

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Monday 12 September 2016 commencing at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors: C. Root (in the Chair), G. Atkinson, M. Brady, J. Bullock, S. Chadwick, K. Denton, P. Holmes, J. Kellett, K. McKeon, S. Rock, K. Schofield, P. Wright
 Town Clerk: C. Hutchinson
 Bolton Ward Councillors: A. Cunliffe, S. Pickup
 Jon Gorton, Bolton Community Leisure Trust and Dr Anne Talbot MBE,
 Bolton Community Practice
 10 members of the public

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 6532 Councillor Root outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 6533 Resolved to accept apologies from Councillor Jarvis as presented.

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

FG 6534 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 August 2016 with minor amendment to minute reference FG 6528 noted.

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM JON GORTON, BOLTON COMMUNITY LEISURE TRUST AND DOCTOR ANNE TALBOT MBE, BOLTON COMMUNITY PRACTICE ON UPDATES ON THE NEW LEISURE CENTRE DEVELOPMENT AND PROPOSALS FOR THE NEW HEALTH CENTRE DEVELOPMENT – FOR INFORMATION:

FG 6535 Mr Gorton presented an update on the progress of the building of the new Leisure Centre. The former multi-storey car park has been demolished and temporary car parking provided while the new centre is being built on the former car park. The demolition phase was the noisiest and most disruptive part of the works and local residents and leisure centre users were thanked for their patience during this and into the second phase of works that has now started. Over the next six weeks levelling and piling works will be carried out on the site as detailed in the September newsletter which had been made available to Members. Communication with residents and customers was ongoing via a dedicated website and has addressed issues that have arisen and helped minimise disruption.

Doctor Talbot informed Members about proposals for a new, primary care centre for which funding had already been received and outline planning permission granted. The new premises would hold all services provided by three GP practices presently operating in different buildings not suitable for

purpose. The new multi-purpose centre would consist of a collaboration of the three existing practices with provision of additional health services. The building would be dementia-friendly with full disabled access as well as accommodating a wide range of training needs. It was confirmed that engagement with the community would take place over a six month period and to include a transport strategy. A business plan was being developed with a tendering process for a project management team. It was hoped that the new centre would be operational by end of 2018.

Mr Gorton and Doctor Talbot then responded to Members' questions. It was confirmed that the three GP practices would retain their autonomy and patients would remain registered with their chosen practice. The eventual closure of Jones Street Clinic was confirmed. The importance of the promotion of health and well-being between the two centres was highlighted.

Mindful of previous criticism of lack of public consultation it was confirmed that work was ongoing with local contractors with plans for community consultation. It was also noted that there was a significant benefit to the local economy from outside specialist contractors and local suppliers.

Members expressed their thanks to both Mr Gorton and Doctor Talbot for their excellent presentations and were very pleased to see investment being made in Horwich for the benefit of its residents.

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

FG 6536 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 6537 Resolved to move out of Committee to allow members of the public to speak.

Mr Jim Smith representing Brazley Residents Association informed Members of the withdrawal of the current 518 service from Horwich to Leigh via Middlebrook in October. It will be replaced with a new 577 bus but this will be a limited service which will go to Bolton instead of Leigh missing out Middlebrook and will not meet the needs of the many elderly residents who live on Brazley and Old Lords estates which are located in the hilliest areas of Horwich. On behalf of Brazley Residents Mr Smith asked if the Town Council would be prepared to write a letter in support of the retention of the existing 518 service to the Transport Authority and the Leader of Bolton Council.

Resolved to move back into Committee. Members thanked Mr Smith for his comments and informed him that this matter would be discussed under a later agenda item.

Resolved to move out of Committee to allow another member of the public to speak.

Mr Craig Rotherham, a member of the public expressed concern at a probable shortfall of over 100 car parking spaces at the new Leisure and Health Centre developments.

