

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 8 April 2019 commencing at 7.30 pm

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

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 6982 Councillor Root outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 6983 Apologies were accepted from Councillors Carruthers, Jarvis and Rock. An apology for lateness was accepted from Councillor McKeon.

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

FG 6984 None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT MAY PUT QUESTIONS OR MAKE OBSERVATIONS REGARDING MATTERS IN RELATION TO WHICH THE TOWN COUNCIL HAS POWERS OR DUTIES OR WHICH AFFECT THE PARISH. MAXIMUM PERIOD 15 MINUTES:

FG 6985 Resolved to move out of Committee to allow a member of the public to speak.

Councillor Richard Silvester addressed Council in his capacity as Borough Councillor for Horwich North East and firstly informed Members of his opposition to the planning application for housing development on land at the rear of Singleton Avenue and that he was actively campaigning against it. Councillor Silvester hoped that Horwich Town Council would recommend refusal of this application and that it would be refused at Bolton Planning.

Secondly, while fully supportive of the Neighbourhood Plan for Horwich, in response to queries from a number of residents Councillor Silvester requested an explanation as to why Horwich was referred to in the leaflet that had been delivered to all residents as "an independent town". He had pointed out that Horwich was part of the metropolitan borough of Bolton and Bolton Council provided the majority of services in Horwich and was the planning authority for Horwich. He also asked if as this was a Town Council process if the draft document had been brought to the Town Council for approval before it went to print.

Councillor McKeon arrived at this point.

Resolved to move back into Committee.

In response the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group accepted while that the use of the word "independent" might raise some concerns, it was

confirmed that it was meant to convey the fact that Horwich was a town that was independent in spirit.

Some concern was expressed that the final draft of the leaflet, although approved by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering group had not been seen by Council prior to going to print and that there were some inaccuracies and omissions on the map including:

- Public Hall referred to as “Town Hall”
- Horwich Community Centre omitted from the map when it is the Council’s own Centre as well as one of the drop off points for completed leaflets

There was also concern about the display of the name of the designer that appeared on the back of the leaflet who was also a candidate in the forthcoming council election. It was acknowledged by the Chair of the Steering Group that these were oversights which should have been addressed before the leaflet went to print.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 MARCH 2019:

FG 6986 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 11 March 2019.

TO APPOINT THE TOWN MAYOR ELECT OF HORWICH FOR 2019 - 2020:

FG 6987 Proposed by Councillor Graham, seconded by Councillor Denton and resolved to appoint Councillor Stone as Town Mayor Elect of Horwich for 2019 – 2020.

TO APPOINT THE DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR ELECT OF HORWICH FOR 2019 -2020:

FG 6988 Proposed by, Councillor Denton seconded by Councillor Wright and resolved to appoint Councillor Chadwick as Deputy Town Mayor Elect of Horwich for 2019 - 2020.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP:

FG 6989 It was confirmed that 10,000 leaflets had been printed and delivered to all households in Horwich although it was acknowledged that some addresses had been missed out but this would be duly addressed. There was an active website which included an online form which had received over 100 responses to date and an Instagram account had also been set up. A draft letter had been prepared to be sent to 600 business addresses, with the intention of arranging a meeting at Horwich Community Centre for interested parties. Three alternative dates were to be offered at different times in an attempt to maximise the attendance of local businesses. Work had begun on the end of year report to Locality as a condition of funding. The draft Housing Needs Assessment had been completed with some surprising conclusions regarding the number of houses required for Horwich, declining birth rate and the types of housing identified.

In response a view was expressed that while the Neighbourhood Plan was extremely aspirational and contained little to disagree with, it was questioned how it aims would be achieved. In response to a query it was confirmed that the Steering Group had appointed Sub groups with 3 – 4 members in each group,

with some working across more than one group, with all groups reporting back to the main committee. In response to a further query regarding the closing date for receipt of leaflets it was confirmed that this would be two weeks after all leaflets had been delivered.

TO APPROVE A CHANGE OF DATE TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE TO 20 MAY 2019, DUE TO THE RE-ELECTION OF THE COUNCIL:

FG 6990 In view of the re-election of the Town Council on 2 May and the Annual Meeting of the Council on 9 May it was proposed to postpone the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee by one from 13 May to 20 May for the benefit of newly appointed Councillors who may have little or no experience of Council procedure.

Resolved to approve a change of date for the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to 20 May 2019.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 6991 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to as follows:

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|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| Petty Cash | | £ 50.00 |
| Leach Briely Accountants | Payroll services | £ 150.00 |
| Marston Rawsthorn Solicitors | Legal services | £ 420.00 |
| Bolton Council | Spring planting | £1,063.00 |
| National Leaflet Printing | Distribution N/Plan leaflets | £1,140.00 |
| Craftprint | Printing N/Plan leaflets | £1,473.00 |
| LALC | Annual subscription | £1,820.44 |
| Horwich Festival of Racing | Grant 2019 events | £3,500.00 |
| Bolton Council | Winter gritting 2018/2019 | £14,400.00 |
| Salaries and Wages Account | | £7,500.00 |

Payments to National Leaflet Printing and Craftprint were authorised in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 Sched 9. Payments to Horwich Festival of Racing and Bolton Council for planting of spring flower troughs were authorised in accordance with LGA 1972 s137. Payment to Bolton Council for provision of additional winter gritting services was authorised in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 ss87 – 108.

TOWN CLERKS REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 6992
- a. Letter from Mr Ken Chaisty: Horwich Music Festival.
 - b Bolton Council: notice of Nomination of an Asset of Community Value – Horwich Cricket Club..
 - c. LALC newsletter March 2018
 - d. Letter from Mr Neil Brown: acceptance of Horwich Civic Medal award.
 - e. Letter from Mrs Mary Yates: acceptance of Horwich Civic Medal award.
 - f. Letter from Lever Park Allotment Society; thanks for grant award of £415
 - g. Letter from Mr Robert Ronson; installation of memorial benches at Horwich Community Centre in recognition of Bob and Barbara Ronson
 - h. Seafarers UK; invitation to ‘Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day on 3 September 2019.

The Town Clerk’s Report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

FG 6993 The Town Mayor reported that it had been a good mayoral year and that there had been an excellent turnout for the recent Mayor's fundraiser.

It was reported that the British Legion were considering the installation of memorial benches for Bob and Barbara Ronson at a location to be agreed and that the Poppy Appeal had raised in excess of £30,000, with thanks noted to Keith Whittingham for his hard work.

At a recent meeting of the Loco Works Liaison Committee, issues around objections to the location of the spine road and the demolition of the former erecting shed had been discussed. It was noted that changing the location of the roundabout to avoid demolition would change the alignment of the road towards two former asbestos tips. It was also pointed out that there was some misapprehension as to the amount of land owned by Bolton Council on this site and that the sections it did own had been identified for use as open space.

IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS ABOUT TO BE TRANSCATED IT IS ADVISABLE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC SHOULD BE TEMPORARILY EXCLUDED AND IF PRESENT ASKED TO WITHDRAW: