

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Thursday 24 January 2019 commencing at 7.15 pm.

PRESENT Councillors: P. Wright (in the Chair) M. Brady, S. Chadwick, K. Denton, R. Graham, J. Kellett, K. McKeon, S. Rock
Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson.
Ward Councillor for Horwich North East, Councillor R. Silvester
4 members of the public

TOWN MAYOR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

TC 3726 The Town Mayor outlined the procedure.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

TC 3727 Resolved to accept apologies for absence from Councillors Bullock, Carruthers, Holmes, Jarvis, Root and Stone.

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

TC 3728 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 3729 Resolved to move out of committee to allow a member of the public to speak.

Mr Jim Hickey representing Horwich RMI Club informed Members that he was extremely unhappy about the Town Council's recent decision to approve a request to nominate the Club building for consideration by Bolton Council as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) without informing the club or inviting its representatives and the subsequent reporting of this matter in an article in the Bolton News which he believed could damage the club's future. Mr Hickey informed the Council that the club members worked hard to keep it open for the benefit of many local organisations and functions held there. In his opinion the Council had shown a lack of knowledge regarding the club's status, aims and objectives. At its recent AGM the decision had been taken for it to remain on the current site. It was estimated that £250,000 was needed to update the building, including roofing and electrical work. Mr Hickey asked for an explanation of both matters.

Resolved to move back into Committee.

It was confirmed that Council had discussed this matter at the

request of representatives from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, who had identified the RMI Club building as one of approximately 100 AVCs identified Horwich. Rather than wait for the list to be completed, it had been brought forward and presented for discussion to Council due to its importance to the community of Horwich and was in no way meant to be any criticism of the club. It was confirmed that the information in the press article had not originated from the Town Council Office.

Councillor Chadwick reported that the Bolton News had contacted him for a for comment following a post that had appeared on facebook and that the actual wording of the article was an editorial decision made by the Bolton News and was extremely regrettable, as was the lack of consultation with representatives from the RMI Club at the time the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group brought the matter to Council.

The Council confirmed its full support for the club, recognising its importance to the community. The discussion about and the decision to apply to register the club building as an ACV had taken place with the best intentions, however the importance of consultation was noted for any future debate.

Mr Hickey and the other representatives were thanked for their attendance and contribution to the meeting.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2018:

TC 3730 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 13 December 2018.

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2018:

TC 3731 Resolved to note the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 13 December 2018.

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2019:

TC 3732 Resolved to receive the minutes and of the meeting of the of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 14 January 2019.

TO APPROVE THE COUNCIL'S REVISED BUDGET FOR 2019 – 2020:

TC 3733 Resolved to approve the Council's revised budget for 2019 – 2020 as presented.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AS PRESENTED:

TC 3734 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as and amounting to £ 7,884.70 as follows:

Petty Cash	£50.00
Salaries and Wages Imprest Account	£5,000.00
Franking Sense Copier Count	£204.33
Horwich Resource Centre VAT refund	£2,331.51
BT Business Phone/broadband	£298.86

Payment to BT Business was a direct debit payment in accordance with Council's Financial Regulations s 6.6.

TO CONFIRM THE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AS 21 FEBRUARY 2019:

TC 3735 Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Town Council as 21 February 2019.

The meeting closed at 7.23 pm.

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