is not walking away from the cricket club • Just want a level playing field • Need to have an agreement which is legal • Costs won't be £23,000. Possibly £13,000 or less |
| What are you doing to help? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made Cricket Club aware that eligible for 80% subsidy in business rates • Passed on details of grants e.g. from ECB to help with new kitchen • Paying for key holding service until December 2017 • Paying for insurance |
| How much do the Cricket Club pay in rent? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was £5.00 a year from 1989 • That changed in 1999 when Council took on management |
| Cricket Club not open for 6 months. Not getting much help. Situation not sustainable for the Club. It helps keep young people off the street | <p>Cllr McKinley responded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered help including developing a business plan • The Club is an asset which can generate money |
| Concerns about insurance and alarm system | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition arrangements in place for alarm system |

Youth Provision

| Question | Answer (Town Clerk unless otherwise stated) |
|--|---|
| What have you done to engage with young people? Young people want skate parks and purpose built facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning a survey to find what young people want and if they want to get involved |

Neighbourhood Plan

| Question | Answer (Town Clerk unless otherwise stated) |
|--|--|
| How many people responded to the Neighbourhood Plan? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 • Held roadshows to inform residents and information on Council's website |

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Communication

| Question | Answer (Town Clerk unless otherwise stated) |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Do you only post on social media? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posts on social media • Information on Council's website and notice boards • Published 3 editions of Maghull Press; had a grant but this ran out |

Anti- Social Behaviour

| Question | Answer |
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| ASB a big issue. Cricket club doing a good job. Council don't do anything for kids in the areas. They trash parks and walk around in big groups. Need somewhere for kids to go. What doing to do to improve area as its going downhill? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If we had more money more would do more. Only 2 ways of raising money – increase income or raise the precept. • Police records don't show many calls reporting ASB in Maghull which means resources are getting diverted (Note: 9 people present had reported ASB by calling 101) • Important to report ASB incidents • Council developing an ASB strategy to help manage and reduce risks • Sefton Council target areas where young people are causing problems |

In response to comments about Anti-Social Behaviour, Cllr McKinley (Leader of the Council) noted the following:

- Council doing a lot more for the Community than in previous years
- Youth Coffee Bar at the Town Hall was closed down as young people were taking drugs
- Maghull Radio has trained 60 young people in radio skills. Some host their own shows
- Would like to see more residents at events held to discuss ASB. Council hosted a meeting to respond to ASB in Treeview Court. Meeting advertised on social media. It was attended by 3 Cllrs, 2 Police Officers and Maghull Homewatch. 1 resident attended.
- Need community action

6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING - The Town Mayor drew the meeting to a close as Full Council was following. She thanked all those who had attended and announced the Annual Assembly Meeting for 2017 closed. Residents were invited to join Full Council.



 19/7/17 CHAIRMAN

Residents completing attendance record:

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| Blackburn | Sepeblush | Harris | Harris |
| Garside | J.M. Hagan | S Berry | J Berry |
| W Noble | N Nobel | K Noble | P Moffitt |
| K Cliffe | M Lucas | M Fitton | D Lloyd |
| L Lloyd | A Pierce | M Mouse | J Stanley |
| P Barlow | B Taylor | R Millington | M Hoey |
| B Boyton | P Walter | | |