

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Thursday 19 April 2018 commencing at 7.15 pm.

PRESENT Councillors: S. Rock (in the Chair), M. Brady, J. Bullock,
I. Carruthers, S. Chadwick, K. Denton, R. Graham, M. Jarvis,
J. Kellett, G. Stone, P. Wright.
Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson.
1 member of the press.
3 members of the public.

TOWN MAYOR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

TC 3635 The Town Mayor outlined the procedure.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

TC 3636 Resolved to accept apologies for absence from Councillors Holmes,
McKeon and Root as presented. An apology for lateness was
accepted from Councillor Jarvis.

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

TC 3637 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:

TC 3638 Resolved to move out of Committee to allow a member of the
public to speak.

Stuart Burke representing Horwich RMI JFC addressed Members about future proposals for Green Lane playing fields and gave an brief overview of the Club's history and current membership status. The club currently shared training facilities on the top pitches with St Mary's JFC who were not going to continue with this arrangement after next season. The field is marked out for 4 small pitches and there are legacy issues which include an old sandpit, cricket strips and steps badly in need in of repair. Removal of the sandpit and strips would open both space on the field to allow for two 11 a side pitches. There are also problems with drainage which also require attention. The FA had stipulated that a

long term lease of 25 years and the whole area to be fenced were requirements for grant funding. The Club had an agreement with Bolton Council to hire the other pitch but had not been able to use it due to drainage problems which were in the process of being addressed. The long term plan would be to address all issues and open up use to other local sports groups such as rounders and hockey. Interest had also been expressed by Horwich RMI Harriers and RBHS PE Department. As a local, not for profit sports club Horwich RMI JFC would be prepared to drive a project to make the field a natural base for sporting facilities with assistance from other local sports clubs, Bolton Council and Horwich Town Council.

Resolved to move back into Committee.

In response to this and following on from previous discussions Members expressed their support for these proposals to work together with representatives from Horwich RMI JFC and other interested sports clubs and community groups through the Sports Advisory Group to take over the management of Green Lane playing fields. It was acknowledged that the Town Council would be better placed to make a decision when the report from Bolton Council on future proposals for the playing fields was available and this was expected in mid May. It was noted that work would have to be carried out by contractors recommended by Bolton Council. It was confirmed that when the Town Council was in a position to progress further it would invite representatives from Horwich RMI JFC and other local sports group to attend meetings of the Sports Advisory Group.

Mr Burke was thanked for his attendance and interesting presentation.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 22 MARCH 2018:

TC 3639 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 22 March 2018.

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 22 MARCH 2018:

TC 3640 Resolved to note the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 22 March 2018.

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 APRIL 2018:

TC 3641 Resolved to receive the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 9 April 2018 and to include an amendment to minute ref. FG 6825 to read 'by 9 votes to 2'.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SEE ATTACHED LIST:

TC 3642 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as presented and amounting to £ 9,521.10.

TO CONFIRM THE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AS 24 MAY 2018:

TC 3643 Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Town Council as 24 May 2018.

The meeting closed at 7.37 pm.

Chairperson..... Date.....