

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 9 January 2017 commencing at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors: C. Root (in the Chair), J. Bullock, S. Chadwick, K. Denton, P. Holmes, J. Kellett, K. McKeon, S. Rock, K. Schofield, P. Wright
Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson
Janet Rhodes, Bolton Council
1 member of the public

A one minute silence was observed in memory of Jeremy Lavin, a former Member of Horwich Town Council.

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 6596 Councillor Root outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 6597 Resolved to accept apologies from Councillor Graham and Councillor Jarvis as presented.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2016:

FG 6598 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2016 with amendment to minute reference FG 6583 'Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2016 by 10 votes to 1 with 0 abstentions'.

TO WELCOME JANET RHODES AND RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ABOUT EVENTS TAKING PLACE FOR THE CELEBRATING HORWICH PROJECT IN 2017:

FG 6599 Janet Rhodes from Bolton Council's Playing for Success Team informed Members about grant funding that had been awarded to the group to spend on Celebrating Horwich. This project would offer a programme of activities for children, families and community groups of older people from the Horwich area to celebrate the towns past, present and future as follows:

- 6 Horwich primary schools taking part in the Locomotiv8ors – On the Right Track with Horwich Heritage, learning about the heritage of Horwich, sessions running from February to July
- Art workshops at local schools with activities delivered by Create Bolton followed by an exhibition at Horwich RMI
- Workshop drama sessions with the On the Go Theatre group with a performance at Celebrate Horwich Event
- Visit by an older group to the Heritage Centre
- Celebration Event at Horwich RMI in July including cream tea, Morris Dancing and Crown Green Bowling, also displays, presentation and drama performance with all children and parents invited to attend.

Representatives from the Town Council and local community groups would be invited to join in with Celebrating Horwich and the following suggestions were made by Members:

- Town Council to provide financial assistance to the project through the grants to children and young people budget – Town Clerk to email an application form to Janet
- reminder that there are 2 active community centres in the town
- reminder of other events taking place e.g. Carnival, Music Festival, Festival of Racing, Village Green Fete
- importance of dates not clashing with other events with Council to consider producing a leaflet listing annual events in Horwich
- Horwich in Bloom schools' section – Town Clerk to email dates of competition to Janet once agreed
- involvement of Horwich Visiting Service
- possible tie-in with visit from Crowborough Town F.C. to Horwich St Mary's FC in May
- involvement of Friday Club social group for older people – Town Clerk to email contact details to Janet

Janet was thanked for her attendance and presentation to Members.

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

FG 6600 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 6601 None.

TO APPROVE THE DATE FOR CIVIC SUNDAY AS 14 MAY 2017:

FG 6602 Resolved to approve the date for Civic Sunday as 14 May 2017.

TO UNDERTAKE AND APPROVE THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY 2016 - 2017:

FG 6603 Resolved to approve the Council's annual risk assessment and health and safety policy for 2016 – 2017 as presented with thanks to staff for undertaking the work involved.

TO UNDERTAKE AND APPROVE THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT 2016 - 2017:

FG 6603 Resolved to approve the Council's annual review of the effectiveness of

internal audit for 2016 – 2017.

TO APPROVE THE USE OF VARIABLE DIRECT DEBIT FOR PAYMENT OF TELEPHONE AND INTERNET SERVICES AS PER THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL REGULATIONS 6.6 ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2014:

FG 6604 Members were informed that under its Financial Regulations there was a requirement for this to be reviewed every 2 years. Resolved to approve the use of variable direct debit for payment of telephone and internet services as per the Council's Financial Regulations 6.6 Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2014.

TO APPROVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF £3,000 TO HORWICH FESTIVAL OF RACING IN 2017, SUBJECT TO FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET FOR 2017 - 2018:

FG 6605 Resolved to approve financial support of £3,000 to Horwich Festival of Racing in 2017, subject to formal approval of the Council's budget for 2017 – 2018.

TO APPROVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF £2,500 TO HORWICH MUSIC FESTIVAL IN 2017, SUBJECT TO FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET FOR 2017 – 2018:

FG 6606 It was noted that Councillor Root was the Council's representative on this Committee. Resolved to approve financial support of £2,500 to Horwich Music Festival in 2017, subject to formal approval of the Council's budget for 2017 – 2018.

BOLTON COUNCIL: CONSULTATION: EXTENSION OF DEADLINE TO 16 JANUARY FOR COMMENTS ON GREATER MANCHESTER SPATIAL FRAMEWORK:

FG 6607 Members discussed this matter at length and although it was confirmed that there were no additional allocation sites included in the proposals for the Spatial Framework for Horwich North East Ward, some Members had concerns regarding the information provided in the consultation document with regard to specific sites. Councillor McKeon suggested that if Members emailed him within the next 24 hours with details of these locations he would provide confirmation which would allow Members to clarify concerns that had been raised in the community.

Resolved that due to the variety of views and opinions expressed, the Council as a body would not comment on this consultation but that Members may wish to comment individually if they chose to do so.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 6608 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as presented and amounting to £ 5,370.42.

TOWN CLERKS REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

FG 6609 a. LALC Newsletter December 2016. This included a list of

training workshops/sessions which would be circulated to all Members for further information.

- b. LALC: invitation to retiring Town Mayor to attend Buckingham Palace Garden Party in 2017.

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

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

FG 6610 Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Bullock informed Members that there would be a further Neighbourhood Planning meeting at 7.00pm on Monday 16 January at Horwich Community Centre to establish a Steering Group.

TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AS 13 FEBRUARY 2017:

FG 6611 Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee as 13 February 2017.

The meeting closed at 8.26 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....