

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 11 December 2017 commencing at 7.30pm

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

DEPUTY CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 6753 Councillor Root outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 6754 Resolved to accept apologies for absence from Councillors Denton, Holmes and Jarvis as presented.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2017:

FG 6755 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13 November 2017.

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

FG 6756 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 6757 None.

TO APPROVE THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2018 - 2019:

FG 6758 All Members had received copies of the proposed draft budget for 2018 – 2019 with accompanying notes and were informed that a further amendment had been included due to a transposition error made which showed the incorrect income figure for 2017 – 2018. In response to a query regarding the decrease in the working balance for 2018 – 2019 the Town Clerk confirmed that further information would be emailed to all Members.

Resolved to approve the Council's draft budget for 2018 – 2019 as presented with additional information to be made available.

TO DISCUSS THE TOWN COUNCIL'S FUTURE TWINNING PLANS:

FG 6759 The Council's draft budget for 2018 – 2019 has proposed to continue allocation of funding of £1,000 under the twinning heading and it was

confirmed that the purpose of this was to fund groups who may wish to undertake twinning visits and activities with Crowborough.

All Members had received copies of a report detailing the current state of twinning activity with Crowborough since the re-signing of the twinning agreement on its 25th anniversary in March 2015 and a visit by members of Horwich Cycling Club the same year.

There was general agreement that the principle of twinning was a good idea although there was little point continuing with such an agreement if there is no activity taking place. Some Members would prefer to look at the possibility of twinning with other towns that had a more direct link with Horwich such as Douglas on the Isle of Man or Festubert in France. However it was acknowledged that the current twinning relationship had a long history and it was important to try and build on this and investigate generating some more activity from local groups with Crowborough in the future.

Resolved to continue the present twinning agreement with Crowborough and publicise this with local community groups and others via social media, newsletter and website. There was 1 abstention noted.

Following a further discussion it was resolved to look at the separate matter of twinning with a community outside the UK, initially by investigating the level of interest among local groups and organisations.

TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR DENTON TO SERVE ON THE HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL STAFFING SUB COMMITTEE:

FG 6760 Resolved to appoint Councillor Denton to serve on the Horwich Town Council Staffing Sub Committee.

TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR ROCK TO SERVE ON THE HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENTRE SUB COMMITTEE:

FG 6761 Resolved to appoint Councillor Rock to serve on the Horwich Town Council Community Centre Sub Committee.

TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT ON HORWICH IN BLOOM AND HORWICH FRUIT FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW:

FG 6762 It was acknowledged that both events continued to evolve, in particular the Fruit, Flower and Vegetable show which had been revived two years ago by Council staff and members of the Horwich in Bloom Committee. It had become apparent that the appeal of the show to “serious” growers was limited and the way forward was to make the event more accessible to the community, in particular children and young people by making it more “fun” as well as showcasing the craft and artistic talent of the local

community over a full day at Horwich Community Centre.

Resolved to approve the recommendations of the report on Horwich in Bloom and Horwich Fruit Flower and Vegetable Show and to thank the Deputy Town Clerk for preparing such a thorough and interesting report.

TO APPROVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF £3,000 TO HORWICH FESTIVAL OF RACING EVENTS IN 2018 SUBJECT TO FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET FOR 2018 – 2019:

FG 6763 All Members were in agreement that this was a wonderful event that should continue to be supported by the Council. The generous sponsorship from other sources such as Bolton Council, Emerson, Holts Brewery and Bolton Arena was also acknowledged.

Resolved to approve financial support of £3,000 to Horwich Festival of Racing events in 2018, subject to formal approval of the Council's budget for 2018 – 2019.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 6764 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as presented and amounting to £ 2,287.24.

TOWN CLERKS REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 6765
- a. Horwich Music Festival: letter of thanks for financial assistance of £2,500 for Horwich Music Festival in 2018..
 - b. LALC: Finance Workshop on 8 February 2018 and information about training workshops for 2018.
 - c. LALC: NALC diversity commission and local council census survey .
 - d. Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments: notification of external auditor appointments for 2017/2018 financial year.
 - e. Horwich Means Business: email thanks for financial assistance of £250 for the Horwich Christmas Treasure Hunt.
 - f. Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside: update on Rivington Terraced Gardens.

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

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

FG 6766 Town Mayor

The Mayor reported that he had attended several events including concerts by the RMI Brass Band and the newly formed Horwich Community Choir as well as the 25th anniversary party for the Friday Club at Horwich Community Centre. The Club is run by Carol Walker with the help of Norman Pendlebury and many more hard working volunteers who provide a much

needed lunch and social club every Friday for the elderly and vulnerable in the community. The Mayor reported that a lot of donations had been given out to good causes locally and he continued to feel privileged to be able to represent the town.

Due to the amount of invitations that had been received, the Deputy Town Mayor and Consort had represented him at several events including the Blackrod Lights switch on, the re-opening of Mumbai restaurant and the Macmillan Fundraiser and they were thanked for standing in at some events where invitations had been received at very short notice.

The Lighting of the Civic Christmas Tree had gone extremely well and donations had been made to the Rotary Club, RMI Brass Band and the Community Choir who had made it such a special occasion, assisted by actors from the pantomime 'Aladdin', David Wheeler and Lofty the Lion from Bolton Wanderers. The event had been very well attended, in spite of inaccurate information on social media about lack of publicity.

TO APPROVE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AS 15 JANUARY 2018:

FG 6767 Resolved to approve the date of the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee as 15 January 2018.

The meeting closed at 8.24 pm.

CHAIR..... DATE.....