

MAGHULL TOWN COUNCIL
AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING – HELD 19TH OCTOBER 2011

143. PRESENT – Councillor (Ms) S. Williams (In The Chair) and Councillors : A. Blackburn, P. Dowd, S. Kermode. Mr. M. E. Julius (Town Clerk & Treasurer), Mrs. P. M. Annal (Minutes)

144. WELCOME BY THE MAYOR OF MAGHULL – The Mayor Councillor (Ms) S. Williams welcomed colleagues to the meeting.

145. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – *RECEIVED* from Councillors (Miss) C. Traynor, A. Robertson

146. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (MEMBERS AND OFFICERS) – None Indicated.

147. MINUTES – *RESOLVED* that the Minutes of an **Audit & Governance Committee Meeting, held 21st September 2011** – copies of which have been printed and circulated – be taken as read and signed by the Chairman – *PROPOSED* by Councillor P. Dowd, *SECONDED* by Councillor (Mrs) R. Knight – *AGREED UNANIMOUSLY*.

148. MATTERS ARISING – Councillor (Ms) S. Williams referred to **Min. No. 106 Presentation of Facilities manager/Review of Council Vehicles** – Councillor Williams enquired if a final figure for disposal of the Kubota Mower had been obtained. The Clerk responded that the Facilities Manager is in the process of obtaining three quotations for this and confirmed that this information would be available for the next Full Council meeting.

149. CONFIDENTIALITY / STANDING ORDERS – The Chairman, Councillor (Ms) S. Williams addressed this issue :-

- a) **Standing Orders of the Council** – These need to be revised as they are now out of date. ‘Confidentiality’ should only be imposed if Personnel related issues are being discussed and staff names are being disclosed, or in the case of commercial sensitivity.
- b) **Remit of the Audit & Governance Committee** – Councillor (Ms) S. Williams informed members that the remit of this Committee needs to be clarified, and asked the Town Clerk to seek clarification from Sefton Council to determine the legal framework. She asked that a small sub-Committee/Working Party be set up to discuss the remit of the Audit & Governance Committee, composition to be Cllr. (Mrs) R. Knight, (Ms) S. Williams and the Town Clerk.

The Clerk tabled information obtained from the Government website relative to the remit of this Committee, for members perusal.

150. FINANCIAL REVIEW UPDATE – Councillor (Ms) S. Williams expressed her concerns relative to the Financial Review, which was previously discussed at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 12th October 2011.

She stated that a sub-Committee will be set up consisting of Cllr. S. Kermode, (Ms) S. Williams, the Town Clerk and the Finance Officer to review the budget and to identify where potential savings can be implemented, and also to highlight any areas of high expenditure.

This sub-Committee will meet every other Friday, the first of which will be in two weeks time at 3.30pm 28th October 2011.

151. ANY OTHER BUSINESS - The following issues were highlighted :-

Government Budget Cuts

Councillor (Ms) S. Williams referred to the Governmental budget cuts affecting all borough Councils locally and nationally. In response, Sefton MBC Councillor P. Dowd stated that Sefton Council are looking to save money across a number of options, and that a public consultation process will be in force for a period of three months.

Councillor (Ms) S. Williams referred to the 'signing in' book at Committee meetings. Sefton MBC Councillor P. Dowd stated that the Committee Clerk at Sefton Council was responsible for recording the attendance of Councillors at meetings. He suggested that for future meetings, the Town Clerk should be the responsible person to record attendances.

Councillor (Ms) S. Williams felt it appropriate for this item to be discussed at a future meeting of the Council.

Plot of Land at Roundmeade, Maghull

Councillor S. Kermode referred to a letter received from a Dr. West who lives at Roundmeade and is enquiring about the purchase of a plot of land adjacent to his property. The Town Clerk responded that he will contact the appropriate agencies to obtain a valuation for this land, as the Town Council are quite happy to sell it off.

Councillor Kermode also referred to the running costs of The Venue Function Room. The Town Clerk responded that a lot of the costs are built into the service charges which are re-charged back to the leaseholder.

Councillor A. Blackburn expressed his concern with regard to the absence of 'Clerks Reports' that normally accompany Agendas. The 'Clerk's Reports' provide Councillors with information prior to meetings and asked if the Town Clerk could ensure, for future meetings, that there is always a 'Clerk's Report' attached to the Agenda.

