

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall on Monday 11 April 2016 commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT Councillors: C. Root (in the Chair), G. Atkinson, J. Bullock, K. Denton, P. Holmes, M. Jarvis, J. Kellett, K. Schofield, P. Wright
Town Clerk: C. Hutchinson
One member of the public

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 6470 Councillor Root outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 6471 Apologies were accepted from Councillor Rock who was on holiday and from Councillors Allen, Brady, Chadwick and McKeon who were unable to attend due to other commitments. Resolved unanimously to accept the apologies for absence as presented.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 MARCH 2016:

FG 6472 Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2016.

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

FG 6473 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:

FG 6474 Resolved unanimously to move out of Committee to allow a member of the public wished to speak.

Mr Peter McGeehan a local shop owner spoke to Members about the problem of shop theft and the lack of response from police as a result of budget cuts. It was estimated that shoplifting cost retailers at least £122m each year with other consequences for shop owners and staff. There was a reluctance among retailers to report such crimes to the police whose official policy was not to attend if loss was under £50.

Resolved to move back into Committee.

Members were very concerned about the distress caused to local traders by shop theft and discussed ways to tackle this issue. It was agreed that to write to the local Business Alliance to encourage all traders to report every theft to the police on the assumption that the more crimes are reported the more

the police would be required to respond. Also to write to the police to raise concerns about this issue in Horwich.

Members thanked Mr McGeehan for his interesting presentation.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY GROUPS SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 MARCH 2016:

FG 6475 Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Grants to Voluntary Groups Sub Committee held on 24 March 2016

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HORWICH IN BLOOM ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 MARCH 2016:

FG 6476 Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2016.

TO APPOINT THE TOWN MAYOR OF HORWICH FOR 2016 – 2017:

FG 6477 Proposed by Councillor Kellett, seconded by Councillor Denton and resolved unanimously to appoint Councillor Bullock as Town Mayor of Horwich for 2016 – 2017.

TO APPOINT THE DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR OF HORWICH FOR 2016 – 2017:

FG 6478 Proposed by Councillor Kellett, seconded by Councillor Atkinson and resolved unanimously to appoint Councillor Rock as Deputy Town Mayor of Horwich for 2016 – 2017.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED.

FG 6479 Resolved unanimously to approve accounts for payment as presented and totalling

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 6480
- a) Lancashire County Training Partnership: Spring Conference 2016, Saturday 14 May 2016.
 - b) Lancashire and Merseyside County Training Partnership: Effective Meetings Workshop Programme 14 June 2016.
 - c) Horwich Music Festival: thank you letter for grant award of £2,025 for three day event in 2016.
 - d) Horwich Trinity Church Horwich: acknowledgement of grant award of £300 for purchase of defibrillator.

Resolved unanimously to note the Town Clerk's Report as presented.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

FG 6481 Town Mayor

Councillor Denton informed Members that the Race Night event held on 2 April had been a great success and that tickets were now available for his last charity fund raiser 'A Lancashire Night' to be held on 30 April at the Bridge Inn with a live group and hot supper included in the ticket price of £8.

Deputy Town Mayor

Councillor Bullock informed Members about a forthcoming event organised by the Woodland Trust who were currently purchasing a large area of woodland bordering Horwich. This was an 'Awareness Day' with activities including a tour of the site. It was agreed to contact them to request a presentation to Council and also a similar request to Ben Williams from Groundwork for an update on the Heritage Lottery funding plans for the Chinese Gardens at Rivington.

Horwich Carnival and Other Events

Councillor Root as Council's representative on the Carnival Committee reported that the dates for the Carnival were confirmed as 25/26th June, the Horwich Music Festival 13 – 15th May at the Resource Centre and next Antique and Collectors' Fair on 24th April, also at the Resource Centre.

TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AS 9 MAY 2016:

FG 6480 Resolved unanimously to confirm the date of the meeting of the Committee as 9 May 2016

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

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