

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall on Monday 10 February 2014 commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors: C. Root (in the Chair), K. Denton, K. Helsby, J. Kellett, L. McCartin, K. Ramamurthy, L. Rock, S. Rock, J. Silvester, R. Silvester, K. Thomson.
Town Clerk: C. Hutchinson
Bolton Ward Councillors present: A. Cunliffe.
1 member of the public

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE THE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 6057 Councillor Root referred to the procedure that was outlined in the information provided.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 6058 Apologies were accepted from Councillor Flanigan due to work commitments, Councillor Morley who was away and Councillor McKeon who was attending another meeting.

Resolved unanimously resolved to accept the apologies as presented.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2014:

FG 6059 Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2014.

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HORWICH IN BLOOM ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2014:

FG 6060 Resolved unanimously to note the minutes of the meeting of the Horwich in Bloom Advisory Committee held on 14 January 2014.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

FG 6061 None.

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

FG 6062 None.

TO CONSIDER A QUOTATION FROM HW AUDIO FOR PROVISION OF £395 FOR PROVISION OF PA SYSTEM AT REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ON 9 NOVEMBER 2014 AND £198 FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE CIVIC CHRISTMAS TREE ON 5 DECEMBER 2014:

FG 6063 It had been recommended that the size of the system used at Remembrance Sunday service should be doubled to provide a greater coverage area due to an increase in public attendance over the past few years.

Resolved unanimously to approve a quotation from HW Audio of £395 for provision of PA system at Remembrance Sunday on 9 November 2014 and £198 for the Lighting of the Civic Christmas Tree on 5 December 2014.

TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FROM THE TWINNING BUDGET FOR THE COST OF TWO NIGHTS HOTEL ACCOMMODATION FOR THE TOWN MAYOR AND MAYORESS OF CROWBOROUGH DURING THE CARNIVAL AND FESTIVAL OF RACING WEEKEND 14/15 JUNE 2014 :

FG 6064 Some Members expressed their concerns about spending Council funds for this purpose at a time of austerity. However it was pointed out that the 25th anniversary of the original twinning agreement would take place during the next Mayoral year and other Members felt that it was important to extend this invitation to the Crowborough mayoralty to re-vitalise it and show moral support. Estimates of cost were between £80 - £120 out of a total twinning budget of £500.

In response to a query it was confirmed that Crowborough mayoralty had been unable to attend last year's Carnival due to the breakdown of their vehicle. It was also confirmed that the Carnival Committee had not applied for any grant funding from the twinning budget for a visit to Crowborough since 2012 and that the original use of the twinning budget was set up to allow the Town Mayor to accompany the Carnival Committee.

Members believed that the link between the two towns was unique by virtue of the fact that it was an internal twinning link, originally set up to emphasise the perceived north/south divide, which may be seen as still valid and it was appropriate to use the twinning budget to re-vitalise this connection between the two towns.

Resolved by 9 votes to 2 to approve allocation of funds from the twinning budget for the cost of two nights hotel accommodation for the Town Mayor and Mayoress of Crowborough during the Carnival and Festival of Racing weekend 14/15 June 2014.

TO APPROVE THE QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2013:

FG 6065 Resolved unanimously to approve the quarterly statement of accounts to 31 December 2013.

TO APPROVE THE QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW TO 31 DECEMBER 2013:

FG 6066 It was noted that election budget was over spent due to three by-elections taking place in 2013 and that costs for the installation of a vehicle

activated speed sign on Green Lane and the costs of the Christmas lighting scheme would appear in the next budget review to 31 March 2014.

Resolved unanimously to approve the quarterly budget review to 31 December 2013.

TO RECEIVE THE QUARTERLY REPORT FROM INTERNAL AUDIT TO 31 DECEMBER 2013:

FG 6067 Resolved unanimously to receive the quarterly report from internal audit to 31 December 2013.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 6068 Resolved unanimously to approve the accounts for payment as presented and totalling £14,604.92.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 6069
- a. Invitation to Women's World Day of Prayer worship service at St. Elizabeth's Church, Horwich at 7.30pm on Friday 7 March 2014.
 - b. Letter from Horwich Festival of Racing: thanks for financial assistance of £3,000 towards 2014 events
 - c. Post Office: acknowledgement and response to email correspondence from Town Clerk regarding proposals for Chapel Lane Post Office and the provision of post office facilities in Horwich.

Resolved unanimously to note the Town Clerk's Report.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

FG 6070 Councillor Root reported that following attendance as Town Mayor at the Showmens Guild 125th celebration lunch, a link had been established with local showmen and a three day fun fair, with ferris wheel, had been arranged to take place on Old Station Park over the Easter bank holiday weekend, with an 8pm finish so as not to disturb local residents. The Town Mayor and the Carnival Committee would host some events, with all proceeds going to Horwich Carnival.

IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS ABOUT TO BE TRANSACTED IT IS ADVISABLE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC BE TEMPORARILY EXCLUDED AND IF PRESENT ARE INSTRUCTED TO WITHDRAW

