

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Thursday 22 June 2017 commencing at 7.20 pm.

PRESENT Councillors: Rock (in the Chair), Brady, Bullock, Holmes, Kellett, McKeon, Root, Schofield, Stone, Wright.
Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson
4 members of the public

TOWN MAYOR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

TC 3527 The Town Mayor outlined the procedure.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

TC 3528 Resolved to accept apologies for absence from Councillors Chadwick, Denton and Jarvis as presented.

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

TC 3529 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:

TC 3530 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 18 MAY 2017:

TC 3531 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 18 May 2017.

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 MAY 2017

TC 3532 Resolved to note the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 18 May 2017.

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 JUNE 2017

TC 3534 Resolved to receive the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 12 June 2017.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY GROUPS SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 JUNE 2017:

TC 3534 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Grants to Voluntary Groups Sub Committee held on 12 June 2017.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE STAFFING SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 JUNE:

TC 3535 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Staffing Sub Committee held on 14 June 2017.

TO APPROVE THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT, BALANCE SHEET AND SUPPORTING STATEMENT INCLUDING BANK RECONCILIATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2017:

TC 3536 Resolved the income and expenditure account , balance sheet and supporting statement including bank reconciliation for the year ending 31 March 2017.

TO APPROVE THE LOCAL COUNCILS IN ENGLAND, INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS AND OTHER SMALLER AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND ANNUAL RETURN SECTION 1 – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2016/2017:

TC 3537 Resolved to approve the Local Councils in England, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities in England Annual Return Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2016/2017.

TO APPROVE THE LOCAL COUNCILS IN ENGLAND, INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS AND OTHER SMALLER AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND ANNUAL RETURN SECTION 2 – ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2016/2017:

TC 3538 Resolved to approve the Local Councils in England, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities in England Annual Return Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2016/2017.

TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT FEASIBILITY REPORT FOR A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR HORWICH:

TC 3539 Resolved to move out of Committee to allow Eileen Jepson representing Horwich Neighbourhood Planning Advisory Group to speak in response to a list of Members' questions that had been provided in advance by the Town Clerk as follows.

Q. How do they propose to consult the whole of Horwich?

A. Refer to section 4 of the Feasibility Report.

Q. With reference to the phrase "physical needs" does this mean people with physical, learning and disability needs?

A. it was confirmed that these had been included following

recommendation from Bolton Council with whom NPAG would continue to consult throughout the process.

Q. Why has Horwich Town Council not been identified as an organisation to consult with?

A. This is because the responsibility for the Neighbourhood Plan lies with the Town Council and NPAG is a sub group of the Town Council.

Q. Could evidence of the committee's skills be provided through an NP skills assessment?

A. It was confirmed that Planning Aid resources had proved useful, grouping skills and tasks into different sections with a full summary of skills available in the group. It was confirmed that there was a substantial skill set in NPAG and consideration would be given to adding further skills to the committee when required.

Q. What will be the programme of consultation prior to the next stage of the process? How are they going to consult with children, who are the BME groups that have been identified and why are they not consulting with either the LGBT community or the voluntary sector including users of Horwich Community Centre?

A. It was confirmed that consultation with children would be done through recognised groups and organisations under adult supervision and that there would also be opportunities for suggesting other groups and organisations to be involved as the engagement process progressed.

Q. Is there a timetable for this stage of the process and when will consultation start?

A. Although difficult to give an idea of when consultation will start, a project plan and timetable will be introduced at the earliest opportunity.

Q. How can this constitute a feasibility study without consultation having taken place?

A. The feasibility report addresses the objectives of the terms of reference provided by the Town Council.

Q. Have all members of the NP group had the opportunity to view/comment on this report and has it been formally approved by the group as this is not clear in the minutes?

A. It was confirmed that the feasibility report was approved at the last

meeting of NPAG and that the minutes and report were circulated to all Members who had been unable to attend.

Members were of the opinion that this was an impressive report and thanked Mrs Jepson and Councillor Brady for their hard work.

It was accepted that the purpose of any Neighbourhood Plan is to identify what the community wants. although this is only possible once consultation is underway. The issue of “invisibility” of certain groups was raised and it was recognised that it was important to engage with disability groups and the large LGBT community in Horwich as part of the consultation process. In response to a query it was confirmed that community engagement and consultation was expected to take eighteen months to complete project managed with a staged timetable.

Statistical evidence suggested that there was 10% more house building in areas with neighbourhood plans, although having a Neighbourhood Plan in place did allow the community a say on the style of new dwellings. It was confirmed that substantial funding was available for each local planning authority who had Neighbourhood Plan areas designated and that support was available to local NP groups.

Resolved to move back into Committee.

Resolved to approve acceptance of the draft Feasibility Report for a Neighbourhood Plan for Horwich. with amendments as requested to be included in the engagement plan.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SEE ATTACHED LIST:

TC 3540 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as presented and amounting to £ 15,176.51.

TO CONFIRM THE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AS 20 JULY 2017:

TC 3541 Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Town Council as 20 July 2017.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Chairperson Date.....

