

## 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 11 February 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, M. Jarvis, J. Kellett, K. McKeon, G. Stone, P. Wright.  
Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson  
Ward Councillor for Horwich and Blackrod Councillor A. Cunliffe.  
4 members of the public.

### CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 6951 Councillor Root outlined the procedure from the information provided.

### TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 6952 Apologies were accepted from Councillor Carruthers.

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

FG 6953 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 6954 Resolved to move out of Committee to allow a members of the public to speak.

Mr Mick Stevens, a local resident commented on several matters including planning procedure and in particular information about the use of the former college playing field site as a football facility and the referral of the application for housing development on the former college site to the Secretary of State.

Resolved to return to Committee.

With regard to planning procedure it was reiterated that Horwich Town Council was a consulted body, Bolton Council is the planning authority and makes the decisions. At the time of the college site application, Councillor McKeon confirmed that officers at Bolton had received the information which proved that the field had been used for football, however there was no written record as it had been done verbally. The information was sent to the Secretary of State who made the decision that there was no reason why development could not take place. It was pointed out that if officers at Bolton had been unaware of the sports use of the field, the application would not have been referred to the Secretary of State.

It was confirmed that further investigation would be made and any documentation that Mr Stevens was able to share would be welcomed, with an assurance that a response on this matter would be provided.

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

Mr Jim Hickey representing Horwich RMI Club informed Members about the nomination for the Cricket Club as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). The RMI Club had been contacted as a consultee and asked to comment on the nomination. The trustees had responded to Bolton Council to inform them that this was an invalid submission and detailed the reasons for this, clarifying the club's position and providing relevant information.

Resolved to move back into Committee.

The clarification that the RMI is one whole club with cricket as a section was welcomed. The introduction of ACVs had proved controversial and far from straightforward. The process of Council considering separate ACV applications while not in possession of all relevant information was discussed. Representatives from the Neighbourhood Plan Group confirmed that they could list assets but these had to be nominated by the Town Council. The Neighbourhood Plan was not yet at the stage of producing a list of appropriate buildings or sites for consideration. It was agreed that a coherent approach to the ACV nomination process was required and this should be considered as an agenda item at the next meeting of the Committee and that as a matter of courtesy all future nominees should be informed and consulted prior to any applications going to Council.

Resolved to move the order of business to Agenda Item 9.

**CONSULTATION: BOLTON COUNCIL – NOMINATION FOR AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE – HORWICH CRICKET CLUB:**

FG 6955 In light of the information received it was resolved not to discuss this matter and to make no comment to Bolton Council for these reasons. 1 abstention noted.

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

FG 6956 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 14 January 2019.

**TO APPROVE THE DATE OF CIVIC SUNDAY AS 12 MAY 2019:**

FG 6957 Resolved to approve the date of Civic Sunday as 12 May 2019.

**TO APPROVE THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT RETENTION AND DISPOSAL POLICY AND PRIVACY POLICY:**

FG 6958 Resolved to approve the Council's Draft Retention and Disposal Policy and Privacy Policy.

**TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL TO NOMINATE HORWICH COMMUNITY CENTRE AS AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE:**

FG 6959 The importance of the Community Centre as a social and recreational asset to the local community as well as its historical value was recognised and it was resolved to approve the request for Horwich Town Council to nominate Horwich Community Centre as an Asset of Community Value.

## TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 6960 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £7,020.73 as follows:

|                            |                             |           |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Petty Cash                 |                             | £50.00    |
| Nationwide Franking        | Quarterly copier count/Utax | £73.16    |
| Direct Workwear            | Workwear for new caretakers | £135.72   |
| Salaries and Wages Account |                             | £5,000.00 |
| HM Customs and Excise      | PAYE Tax Month 10           | £1,761.85 |

## TOWN CLERKS REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 6961
- GMP Neighbourhood Policing: notice of PACT meeting 25 February 2019.
  - Horwich Festival of Racing: breakdown of expenditure to Bolton Council for 2018 events as requested.
  - NALC: Open letter to Councillors from the Chair.
  - Monitoring and feedback forms for grant awards from Horwich and Blackrod Childminding, Friday Lunch Club and the Rite Notes.
  - Bolton Council: Gambling Act – Review of Statement of Principles.

The Town Clerk's Report was noted.

## REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

FG 6962 Environmental

A new community hoop bin had been installed by Bolton Council outside Chico's takeaway on Lee Lane and was already being well used, measures to manage this were noted and would be monitored.

Reports from Representatives were noted.

## TO APPROVE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AS 11 MARCH 2019:

FG 6963 Resolved to approve the date of the next meeting as 11 March 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

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