

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 June 2017 commencing at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors: C. Root (in the Chair), M. Brady, J. Bullock, S. Chadwick, K. Denton, R. Graham, P. Holmes, J. Kellett, K. McKeon, S. Rock, K. Schofield, G. Stone, P. Wright
Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson

TO APPOINT THE CHAIR OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE FOR 2017 – 2018:

FG 6673 Proposed by Councillor Kellett, seconded by Councillor McKeon and resolved to appoint Councillor Root as Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee for 2017 -2018.

At this point a minute's silence was observed in memory of the victims of the recent Manchester Arena terrorist attack.

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 6674 Councillor Root outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO APPOINT THE DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE FOR 2017 – 2018:

FG 6675 Proposed by Councillor McKeon, seconded by Councillor Kellett and resolved to appoint Councillor Wright as Deputy Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee for 2017 – 2018.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 6676 Resolved to accept apologies for absence from Councillor Jarvis as presented.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 MAY 2017:

FG 6677 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2017.

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

FG 6678 None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

FG 6679 None.

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE HORWICH IN BLOOM ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 MAY 2017:

FG 6680 Resolved to receive the minutes of the Horwich in Bloom Advisory Committee held on 24 May 2017.

TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE FOLLOWING SUB COMMITTEES FOR 2017 - 2018:

FG 6681 Following a lengthy discussion it resolved to appoint Members to serve on Sub Committees for 2017 – 2018 as follows:

- a. Staffing
Councillors Bullock, Kellett, Rock, Root and Schofield.
- b. Marketing and Promotion
Councillors Brady, Holmes, Kellett, Root and Wright.
- c. Grants to Voluntary Groups
Councillors Bullock, Chadwick, Kellett, Root and Schofield.
- d. Horwich Community Centre
Councillors Bullock, Denton, Root, Schofield and Wright
- e. Civic Awards and Civic Signs
Councillors Chadwick, Jarvis, Kellett, McKeon and Rock.
- f. Finance Review
Councillors Bullock, Kellett, McKeon, Rock and Root.
- g. Standing Orders
Councillors Brady, Bullock, Jarvis, Kellett and Stone.
- h. Appeals Panel
Councillors Brady, Bullock, Graham, Holmes, Kellett.

In response to a query it was confirmed that the Rivington Chase Liaison Group had not been included on the list of committees and groups as it was an ad hoc group that had been set up by another body.

TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE HORWICH IN BLOOM ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR 2017- 2018:

FG 6682 Resolved to appoint Councillors Brady, Holmes and Schofield to serve on the Horwich in Bloom Advisory Committee for 2017 – 2018.

TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE SPORTS START AND FINISH GROUP FOR 2017- 2018:

FG 6683 Resolved to appoint Councillors Chadwick, Jarvis, McKeon, Schofield and Stone to serve on the Sports Start and Finish Group.

TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP FOR 2017 – 2018:

FG 6684 Resolved to appoint Councillors Bullock, Brady and Rock to serve on the Neighbourhood Planning Group for 2017 – 2018.

TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE AS REPRESENTATIVES ON THE FOLLOWING OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2017 – 2018:

- FG 6685 Resolved to appoint Members to serve as representatives on Outside Bodies for 2017 – 2018 as follows:
- a. Bolton Council Standards Committee
Councillor Holmes
 - b. Horwich Carnival Committee
Councillor Root.
 - c. Rivington and Blackrod High School Trust
Councillors Bullock and Wright.
 - d. Lancashire Association of Local Councils
Councillors Bullock and Jarvis.

It was also resolved to ask the Town Clerk to contact Rivington and Brinscall LAG to inform them that Horwich Town Council would not be appointing a representative at the present time, due to the regular clash of dates of its meetings with meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

TO DISCUSS COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR THE WASPI CAMPAIGN FOR WOMEN BORN IN THE 1950S AFFECTED BY THE CHANGES TO THE STATE PENSION LAW (1995/2011 ACTS):

- FG 6686 All Members had been provided with information about the WASPI campaign and it was noted that several local authorities, including Bolton Council had resolved to support this campaign. All Members expressed concern at the significant changes brought in by a series of governments to the age at which women of a certain age group receive their state pension, as this was viewed as unfair and unequal.

However some Members questioned if Council should be supporting a campaign that was political and was outside the remit of its powers, while others took the view that this was a social issue that crossed party lines.

Following further discussion an amendment that Council should write to government in support of the campaign was voted on and rejected by 7 votes to 5. It was resolved by 9 votes to 1 with 2 abstentions that Council should support the WASPI campaign.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

- FG 6687 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as presented and amounting to £ 1,872.08.

TOWN CLERKS REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 6688 a. Various updates. Members thanked the Deputy Town Clerk for her excellent work producing the Council newsletter in-house.

- b. Grant monitoring/feedback forms from Horwich Prize Medal Morris Men and Ignite Explorer Scouts.
- c. Crowborough Town Council: letter of sympathy from the Town Mayor of Crowborough on behalf of the Town Council expressing sympathy for the victims of the Manchester Arena bomb attack and their families. Also acknowledgement from the Town Mayor of Horwich.
- d. Horwich Festival of Racing: invitation to Members to Sponsors' Reception on Saturday 17th June at 6.00pm at the Bowling Green, Lee Lane followed by the evening's racing events. Emailed to all Members 12 May.
- e. New Chapel United Reform Church: invitation to Members to the 300th Anniversary Flower Festival at the church on Friday 8th September 7 – 9 pm. Emailed to Members 12 May.

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

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

FG 6689

Horwich Community Centre

Copies of the new information booklet had been provided for all Members along with details of special activities for children taking place during the summer holidays. Members thanked the Centre Support Officer and the Deputy Town Clerk for their excellent work on both initiatives.

Horwich Rotary

In response to a query about the maintenance of the town crest on the lawn at the front of the Public Hall, it was reported that the Town Clerk had passed relevant details to Rotary who had kindly volunteered to do a tidy up of the crest. However there was an issue accessing the crest within the existing sealed unit which had been installed by a past Council. It was agreed that long term solution was required and options would be considered by Council at a later date, along with the repainting and possible replacement of the two benches outside the Public Hall. A short term solution to cover the unit with laminated images of the town crest was suggested and this would be done by Town Council staff prior to the start of the Festival of Racing weekend.

TO APPROVE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AS 14 AUGUST 2017:

FG 6690

Resolved to approve the date of the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee as 14 August 2017.

The meeting closed at 8.34 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....