

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 13 August 2018 commencing at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors: C. Root (in the Chair), M. Brady, J. Bullock, I. Carruthers, S. Chadwick, K. Denton, R. Graham, P. Holmes, M. Jarvis, J. Kellett, K. McKeon, G. Stone, P. Wright
Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson
Councillor R. Silvester, Ward Councillor Horwich North East

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 6862 Councillor Root outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 6863 Apologies were accepted from Councillor Rock as presented.

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

FG 6864 None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

FG 6865 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 JUNE 2018:

FG 6866 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 11 June 2018.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SPORTS ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON 19 JULY 2018:

FG 6867 Following clarification that the ownership of the playing fields was to remain with Bolton Council with consideration given to Horwich Town Council to take over their management on a long term lease, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Sports Advisory Group held on 19 July 2018.

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HORWICH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP HELD ON 5 JUNE 2018:

FG 6868 Resolved to receive the minutes of the meeting of the Horwich Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group held on 5 June 2018.

TO RECEIVE THE NOTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE END OF WORLD WAR 1 COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 JUNE AND 23 JULY 2018.

FG 6869 Resolved to receive the notes of the meetings of the End of World War 1 Committee meeting held on 18 June and 23 July 2018.

TO APPROVE A RECOMMENDATION THAT HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL FORMALLY EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT FOR THE 'BIG THANK YOU' EVENT AT RIVINGTON TERRACED GARDENS ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2018 AND RECORDS ITS GRATITUDE TO THE FIRE SERVICES, OTHER AGENCIES AND VOLUNTEERS INVOLVED IN FIGHTING THE RECENT MOORLAND FIRES ON WINTER HILL:

FG 6870 Resolved to approve a recommendation that Horwich Town Council formally expresses its support for the 'Big Thank You' event to be held at Rivington Terraced Gardens on 1 September 2018 and records its gratitude to the fire services, other agencies and volunteers involved in fighting the recent moorland fires on Winter Hill.

TO RECEIVE THE FEEDBACK FORM AND ACCOUNTS FOR HORWICH MUSIC FESTIVAL 2018 AND TO CONSIDER FUTURE COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR THIS EVENT:

FG 6871 The Music Festival has been running for three years and has grown into a very successful event. However for personal reasons three members of the Festival Committee no longer wish to continue their involvement with this event. £2,500 was awarded by the Council for this year's Festival and the Committee has paid a cheque for £2,400 to the Council from revenue generated at this year's event. The Music Festival bank account is still open but unless new volunteers are willing to take over the running of the event, the account will be closed in six months time. Members expressed the view that it would be a great pity to lose this event which has now become a firm favourite on the annual Horwich events calendar and considered a proposal for the Council to run this event on a smaller scale in 2019, focussing on the RMI Band and other local musicians. This could be funded by the proceeds of the 2018 Music Festival and it was suggested that the event could be run by a Council sub committee.

A suggestion was noted about funding for a bandstand in Old Station Park, although it was pointed out that this would be both costly and a target for vandalism.

Resolved to receive the feedback form and accounts for Horwich Music Festival 2018 and that Members interested in joining a sub committee to organise a musical event contact the Town Clerk, with membership to be approved at the next meeting of the Council. Councillor McKeon's request to be a member the Music Festival Sub Committee was noted.

TO CONSIDER ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FROM THE ENVIRONMENT BUDGET TO HORWICH HERITAGE FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE PILLARS AT THE ENTRANCE TO LEVER PARK AVENUE:

FG 6872 Members were informed that a member of Horwich Heritage had been undertaking renovation projects in Horwich and for his next project was intending to renovate the granite pillars at the entrance to Lever Park Avenue. The scheme will cost £4,500, mainly due to the cost of traffic closures

necessary to allow the work to be carried out safely. Liveseys Funeral Service had donated £1,000 and along with a donation from Horwich Rotary, a £200 donation from the Area Forum and funding pledged online at Just Giving, the total amount raised to date was £3,200. A proposal was received that Council donate £1,000 from the environmental budget to contribute to the future of Horwich by preserving its past.

Some Members raised concerns about health and safety issues and possible Council liability and ownership of the pillars but were informed that a risk assessment would be carried out as required. Due to these concerns a request for a named vote was accepted.

Resolved by 10 votes (Councillors Graham, Stone, Denton, Chadwick, Brady, Carruthers, Jarvis, Bullock, McKeon, Kellett) to 0 with 3 abstentions noted (Councillors Wright, Holmes, Root) to approve grant funding of £1,000 from the environmental budget to Horwich Heritage towards the renovation of the granite pillars at the entrance to Lever Park Avenue.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 6873 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as presented and amounting to £9,114.42.

TOWN CLERKS REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

FG 6874

- a. LALC: newsletter June 2018.
- b. LALC: NOTICE OF 74TH Annual General Meeting 17 November 2018.
- c. Brazley Residents Association: letter of thanks for grant funding for residents' coach trip.
- d. LALC: chairmanship workshop 11 October 2018.
- e. Green Spaces for Good: Fields in Trust ebulletin.
- f. Horwich Public Hall Vets Bowling Club: feedback form for £400 grant award.
- g. Update on measures taken to address antisocial behaviour on Green Lane.

The Town Clerk's Report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

FG 6875 None

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 SHOULD BE TEMPORARILY EXCLUDED AND IF PRESENT ASKED TO WITHDRAW.