Resolved to move back into Committee. Mr Rotherham was thanked for his comments. Members advised that this was a matter for further community engagement and the planning process which could include relevant conditions on future planning permission for the new development.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR SCHOFIELD AND DISCUSS THE PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF THE 518 BUS SERVICE FROM BRAZLEY:

FG 6538 Councillor Schofield informed Members that it had recently been confirmed that the 518 had been a subsidised service and that it was an essential service for its users, many of who were elderly and did not have their own transport. Its proposed replacement the 577 was an inadequate service which did not address the needs of its customers.

In spite of the residents' approach to Councillor David Chadwick, a representative on GMPTE and his work to try and keep the existing service going, the current operators would not keep it on for purely commercial reasons. Councillor McKeon reported that funding of a replacement service would cost £100,000 and he had asked officers to find out if there was any potential grant funding available and was currently awaiting a response.

Members expressed their concern at the imminent loss of this essential service as many residents are dependent on the 518 bus which is a vital service taking elderly residents to Middlebrook to do their shopping.

It was resolved that Council offers its support to Brazley Residents Association and writes to the Chair of GMPTE to request the retention of the 518 service and that the needs of residents affected by the withdrawal of this service are taken in to consideration. Letter to be copied to the Leader of Bolton Council and the company currently operating the service. Councillor Schofield kindly offered to liaise with the Town Clerk on drafting the letter.

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HORWICH IN BLOOM ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 AUGUST 2016:

FG 6539 Resolved to receive the minutes of the meeting of the Horwich in Bloom Advisory Committee held on 24 August 2016.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE HORWICH COMMUNITY CENTRE SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 AUGUST 2016:

FG 6540 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Horwich Community Centre Sub Committee held on 19 August 2016 with minor amendment to minute reference HRC 98.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ROCK AND DISCUSS THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF THE ACCESS POINT AT HORWICH POLICE STATION AT MIDDLEBROOK:

FG 6541 Resolved to defer this item to the next meeting as both the Town Clerk and Councillor Rock had written to GMP and were awaiting a response from the Chief Inspector.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON HIGHWAY SAFETY ISSUES AND CONSIDER FURTHER RECOMMENDATION:

FG 6542 Lee Lane
Resolved to defer discussion to the next meeting as the Town Clerk was awaiting a response from Highways on this matter.

Green Lane
Resolved to approve the cost of an Automatic Traffic Count of £592.00 to be carried out by Highways on the section of Green Lane between Old Lord's Crescent and Ormston Avenue, in order to confirm up to date traffic speed data.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 6543 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as presented and amounting to £7,462.87.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 6544
- a. The Post Office: notification of closure of Winter Hey Lane Post Office for re-furbishment from 31 August to 12 September 2016.
 - b. Lancashire County Training Partnership: Chairmanship Workshop 8 November 2016 and Finance Workshop 29 November 2016 at Howick House, Penwortham.
 - d. Poppy Appeal: press release about 2016 Poppy Appeal
 - e. Monitoring/feedback forms and accompanying information on grant awards to Horwich Widows, Horwich Public Hall Ladies' Bowling Club, Holy Trinity Church and Horwich Public Hall Veterans' Bowling Club.

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

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

FG 6545 Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Show and Horwich in Bloom Presentations
Councillor Holmes reported that the first Fruit Flower and Vegetable Show organised by the Horwich in Bloom Advisory Committee had been very well received and thanked those Members who had attended both events at the Community Centre on 10 September. A report on Horwich in Bloom would be prepared for the next meeting.

Members were reminded that their support for Council led events and initiatives both at the Community Centre and elsewhere was always welcomed.

Deputy Town Mayor

Councillor Rock reported that on 10 September he had deputised for the Town Mayor at St Catherine’s Church Heritage Open Day which he had found very interesting.

TO CONFIRM A DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AS 10 OCTOBER 2016:

FG 6546 Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee as 10 October 2016.

The meeting closed at 8.49pm.

Chair.....

Date.....