

## HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Councillors: C. Root (in the Chair), K. Denton, K. Helsby, J. Kellett, L. McCartin, K. McKeon, A. Morley, L. Rock, S. Rock, R. Silvester, K. Thomson.  
Town Clerk: C. Hutchinson  
Aaron Siggs, Enforcement Officer, Bolton Council  
David Scott, New Chapel Residents Association  
Chris Acton and David Hulme, Renewables 4 Energy

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE THE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 6075 Councillor Root referred to the procedure that was outlined in the information provided.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 6076 Apologies were accepted from Councillor Flanigan due to a family Commitment and Councillor J. Silvester who was away.

Resolved unanimously resolved to accept the apologies as presented.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2014:

FG 6077 Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2014.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE REVIEW SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2014:

FG 6078 Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Review Sub Committee held on 20 February 2014.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HORWICH RESOURCE CENTRE SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2014:

FG 6079 Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes of the Horwich Resource Centre Sub Committee held on 20 February 2014.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NEWSLETTER SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY 2014:

FG 6080 Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes of the Newsletter Sub Committee held on 24 February 2014.

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HORWICH IN BLOOM ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2014:

FG 6081 Resolved unanimously to note the minutes of the meeting of the Horwich in

Bloom Advisory Committee held on 25 February 2014.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

FG 6082 Members welcomed Mr David Scott of New Chapel Residents Association and Mr Chris Acton and Mr David Hulme from Renewables 4 Energy who gave a short presentation on the Horwich Community Energy Scheme.

Resolved to move out of Committee.

The proposal to set up a community energy scheme had initially been discussed by the Residents' Association. The scheme would be set up and run by local residents as a non profit making concern, with any profit made going back into energy saving in the community and replacing old technology with newer renewable technology such as solar panels. This would be done by collective switching and group procurement, with grant funding of up to £250,000 available together with additional investment from the community. Supply would be provided from outside the Big Six energy companies and participating households could make potential savings of 4% and there would be investment available from £500 upwards, with a guaranteed return of 3%.

Resolved to move back into Committee.

It was noted that Members were in agreement that this was an excellent scheme for reducing energy costs to householders and promoting renewable forms of energy and was a scheme that the Town Council would endorse and wish to be involved in. It was felt that Council would wish to be included in the scheme by the involvement of the Resource Centre and Members asked to be kept updated on the progress of the scheme.

The representatives were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting at this point.

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

FG 6083 None.

**TO WELCOME MR AARON SIGGS, SENIOR ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WITH BOLTON COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT UNIT TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE INTITIAIVES TO COMBAT DOG FOULING IN HORWICH TOWN CENTRE:**

FG 6084 Mr Siggs provided an overview of the unit's work in Bolton West. There was one dog warden employed for the whole of the borough, with enforcement patrols and measures in place, including a fixed penalty fine of £75 to combat dog fouling and there had been a recent successful prosecution resulting in a £300 court fine.

Bolton Council's CCTV van is used and concentrates on areas used by dog walkers such as playing fields and other open spaces, as enforcement can be time consuming and difficult in town centre areas. It is a small minority of irresponsible dog owners who cause the problem and one way of addressing this is to try and change people's behaviour. Distributing leaflets, availability of free dog waste bags and publicising of micro chipping are all methods of educating the public, along with the promotion of a telephone number to report incidents. It was noted that dog waste bins were no longer necessary as bagged waste can be put in an ordinary litter bin.

Members took the issue of dog fouling in Horwich very seriously and expressed a wish to contribute to measures to combat the problem. With this in mind it was accepted that the best way forward is by education and enforcement and it was suggested to hold a campaign in partnership with the Environment Unit. This could include measures to provide free dog waste bags, additional signage and pavement stencilling both in the town centre and residential areas, along with a promotion in the Town Council newsletter and posters around the town centre. Members were informed that a micro chipping initiative roadshow event could be arranged in Horwich in June or July at a suitable site.

Other environmental issues were discussed with concerns expressed at the increase in fly tipping since the closure of Blackrod tip. In response to a query Mr Siggs confirmed that he would investigate a request for a litter bin for the bus stop opposite the Leisure Centre and if anti-littering signs could be placed on lamp posts in Horwich. He also confirmed that the problem of motorists parking on double yellow lines at bus stops was a matter of enforcement by Highways.

