

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall on Monday 14 March 2016 commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Councillors: C. Root (in the Chair), S. Rock, P. Holmes, S. Chadwick, M. Jarvis, K. Denton, K. Schofield, J. Bullock, J. Kellett, K. McKeon
H. Fairclough taking the minutes.
Bolton Ward Councillors: R. Silvester, A Cunliffe, S Pickup
Two members of the public

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG6456 Councillor Root outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG6457 Apologies were accepted from Councillor Allen who was on holiday and Councillor Brady who was unable to attend due to family commitments. Councillor Atkinson may be late due to work commitments.

Resolved unanimously to accept the apologies for absence as presented.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2016:

FG6458 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2016 with one abstention

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

FG6459 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:

FG6460 A member of the public wished to speak on the matter of agenda item 8. It was unanimously approved to move this item to before agenda 8.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY GROUPS SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 7 MARCH 2016.

FG6461 Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2016

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HORWICH IN BLOOM ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY 2016.

FG6462 Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2016

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:

FG6463 Resolved unanimously to move out of committee to allow a member of the public to speak

Mr B Jubb spoke briefly on his views on the possibility of fracking in and around Horwich and urged all the Council Members to support the anti-fracking campaign.

Resolved unanimously to move back into committee.

TO DISCUSS AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION IN VIEW OF BOLTON COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION THAT IT WILL NOT ALLOW EXPLORATORY DRILLING OR INFRASTRUCTURE ASSOCIATED WITH FRACKING ON LAND IT CONTROLS OR OWNS, CONTINUE TO RIGOROUSLY SCRUTINISE AND DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR FRACKING AND RESPOND SHOULD OPPORTUNITY ARISE TO OPPOSE ANY FURTHER PROPOSALS FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO TRANSFER DECISION MAKING ON FRACKING APPLICATIONS AWAY FROM BOLTON.

FG6464 All members expressed views on this issue and after a brief discussion it was resolved that the Council propose that they will support Bolton Council's resolution to not allow exploratory drilling or infrastructure associated with fracking on any land it controls or owns.

The Council also resolved to continue to rigorously scrutinise all planning applications for fracking and should the opportunity arise to oppose any further proposals from Central Government to transfer decision making on fracking applications away from Horwich and Bolton.

Resolved unanimously to support Bolton Council's resolution.

TO APPROVE FINAL COSTS OF £1,339.46 (INCL VAT) FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF PUBLIC GRAVES AT RIDGMONT CEMETERY FROM THE REGENERATION BUDGET AS FOLLOWS:

A.	PERIMETER YEW HEDGE	£ 763.46
B.	REPLACEMENT OF FOUR MEMORIAL POSTS	£ 576.00

FG6465 Council would like to express their thanks to all who were involved in this commemoration event.

Resolved unanimously to approve the final costs of £1,339.34

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED.

FG6466 Resolved unanimously to approve accounts for payment as presented and totally £12,204.92

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG6467
- a) Bolton council: information on review of local area forums
 - b) Bolton council: response to council's request for information on planned road repairs in Horwich following concerns raised a member of the public.
 - c) Brazley community gardens: monitoring and feedback form for grant award of £300
 - d) Horwich festival of racing: thank you letter for grant award of £3,000 for events in 2016.
 - e) Horwich festival of racing: thank you letter for grant award of £500 from the twinning budget towards inviting Crowborough cycle club to Horwich festival of racing 2016.
 - f) Lalc: march newsletter
 - g) Dementia awareness week 16 – 21 may 2016 at Horwich resource centre.
 - h) Bolton council: Horwich Leisure Centre redevelopment – customer/resident open evening 22/23 march 2016.

Resolved unanimously to note the Town Clerk's Report

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES.

FG6468 None

TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING AS 11 APRIL 2016.

FG6469 Resolved unanimously to confirm the date of the meeting of the Committee as 11 April 2016

The meeting closed at 8.01pm.

Chair..... Date.....