

## HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Thursday, 20 November 2014 commencing at 7.30 pm.

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

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY PROCEDURE:

PL 3418 Councillor Thomson outlined the procedure

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS

PL 3419 Apologies were received from Councillor McCartin due to illness, Councillor Ramamurthy who was away and Councillor J. Silvester due to an urgent family matter. Resolved to accept the reasons for absence as presented by 9 votes to 0 with 1 abstention.

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

PL 3420 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 OCTOBER 2014

PL 3421 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2014 by 9 votes to 0 with 2 abstentions.

TO RECEIVE A SUMMARY OF DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT, NEW POWERS TO THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY AND TRANSITION TO AN ELECTED MAYOR FOR GREATER MANCHESTER:

PL 3422 Members were informed that it was important to understand what would happen with regards to governance and to emphasise that the Mayor would not carry out the same role as the elected Mayor of London.

Greater Manchester had proved to be a successful and efficient combined authority, run by the 10 separate authorities and the government had acknowledged this and were keen to devolve more power and control of finance. The role of the Mayor would be to act as Chair of the leaders of the 10 authorities, which would be quite distinct from the style of the Mayor of London who had additional powers and there was an assembly.

In Greater Manchester the combined authorities will share power

equally and with each authority such as Bolton maintaining all its existing powers. There will be greater powers over transport, skills and other powers which will benefit local communities. The process is a continuation of AGMA and a borrowing of a European style system where the Mayor is powerful and brings benefit to his/her own area.

Councillor R. Silvester left the meeting at this point.

In response to a query regarding the existence of Greater Manchester it was felt that further de-centralisation of power from London and the 10 authorities working together could only benefit the North West, the decision to build Horwich Parkway was a good example of this co-operation along with the proposed electrification of the Blackpool North railway line.

While broadly in favour of the devolution process, Members expressed concerns about ensuring that decisions would benefit both Horwich and Bolton and that Bolton Council would have an active part to play. It was thought that any discussions between Horwich and Bolton would have no implication in dialogue with Greater Manchester as the leader of each authority would have a separate portfolio. There was some concern about planning issues such as the disappearance of the green belt and the fact that recommendations made by Horwich Town Council were sometimes overridden by Bolton during the planning process. There were queries raised about what role town councils would play in the process and whether there would be a common policy. Different authorities had different attitudes to the third tier although Bolton had always supported its three town councils. The issue of allocation of business rates was raised with a strong feeling that town councils should receive some of the business rate in order to help local businesses. In spite of these concerns Members were cautiously welcomed these proposals.

Resolved unanimously to receive the summary of devolution agreement, new powers to the Greater Manchester Combined authority and transition to an elected Mayor for greater Manchester.

**TO DISCUSS THE PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PARISH:**

PL 3423

In order to reserve her right to vote on Bolton's Planning Committee where decisions about planning would be made, Councillor Kellett would not take part in either the discussion or voting.

92916/14

13 Wenlock Close

Erection of single storey extension at rear.

There had been no objections and no comments. Resolved to recommend approval of this application by 9 votes to 0 with 1 abstention.

92922/14

Land off Lostock Lane, Lostock

Erection of 73 dwellings (57 x 3 bedrooms, 8 x 4 bedrooms and 8 x 2 bedrooms).

There had been 4 objections although it was not known on what grounds. The Planning Officer had stated that since the original application had been approved there had been an overall reductions of 36 units, therefore with the proposed new dwellings there would still be an overall reduction of 10 units. The Planning Officer also advised that it would be likely she would be recommending approval and it would need to go to Planning Committee for determination.

Resolved to recommend approval of this application by 9 votes to 0 with 1 abstention.

92927/14

Land at rear of Horwich Loco Works, Chorley New Road.

Change of use from open storage to waste transfer (sui generis) to process demolition waste materials into recycled aggregate

This application was a resubmission of a previous application that had been refused. It was not known if there had been any objections to the current application, however Members referred to the comments from Greenspace who had advised that as the present application does not provide sufficient confidence that damage to the nearby Site of Special Scientific Interest at Red Moss will not occur, then the application should be refused.