Resolved unanimously by 11 votes to 0 to request Mr Siggs to identify some initiatives with costs that Horwich Town Council could fund as part of an environmental improvement campaign to be brought back to Council for approval.

**TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE NEWSLETTER SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY 2014:**

FG 6085 Members agreed that a more professional newsletter with wider distribution was essential to promote Council initiatives. One quotation had already been received and the price was 7.3p per copy for 5,000 copies, including picture content and a scanning facility to Horwich Town Council and Horwich Resource Centre websites included free of charge. There would be a small additional cost for using recycled paper and the recycling logo. As there was a limited budget for a newsletter, funds from the Resource Centre could be

used, as it was envisaged that promotion of the Centre would feature prominently in the newsletter.

In response to a query it was confirmed that it was not cost effective to deliver such a low number of newsletters directly to homes and that initially it would be more appropriate to distribute in selected outlets and review this at a later date. It was also confirmed that the title of the newsletter had not yet been decided, the example provided was just a proposal and the Council would have full editorial control.

Resolved unanimously by 11 votes to 0 to approve the recommendations of the Newsletter Sub Committee held on 24 February and that the Sub Committee makes a further recommendation from available quotes in time For production of the summer newsletter due out in May.

**TO DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR MAINTENANCE OF FLOWER TROUGHS ON LEE LANE AND TO APPROVE A BUDGET UP TO A MAXIMUM OF £150.00 FOR THIS PURPOSE:**

FG 6086 Members were informed that these troughs had been provided and maintained by Bolton Council in 2012 and last year had been partially planted by a member of Horwich Rotary Club, after Members had resolved not to accept a quote of £380 from Bolton Council to plant up the troughs. A quote had been received from Bolton Council for the current year at £500 for all the troughs. Members felt that this was excessive and thought that other quotes should be obtained for this work. However the Town Clerk had made some enquiries and it had been estimated that it would cost £100 – £150 to buy compost and bedding plants and with volunteer assistance the troughs could be planted up in time for summer events and provide colour right through to autumn when they could be planted up with spring flowering bulbs for the following year.

In response to a query it was confirmed that requests for sponsorship for the troughs via the Horwich in Bloom Committee to local businesses had been unsuccessful, with the exception of Bluemantle Ltd who had made a small donation. It was also confirmed that a suggestion to involve schools in planting up the troughs as part of Horwich in Bloom had raised too practical difficulties to be a feasible option.

Following further discussion, it was resolved by 10 votes to 0 with 1 abstention to approve a budget of up to £150 to plant up the flower troughs as a short term solution and to consider the costs of having the troughs professionally maintained at a later date, following receipt of quotes.

**ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:**

FG 6087 In response to a query it was confirmed that the payment of £475.00 to

Rivington and Adlington Brass Band was a replacement cheque for a stopped cheque that had gone missing in the post. Resolved unanimously to approve the accounts for payment as presented and totalling £10,595.77

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 6088
- a. NALC: details of ne day conferences in 2014.
  - b. LALC: details of planning workshop in May 2014.
  - c. Two Towns Area Forum: invitation and agenda to next meeting on 11 March at St Elizabeth's Church, Horwich
  - d. Rivington and Blackrod High School: invitation to meeting about Heritage Lottery Fund proposal to share its 450 year heritage celebration across the community in 2016.
  - e. New Chapel Residents Association: letter of thanks for grant award of £297.00.

Resolved unanimously to note the Town Clerk's Report.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- FG 6089 Councillor R. Silvester reported his attendance as Deputy Town Mayor at Westhoughton Mayor's Charity Ball and the Town Mayor had attended Bolton Mayor's Charity Dinner and Dance, both of which had been excellent events. The Town Mayor had also visited Rivington and Blackrod High School for a Fairtrade Week event where primary school pupils had made banners featuring Fairtrade which would be displayed in various locations in the town.

TO AGREE A DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AS 14 APRIL 2014:

- FG 6090 Resolved unanimously to agree the date of the next meeting as 14 April 2014.

In view of local and European elections taking place on 22 May 2014, it was resolved unanimously to change the date of the meeting of the Town Council and Planning Committee from 22 May 2014 to 29 May 2014.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

CHAIR.....

DATE.....

