

# KNOWSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES

A Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of  
Knowsley Town Council was held on Wednesday 18 June 2025  
in the Committee Room, Community Pavilion  
commencing at 5.00 p.m.

### PRESENT

**Councillors:** D J Baum (Mayor of the Town Council)  
M Burke, B Donnelly, N Joseph.

**Also in Present:** Jane Thomas - Clerk of the Council

### APOLOGIES

**Councillor:** J Donnelly, L O’Keeffe, L Tomlison (Deputy Mayor of the Council)

#### 26. **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024/2025**

Nominations were called for the position of Chairperson of the Committee for the Municipal Year 2025/2026. There was only one nomination as follows:

Proposed: Cllr J Donnelly  
Proposer: Cllr B Donnelly  
Seconder: Cllr N Joseph

There being no further nominations, it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Cllr J Donnelly be duly elected to serve as Chairperson of the Committee for the Municipal Year 2025/2026. Cllr J Donnelly accepted the position and will duly sign the Declaration of Office at the next committee meeting.

#### 27. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/2026**

Nominations were called for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Committee for the Municipal Year 2025/2026. There was only one nomination as follows:

Proposed: Cllr N Joseph  
Proposer: Cllr B Donnelly  
Seconder: Cllr M Burke

There being no further nominations, it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Cllr Joseph be duly elected to serve as Vice-Chairperson of the Committee for the Municipal Year 2025/2026.

**28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**29. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no announcements from the Chair of the Committee

**30. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

The Clerk informed Members of a request from Annie MacLean, Community Development Officer at ForHousing, to book the Community Pavilion at a reduced rate. Annie coordinates free holiday activities for children and young people in partnership with local groups, including Safari Kids Club (SKC) and Stocky Whizz Kidz (SWK), targeting primarily primary school-aged children.

She also plans to collaborate with ABC Boxing for sessions aimed at older youth and Petit Ullaloom, a drama organisation, to offer workshops for ages 11+ on fast fashion through arts and drama.

Annie proposes to deliver two 4-hour sessions each week over a three-week period and intends to apply for Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) support.

Members agreed to grant the reduced rate of £15 per hour for full use of the Pavilion, recognising the community benefit of the proposed activities.

**31. FRIENDS OF KNOWSLEY VILLAGE REC & GREEN SPACES**

In Attendance:

- Natalie and Robyn, Friends of Knowsley Rec & Green Spaces
- Phil Hurst, Green Space Development Officer, Environmental Sustainability

Phil Hurst, Green Space Development Officer, Environmental Sustainability provided an update on matters raised at the April, Finance & General Purposes meeting, confirming that KMBC will be covering the cost of drawing up the masterplan.

Friends of Knowsley Rec & Green Spaces gave a verbal overview of their proposed masterplan and highlighted concerns regarding road safety in and around the site.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that:

- a) A joint site walkabout would be arranged involving members of the committee, Phil Hurst, representatives from the Friends of Knowsley Rec, and officers from the Highways Department (KMBC) to discuss these concerns in more detail.
- b) Exploration of funding opportunities for future improvements was **NOTED** as a priority, and it was acknowledged that the recreation ground's lease arrangements will also need to be reviewed.

Members expressed their thanks to the Friends of Knowsley Rec & Green Space and to Phil Hurst for their ongoing work. It was agreed that a further meeting would be convened once the masterplan has been completed.

**32. LITTLEWOODS OF STOCKBRIDGE**

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to defer this item to a future meeting.

**33. MILL LANE PLAYING AREA**

The Clerk presented a report concerning a safety concern raised by a local resident regarding Mill Lane Playing Area. The Clerk explained that, following the concern, an inspection had been carried out by Steve Jones (KMBC), confirming no immediate structural risk.

Members were advised that the RoSPA annual inspection (March 2025) had similarly found no grounds to condemn the equipment but did recommend repainting, minor repairs, and continued monitoring.

Members considered the three options presented in the report.

After discussion, it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that:

- begin scoping options with KMBC for the replacement of the aging equipment as part of a future masterplan.
- site should continue to be monitored in the meantime.

**34. ESTABLISH REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE BETWEEN THE TOWN COUNCIL AND STOCKBRIDGE**

The Chair presented a report outlining the proposal to establish a regular meeting schedule between the Town Council and Stockbridge ABC. The purpose of these meetings is to strengthen collaboration, improve communication, and ensure alignment on shared community priorities and initiatives.

After discussion, it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that:

- a) establish regular quarterly meetings between the Town Council and Stockbridge ABC.
- b) the Chair of the Committee, Vice-Chair and Cllr I. O’Keeffe, would attend the meetings on behalf of Knowsley Town Council.

**35. CORRESPONDANCE FROM FACILITY USER GROUP**

Members received and noted a letter from a local facility user group requesting the introduction of a formal concession policy for the hire of Town Council facilities.

Following discussion, Members **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** to:

- **NOTED** the content of the correspondence received from the community organisation.
- **AGREED** in principle to explore the development of a formal concession policy for voluntary and not-for-profit groups.
- **REQUEST** that the Clerk draft a proposed concession policy for consideration at a future meeting, ensuring that the draft takes into account financial implications, eligibility criteria, and community needs.

**36. COMMUNITY PAVILION STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT**

Members considered the report of the Clerk and the findings of the structural appraisal undertaken by ACR Structural Engineers in relation to the punch bags mounted on the flat roof of the Community Pavilion.

Following a lengthy discussion, Members **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** to:

- a) with immediate effect the punch bags, be removed due to safety concerns identified in the appraisal, which confirmed the current roof structure is not sufficient to support the dynamic loads.
- b) The Chair and Vice-Chair to arrange an emergency meeting with the representatives from Stockbridge ABC to discuss the implications of the decision, future use of the facility, and possible alternative arrangements.

**37. INVESTMENT STRATEGY POLICY**

Members considered the report of the Clerk concerning the adoption of an Investment Strategy Policy in line with the Local Government Act 2003 and accompanying government guidance.

Following discussion of the report, it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that:

- a) **APPROVED** the implementation of the proposed Investment Strategy Policy to ensure that surplus funds are managed prudently with priority given to liquidity and security.
- b) **AGREED** to adopt a maximum investment limit of £85,000 per financial institution, consistent with the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) protection threshold.
- c) **NOTED** that the Council's investments during the 2025/26 financial year are expected to exceed £100,000, and that the statutory guidance will therefore apply.
- d) **CONFIRMED** that only Specified Investments, as defined in the guidance, will be used.
- e) **ACKNOWLEDGED** that all decisions regarding investments under this strategy will be referred to Full Council.

**38. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2025/2026**

Members considered the Treasury Management report as presented by the Clerk of the Council. Given the unrestricted interest rates available on a day-to-day basis, it was acknowledged that some flexibility in investment decisions may be required."

Following careful deliberation, it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that:

- **NOTE** report.
- **AGREE** to invest the unrestricted reserves, with the exact sum to be determined at the time of investment.
- **RECOMMEND** to the Full Council that this approach be formally approved.

The Meeting Closed at 7.05 p.m.

**DATED:** 18 June 2025

**SIGNED:** .....

**Cllr N Joseph  
Vice-Chairperson of the Committee**