Concerns were expressed about the effect of dust pollution in the local community and Members felt very strongly that this was not an activity compatible with plans for the future development of the Loco Works site which included the introduction of light industry and housing development.

Resolved by 7 votes to 2 with 1 abstention to move out of Committee to allow a member of the public to speak.

Members were informed that the waste material would be rubble

from the dismantling of the erecting shed and concerns had been raised about the asbestos content of this waste which was to be broken up on site.

Resolved unanimously to return to Committee.

Members sought to provide an assurance that they were aware of the levels of asbestos on site and that future development would not be allowed to have an impact on the health of the people of Horwich. It was noted that Bolton Council Planning were working in partnership with the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency on this issue and would continue to do so.

Resolved by 9 votes to 0 with 1 abstention to recommend refusal of this application on grounds of the harmful effects of dust pollution on the local population and the nearby SSI at Red Moss.

92945/14

28a-30 Lee Lane

Change of use from A1 retail (bookshop) to D1 non residential institution (dance/drama studio)

There had been no objections and no comments. There were some concerns expressed about the location with regard to highway safety and privacy but Members felt that these were not planning matters and welcomed the opening of another new business in the town centre.

Resolved by 7 votes to 2 with 1 abstention to recommend approval of this application.

92987/14

Late Shop, 75-81 Winter Hey Lane

Retention of one fascia sign and two projected signs (all internally illuminated)

There had been no objections and no comments. Resolved to recommend approval of this application by 9 votes to 0 with 1 abstention.

93009/14

Rosalind, Chorley Old Road

Siting of wooden fence along rear side boundary

There had been no objections and no comments. Resolved to recommend approval of this application by 8 votes to 0 with 2 abstentions.

93029/14  
18 Bensey Rise  
Erection of two storey side extension

There had been no objections and no comments. Resolved to recommend approval of this application by 9 votes to 0 with 1 abstention.

BOLTON COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS IN HORWICH: FOR INFORMATION ONLY:  
PL 3424

92401/14  
14 Manor Road  
Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of dormer bungalow

Recommended refusal at Horwich on grounds of scale, impact on neighbouring properties and trees, approved at Bolton Planning Committee. However it was noted that a decision had been deferred to allow amended plans to be considered.

92719/14  
236 Victoria Road  
Erection of two storey side extension and part single/part two storey rear extension

Recommended for refusal at Horwich on grounds of insufficient information about parking provision, approved with conditions at Bolton Planning Committee.

92713/14  
Inglenook, Princess Road, Lostock  
Erection of extension part single/part two storey at rear

Recommended for refusal at Horwich on basis of overdevelopment and detriment to the amenity of the immediate neighbourhood, approved with conditions at Bolton Planning Committee.

92794/14  
21 Victoria Road  
Erection of single storey extension at rear

Recommended for approval at Horwich, refused at Bolton Planning Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE: FOR INFORMATION ONLY  
PL 3425

- a. Bolton Council: (Horwich Civic Events 2014) notice of

temporary road closure for the Lighting of the Civic Christmas Tree on 5<sup>th</sup> December at the Crown roundabout.

- b. Town Clerk's notes from a meeting organised by Bluemantle regarding the planning application for the demolition of units 4 and 11 at the former Horwich Loco Works.
- c. Bolton Council: correspondence regarding request for archaeological survey by GMAAS prior to demolition of buildings at former Horwich Loco Works.
- d. Consultation: Chorley Local Plan 2012 – 2026 on Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople schedule of proposed modifications October 2014.
- e. Consultation: Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review and Statement of Community Involvement.

Resolved unanimously to note the correspondence.

TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING AS THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER 2014:

PL 3426            Resolved unanimously to confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 18 December 2014.

OTHER PLANNING MATTERS: for information only

PL 3427            Notice of planning application 93076/14 for additional works at Montcliffe Quarry to be discussed at Planning Committee on 18 December 2014 prior to Bolton Planning on 15 January 2015.

A request was made for the developer's agent to attend the meeting on 18 December with a presentation about the proposal.

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

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