

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 8 May 2017 commencing at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors: C. Root (in the Chair), M. Brady, S. Chadwick,
K. Denton, R. Graham, P. Holmes, M. Jarvis, J. Kellett, K. McKeon, S. Rock,
K. Schofield, G. Stone, P. Wright
Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson
Andrew Suter, Projects Manager Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire,
Merseyside.

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 6656 Councillor Root outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 6657 Resolved to accept apologies for absence from Councillor Bullock and apologies for lateness from Councillors Jarvis and McKeon as presented.

On behalf of all members, the Chair welcomed Councillor Stone to the Council and congratulated him on his recent by election win.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 APRIL 2017:

FG 6658 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2017.

Councillors Jarvis and McKeon arrived at this point.

TO WELCOME ANDREW SUTER, PROJECTS MANAGER GROUNDWORK CLM, TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON RIVINGTON HERITAGE TRUST'S PLANS TO SAFEGUARD THE FUTURE OF RIVINGTON TERRACED GARDENS:

FG 6659 Mr Suter informed Members that he had taken over the role of Project Manager in August 2016. The project was a partnership between Groundwork, Rivington Heritage Trust and United Utilities and had been funded by a £3.4 million Lottery award. There were now 250 regular volunteers, mostly local people, for many of who the Gardens have a special significance.

The Gardens are a Grade 2 listed park containing 11 listed structures. The aim was not to return the Gardens to their original condition as this would not be practical, but to stop further neglect and disrepair, improve access and engage with the community. The intention was to restore all structures in a sympathetic manner, make viewing points safe and allowing the views to be seen as Leverhulme and Mawson had originally intended when the trees had reached maturity. Capital works were be due to start on site in late July/early August 2017.

Various events and activities were planned, including a 'Viking Fun Event' with involvement from local schools. A major priority was to make the toilet block (off Georges Lane) functional again. Any additional funding raised would be ring fenced for the project and United Utilities, as landowners, had confirmed 10 years of maintenance funding to the project.

In response to a query about car parking Mr Suter acknowledged that at times there was a problem with traffic congestion and that efforts were being made for use of separate car parking away from main parking sites.

Members were informed that on completion of restoration of the Orchestral Lawn, currently being undertaken, it was intended to trial a musical event in August, to which Members would be invited.

In response to another query Mr Suter confirmed that replanting of rhododendrons was unlikely to take place in the foreseeable future until the DEFRA disease order was lifted. The intention was to restore the area to a more natural habitat of woodland and hidden garden.

On behalf of the Council, the Chair thanked Mr Suter for his presentation. Mr Suter confirmed that he would be pleased to return to Council with further updates.

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

FG 6660 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 6661 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HORWICH COMMUNITY CENTRE SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 21 APRIL 2017:

FG 6662 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of Horwich Community Centre Sub Committee held on 21 April 2017.

TO APPROVE THE STATEMENT OF QUARTERLY ACCOUNTS TO 31 MARCH 2017:

FG 6663 Resolved to approve the statement of quarterly accounts to 31 March 2017 as presented.

TO APPROVE THE QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW TO 31 MARCH 2017:

FG 6664 Resolved to approve the quarterly budget review to 31 March 2017 as

presented.

TO APPROVE THE QUARTERLY REPORT FROM INTERNAL AUDIT TO 31 MARCH 2017:

FG 6665 Resolved to approve the quarterly report from internal audit as presented.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON NEW BOUNDARY SIGNAGE IN HORWICH:

FG 6666 In view of the length and detail involved in the process, a summary had been distributed to all Members for information. Members were also informed that it had been confirmed by Highways that the signs had been made and were ready to be installed. However work has been delayed due to the requirement to replace the existing steel frames, which on inspection were found to be shattered and therefore unsafe.

Resolved to receive the update on new boundary signage.

BOLTON COUNCIL: CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN PUPIL NUMBERS AT CHORLEY NEW ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL – FOR INFORMATION AND COMMENT:

FG 6667 Councillor McKeon declared a personal interest as Chair of Governors of Chorley New Road Primary School.

The proposed increase in pupil numbers was in response to the expected increase in demand for places as a result of future housing development on the former Horwich Loco Works site. Building is expected to start on the new school by July 2017 with expected opening in September 2018. There had been an issue regarding the diversion of a culvert to the front and side of the school prior to development. Jones Homes developers had confirmed that it was their responsibility and would fund the diversion of the culvert.

Resolved to note the consultation without comment.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 6668 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as presented and amounting to £ 3,133.94.

TOWN CLERKS REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 6669
- a. Houses of Parliament: initiative for 'UK Parliament Week' 13 – 19 November 2017.
 - b. Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI): campaign overview and background

Resolved to note the Town Clerk's Report as presented, including a request to include a discussion for support of WASPI campaign as an agenda item at the next meeting.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

FG 6670 Deputy Town Mayor

Councillor Rock reported that he had enjoyed a pleasant afternoon at Bolton Parish Church at the George's Day Parade and Service, especially the 'guard of honour' provided by assorted Cubs and Scouts.

Horwich Music Festival

Councillor Root as Council's representative on this Committee reported that this had been another very successful event taking place over three days 5 – 7 May at the Community Centre. It had received good press coverage and had been very well attended, with estimated ticket sales of £2,000.

Horwich Community Centre

Thanks went to Councillor Denton for manning the Council's stand at the information event for older people at the RMI Club on 5 May, to assist staff who were involved with the official opening of the Saddlery and preparations for the start of the Music Festival at the Community Centre at the same time.

IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS ABOUT TO BE TRANSACTED IT IS ADVISABLE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE TEMPORARILY EXCLUDED AND IF PRESENT ARE ASKED TO WITHDRAW: