

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 20 May 2019 commencing at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: M. Brady (in the Chair), I. Aldcroft, M. Baines, J. Bostocksmith, S. Burke, S. Chadwick, A. Coward, K. Denton, S. Denton, D. Grant, C. Rotheram, S. Rock, G. Stone, P. Wright.
C. Hutchinson, Town Clerk
5 members of the public

TO APPOINT THE CHAIR OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE FOR 2019 – 2020:

FG 6997 Proposed by Councillor Burke, seconded by Councillor K. Denton and resolved to appoint Councillor Brady as Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for 2019 – 2020.

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 6998 Councillor Brady outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO APPOINT THE DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

FG 6999 Proposed by Councillor S. Denton, seconded by Councillor Bostocksmith and resolved to appoint Councillor Grant as Deputy Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 7000 None.

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

FG 7001 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 7002 Resolved to move out of Committee to allow a member of the public to speak.

Mr Stevens, a local resident informed Members of investigations that he had undertaken to establish how ownership of Pickups Field had been transferred to Bolton Council and requested that the Town Council should take over this task.

Resolved to move back into Committee.

While there was full support expressed for residents' objections to the loss of, green space which would result from the proposed development, the cost implications of such action were queried and whether this was appropriate use of Council funds.

Resolved to move out of Committee to allow another member of the public to

Speak.

Mr Halliwell, a local resident raised concerns about the state of some of the roads in Horwich, in particular Brownlow Road and Church Street and also inaccurate parking signage on Lee Lane.

Resolved to move back in to Committee.

Members agreed that there was clearly an issue with inconsistent and misleading signage and the poor condition of some roads in Horwich and a request was made to the Ward Councillors to take this matter up with Bolton Council and report back to Council.

Resolved to move out of Committee to allow another member of the public to speak.

Mr McGeehan, a local resident raised the matter of vehicles parking on the kerb on Curteis Street which prevented disabled access and also highlighted the lack of full disabled access to the Council Chamber.

Resolved to move back into Committee.

Members advised that the parking issue was an enforcement matter and shared concern at the lack of disabled access to the Council Chamber. It was noted that there was a stair lift but no level access as the back door not working at the moment. The Ward Councillors were asked to raise these matters with Bolton Council and report back to Council.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 APRIL 2019:

FG 7003 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 8 April 2019.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON AND TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A CHANGE TO THE COUNCIL'S CURRENT BANKING ARRANGEMENTS TO INTERNET BANKING AND TO AMEND THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL REGULATIONS TO SUPPORT THIS:

FG 7004 A copy of the report had been distributed to all Members. In response to a number of queries it was confirmed that:

- various levels of authority are available to replicate cheque payments made by two Councillors to provide a secure method of making payment
- new provider is financially sustainable and prioritises positive social impact
- offers straightforward electronic changing of signatories
- a majority of local authorities now use internet banking
- the current account and the new mayoral charity account will be switched to internet banking while the salaries and wages and business reserve account will remain with the Council's current high street bank

Resolved to approve a change to the Council's current banking arrangements to internet banking and to amend the Council's Financial Regulations to

support this.

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM HORWICH CARNIVAL COMMITTEE FOR GRANT FUNDING OF £2,500 TOWARDS 2019 CARNIVAL EVENTS FROM THE SPORT, SOCIAL AND CULTURE BUDGET FOR 2019 – 2020:

FG 7005 In response to a query it was confirmed that the Carnival Committee was on the list of outside bodies to which the Council appointed a representative.

Resolved to approve the request from Horwich Carnival Committee for grant funding of £2,500 towards 2019 Carnival events from the Sport, Social and Culture budget on the condition for more detail to be included in audited accounts for 2019 events, with the Town Clerk to be advised of relevant queries to be passed on to the Carnival Committee.

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE EVENTS TEAM OF ST ELIZABETHS CHURCH FOR GRANT FUNDING OF £500 TOWARDS THE 2019 CEDAR AVENUE VILLAGE FETE FROM THE GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY GROUPS BUDGET FOR 2019 – 2020:

FG 7006 Members were informed that this organisation had just confirmed that they had received a grant of £7,500 from Awards for All and requested withdrawal of this request.

In view of new information received, it was resolved to withdraw consideration of the request from the Events Team of St Elizabeth's Church for grant funding of £500 towards the Cedar Avenue Village Fete from the Grants to Voluntary Groups budget for 2019 – 2020.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP:

FG 7007 Members were informed that positive feedback had been received from the public through the recent leaflet distribution. Comments were still being accepted and a decision was to be made regarding a cut-off date after a final push on social media. There had been a lack of response from local businesses and it was noted that the Council had experienced a similar reaction in the past. A draft letter had been prepared by the Steering Group to go to all businesses with the view to arrange a public meeting. In response to a query it was confirmed that businesses were aware of the Neighbourhood Plan, they appeared to have chosen not to engage with it, however it was hoped that this may change in anticipation of grant funding that Bolton Council is planning to make available for improvements to Horwich town centre

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 7008 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £13,949.10 as follows:

Petty Cash		£ 50.00
Salaries and Wages Account		£7,500.00
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax Month 1	£2,847.88
Pete Squires Joinery	Installation of civic plaque	£ 80.00
Image-Tec Sign Services	Update of honours boards	£ 145.00
Franking Sense	1/4ly copy count Xerox	£ 280.26
Franking Sense	1/4ly copy count Utax	£ 59.01
Thomas Fattorini	Past mayors and civic medals	£1,236.95

G. Stone	1 st instalment Mayor's allowance	£3,500.00
Bolton Council	Winter gritting 2018/2019	£1,750.00

TOWN CLERKS REPORT (EMAILED TO MEMBERS) – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 7009
- a. LALC: Effective Meetings Workshop 13 June 2019.
 - b. LALC: New Councillors and Clerks Training – module 1 on 6 July 2019 and module 2 on 20 July 2019.
 - c. Bolton Council: notice of nomination of an Asset of Community Value – Horwich Community Centre, Beaumont Road.
 - d. Horwich Festival of Racing: letter of thanks to the Town Council for financial support of £3,500 for 2019 events...
 - e. Nasmyth Street Allotments Society: letter of thanks for grant award of £220 in March 2019.

The Town Clerk's Report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- FG 7010 Town Mayor
- The Town Mayor reported that it had been a busy start to the mayoral year and thanked everybody who had attended his Inauguration. Since then he had attended the new Horwich Heritage exhibition, held his Civic Sunday Service and attended inaugurations at Westhoughton and civic services at Blackrod and Bolton.

TO APPROVE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AS 10 JUNE 2019:

- FG 7011 Resolved to approve the date of the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee as 10 June 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Chair..... Date.....