

## 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 October 2017 commencing at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors: P. Wright (in the Chair), M. Brady, S. Chadwick, K. Denton, R. Graham, M. Jarvis, J. Kellett, K. McKeon, S. Rock, K. Schofield. G. Stone.  
Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson  
Bolton Ward Councillor S. Pickup  
1 member of the public.

DEPUTY CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 6721 Councillor Wright outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 6722 Resolved to accept apologies for absence from Councillors Bullock and Root as presented and an apology for lateness from Councillor Stone.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2017:

FG 6723 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 11 September 2017.

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

FG 6724 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 6725 Resolved to move out of Committee to allow a member of the public to speak.

Mrs Daphne Keane, a local resident informed Members about the difficulties she regularly encountered while using her motability scooter in Horwich, including the state of the pavements and kerbs which had caused damage to her scooter. Mrs Keane also raised concerns about the loss of Horwich market and the location of the pelican crossing on Lee Lane and felt that Bolton Council should provide more money for improvements in Horwich rather than elsewhere in the borough.

Resolved to move back into Committee.

Many Members shared these concerns about the amount of money spent in Horwich by Bolton Council. A holistic approach to new developments was

needed in order to provide adequate infrastructure and that the Town Council should continue to raise the point that further investment from developers should be obtained either from s106 or the possibility of CIL monies in the future.

It was confirmed that Bolton Council does provide funds for disability adaptation and there is funding for dropped kerbs when these are identified. Mrs Keane was advised to speak to Councillor Pickup on this matter.

It was also confirmed that District Improvement grant funding had been made available in Horwich which was viewed as a fairly prosperous town with many new businesses and a vibrant evening economy with a good choice of bars and restaurants.

There was concern about crime and it was suggested that it would be useful if the police came to Council on a regular basis to update Members. The problem of advertising boards on pavements was raised and it was pointed out this should be reported to Ward Councillors.

There was considerable support for the view that Horwich was not getting back financially from Bolton Council what it was putting in. It was pointed out that there are areas of prosperity in every borough, such as Horwich and Bromley Cross in Bolton compared to other less affluent areas such as Halliwell and Bolton Council dispersed income fairly across the borough. It was noted that Bolton Council, like other authorities has suffered and continues to suffer from budget cuts made by central government.

Some Members made the point that Horwich was fortunate to have a lot of facilities as well as a thriving town centre and these should be supported. It was also noted that many of the issues raised were outside the remit of the Town Council. Mrs Keane was thanked for attending and raising some very interesting points.

TO RECEIVE THE AMENDED MINUTES OF THE HORWICH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2017:

FG 6726 Resolved to note the amended minutes of the Horwich Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group held on 5 September 2017.

TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR CHADWICK AND COUNCILLOR KELLETT TO REPRESENT THE TOWN COUNCIL ON THE END OF FIRST WORLD WAR COMMEMORATIONS COMMITTEE:

FG 6727 Members had been informed that Stuart Whittle, Chair of Horwich Heritage was intending to form a committee of interested stakeholders from the local community to organise projects and events in 2018 to commemorate the end of the First World War and had asked whether two suitably interested

Members would be prepared to represent the Council on this group. In response to the Town Clerk's email of 13 September on this matter Councillor Chadwick and Councillor Kellett had already indicated their interest.

Resolved to appoint Councillor Chadwick and Councillor Kellett to represent the Town Council on the End of First World War Commemorations Committee.

TO APPROVE THE COSTS OF ERECTION AND DISMANTLING OF THE TOWN CENTRE CHRISTMAS LIGHTING SCHEME FOR 2017, INCLUDING LIGHTING OF THE CIVIC CHRISTMAS TREE, EXTERIOR OF THE PUBLIC HALL AT £6,500 AND A TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ON 1 DECEMBER FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE CIVIC CHRISTMAS TREE EVENT AT £150:

FG 6728 Members were informed that costs remained as last year for the lighting scheme with 3% increase in temporary road closure costs. In response to a query regarding responsibility for the costs of road closures for civic events it was confirmed that the Town Council had paid for the road closure every year following a review several years ago when the necessity for a temporary road closure to ensure the safety of all those attending this event became apparent.

Resolved to approve the costs of erection and dismantling of the town centre Christmas lighting scheme for 2017, including lighting of the Civic Christmas tree and exterior of the Public Hall at £6,500 and a temporary road closure on 1 December for the lighting of the Civic Christmas Tree event at £150.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR CHADWICK AND COUNCILLOR MCKEON ON PROGRESS ON IMPROVEMENTS TO HIGHWAY SAFETY ON GREEN LANE:

FG 6729 Councillor Chadwick informed Members that at a recent meeting with Joe Fox from Highways and Engineering it had been confirmed that traffic calming measures could not be carried out in isolation and that Green Lane was not high up on the list of dangerous roads in the borough (at 182<sup>nd</sup>) and that the formula for this calculation had been explained. It was noted that the top ten most dangerous roads identified on the list did not currently receive sufficient funding.

Councillor McKeon informed Members that following consultation with Malcolm Russell from Bolton Council it had been confirmed that there was no highway justification for installing a fence at this location. In response to the suggestion to plant a hedge it had been pointed out that this would take time to become established. The land adjoining Green Lane was used by Rivington and Blackrod High School but not leased by them. There had been a suggestion of a meeting of interested parties to try and obtain funding for improvements to the playing fields but this had not been progressed. It was suggested that it would be worthwhile to have a

conversation with the school to establish what they wanted to do with the field and whether they would be prepared to fund future maintenance of a fence. While there was criticism raised about the removal of the original fence it was clear that if the Town Council wanted to install a new fence it would have to pay for it. As the costs provided by Bolton Council for installation of a new fence were fairly prohibitive it was suggested that alternative quotes should be obtained, on the understanding that these would have to be acceptable to Bolton Council as landowners of the site. However Members were keen to see this progressed in the interests of highway safety.

Resolved that Councillor Kellett obtains alternative quotes from outside contractors for the installation of a new fence on Green Lane and this is sent to Malcolm Russell for comment and guidance and also that Councillor McKeon contacts Rivington and Blackrod High School to establish if they would be willing to finance maintenance of the new fence. Council to be kept updated.

#### TO CONSIDER THE OPTION OF CONTINUING TO FUND THE COST OF WINTER GRITTING OF ADDITIONAL AREAS IN HORWICH IN 2017/2018:

FG 6730 The Town Clerk had contacted Highways and Engineering who confirmed that they would be able to maintain the same charge as last year for additional gritting of part Brownlow Road and New Chapel Lane during months of December, January and February at £1,000 per week for twelve weeks, subject to requirements.

Resolved to approve the cost of funding additional winter gritting of part Brownlow Road and New Chapel Lane during months of December, January and February at £1,000 per week for twelve weeks, subject to requirements.

#### ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 6731 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as presented and amounting to £ 790.15.

#### TOWN CLERKS REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

FG 6732 a. LALC: newsletter September 2017.  
b. Horwich Widows Group: monitoring/feedback form for grant award of £100.

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

#### REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

FG 6733 Town Mayor  
The Mayor reported that he had been very busy and had attended several

events including Greenhalghs 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations and had been represented by the Deputy Mayor and Consort at the Fortalice Dinner and an event at Bolton University.

Other Reports

Members were informed about future measures to prevent recurring vandalism to the celebration benches outside the Public Hall.

TO APPROVE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AS 13 NOVEMBER 2017:

FG 6734      Resolved to approve the date of the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee as 13 November 2017.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

CHAIR.....      DATE.....