

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Thursday 29 May 2014 commencing at 7.15 pm.

PRESENT Councillors: R. Silvester (in the Chair), G. Atkinson, K. Denton, K. Helsby, J. Kellett, L. McCartin, K. McKeon, A. Morley, S. Rock, L Rock, K. Thomson
Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson
Bolton Ward Councillor A. Cunliffe
1 member of the press
3 members of the public

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

TC 3138 Councillor R. Silvester outlined the procedure

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

TC 3139 Apologies received from Councillor Root due to work commitments and Councillor J. Silvester who was away.

TO REMIND MEMBERS TO MAKE A DECLARATION CONCERNING ANY MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE MEETING OF WHICH THEY HAVE AN INTEREST:

TC 3140 None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT MAY PUT QUESTIONS OR MAKE OBSERVATIONS REGARDING MATTERS IN RELATION TO WHICH THE COUNCIL HAS POWERS OR DUTIES OR WHICH AFFECT THE PARISH. MAXIMUM PERIOD 15 MINUTES:

TC 3141 Resolved to move out of Committee to allow a member of the public to speak.

Mr Halliwell, a local resident, expressed strong concern about the condition of Back Brownlow Road which was overgrown with weeds, photographs of which had been distributed to all Members. Mr Halliwell reminded Members that this matter had been brought to the attention of Horwich Town Council in 2013 along with an issue about the drains which had since been addressed and although weed spraying had been carried out by Bolton Council since then, it had not appeared to have addressed the problem.

Resolved to return to Committee.

It was pointed out that this was an issue to be addressed by Bolton Council and Members who were also Ward Councillors would pass this matter on. However it was felt that it was important to realise

in times of great financial constraint in the public sector, there was a need to identify priorities and it would not be realistic to expect Bolton Council to weed every back street in the Borough. Members thought it commendable that Mr Halliwell had taken responsibility for his own weeding. Although it was recognised that this was a problem all over Horwich, Members felt that this was not acceptable. There was a discussion about the allocation of funds by Bolton Council. It was suggested that community/neighbourhood action and voluntary assistance may be more suitable for such situations, in particular the Community Payback scheme. In response to Mr Halliwell's remarks about difficulties in contacting Councillors, it was pointed out that many Councillors have full time jobs and although not immediately available, would always respond to an answerphone message.

Members thanked Mr Halliwell for bringing these matters to their attention and assured him that they would be passed to Bolton Council. Members were informed that Bolton Council were planning weed spraying in Horwich within the next few weeks. The Town Council would also investigate the possibility of using voluntary assistance, such as Community Payback.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 24 APRIL 2014:

TC 3142 Resolved by 10 votes to 0 with 1 abstention to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 24 April 2014.

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 APRIL 2014:

TC 3143 Resolved by 10 votes to 0 with 1 abstention to note the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24 April 2014.

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 MAY 2014:

TC 3144 Resolved by 10 votes to 0 with 1 abstention to note the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 12 May 2014.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SEE ATTACHED LIST:

TC 3145 Resolved unanimously to approve the accounts for payment as presented and amounting to £ 7,081.80.

TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AS 19 JUNE 2014:

TC 3146 Resolved unanimously to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Town Council as 19 June 2014.

Councillor Silvester declared the meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Chairperson..... Date.....