

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 November 2021 commencing at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: M. Brady (in the Chair) I. Aldcroft, M. Baines, S. Burke, S. Chadwick, A. Coward, S. Denton, D. Grant, S. Rock, G. Stone, P. Wright.
C. Hutchinson, Town Clerk.
Councillor K. McKeon, Ward Councillor Horwich North East

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 7340 Councillor Brady outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 7341 Apologies were accepted from Councillors Bostocksmith, Rotheram and Williamson.

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

FG 7342 Councillor Burke declared an interest on agenda item 7 as a member of Old Rivingtonians Sports Club and would not take part in either the discussion or voting on this matter.

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 7343 Resolved to move out of Committee to allow a member of the public to speak.

Councillor McKeon informed Members about his recent communication with Bolton Council and concerns regarding street naming of the former St Mary's Hall site. This appears to be symptomatic of a general failure of the current street naming process to have any relevance with the local area along with a perception that consultation with the town councils causes a delay in the process. In view of expected naming of streets on developments on the former Loco Works site, Councillor McKeon had written to the Department of Place to state that the lack of a link with Horwich from street naming was disappointing and that more consideration should be given to comments and suggestions from town councils.

Resolved to move back into Committee.

Councillor McKeon was thanked for his comments and it was noted that this matter could be addressed by Council at a later date as a specific agenda item.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2021:

FG 7344 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 11 October 2021.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY GROUPS SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2021:

FG 7345 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Grants to Voluntary Groups Sub Committee held on 21 October 2021.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK, CONSIDER AND APPROVE A PROPOSAL TO ALLOCATE FUNDING OF £6,950 FROM THE 2021 – 2022 POSTCOVID RECOVERY FUND AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT BUDGETS FOR PROVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES IN HORWICH IN 2022:

FG 7346 A report had been circulated to all Members following Councillor Brady and the Town Clerk's meeting with Dominic Rice from Bolton Play and Youth Services to discuss options for Horwich Town Council to allocate funds for the provision of activities for children and young people from the current budget.

Two mobile skate park sessions held at St Joseph's High School during the summer holidays and October half term which had been funded by the Horwich North East Area Forum had proved very popular and it was hoped that these could be maintained along with activities at additional locations in Horwich such as Green Lane playing fields as well as targeted outreach sessions to engage with young people to prevent anti-social behaviour. Provision of activity sessions could be made during February and May half terms as well as the Easter break in 2022 with youth worker outreach sessions booked as a 12 week block to be used as and when required. It was noted that sessions should be booked well in advance due to high demand from other areas in the Borough.

In response to a query it was explained that there were sufficient funds available in the youth engagement budget for part funding some of the provision, due to a delay in the setting up of a planned youth council.

Resolved to approve the costs of youth provision sessions in Horwich for 2022 from the 2021 – 2022 post covid recovery fund and youth engagement budgets at a total cost of £6,950, as follows:

- Skate park on Mondays at St Joseph's RC High School February and May half terms 2022 and Easter break April 2022 plus 5 sessions during the summer break July/August 2022 at a total cost of £5,600
- Mobile play provision session at Green Lane playing fields February half term 2022, to include trial of zorbs and grass sledges at a cost of £150
- Outreach team at £100 per session, with a block booking of 12 sessions, to be used where and when required in 2022.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 7347 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £ 11,066.00

Petty Cash - C. Hutchinson	£50.00
Wright Place Lunch Club	£300.00
Horwich Royal British Legion	£216.00

Horwich Ride Social	£500.00
Transfer to Salaries and Wages Account	£10,000.00

Payments to Wright Place Lunch Club, Horwich British Legion and Horwich Ride Social were made in accordance with LGA 1972 s137.

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

- FG 7348
- a. Horwich Ride Social: monitoring/feedback form for grant award of £378.
 - b. Summary of Town Councillors' casework.

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 7349
- a. Town Mayor of Horwich
The Town Mayor reported her attendance at the opening of the new football exhibition at the Horwich Heritage Centre, the unveiling of the Tin Mission sign, an event to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Bolton Parish Church and an enjoyable evening at the Rotary Charter Evening at the Whites Hotel.

- b. Horwich Ward Councillors
Councillor Grant reported dealing with issues concerning noise disturbance caused by manufacturing at Taylor Rigby House reported by neighbouring residents.

Councillor Wright reported dealing with individual casework and had attended the Business Expo.exhibition.

Councillor Brady reported several matters including that at the Area Forum meeting agreement had been reached on relaying the path at Green Lane playing fields and some drainage improvements; still awaiting quotes for a railing at Ridgmont; backlog of planning applications of up to 3 weeks; Montcliffe Quarry Liaison Group due to meet and Armstrongs had suggested a camera to identify the direction of contractors' lorries with agreement required on a suitable location; AMPR cameras now located in 2 locations including Scholes Bank and awaiting further information from Highways and have asked if the police could have access to these cameras and this is being looked into; Loco Works Spine had been approved and a meeting about this has been rescheduled.

- c. Representatives on Outside Bodies
None

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 SHOULD BE ASKED TO LEAVE.