

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 9 March 2020 commencing at 7.30 pm

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

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 7130 Councillor Grant outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 7131 Resolved to accept apologies from Councillors Brady and Chadwick.

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

FG 7132 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 7133 Resolved to move out of Committee to allow members of the public to speak.

Councillor Kevin McKeon informed members about the recent history of the Horwich Music Festival and of plans in progress for 2020 and also introduced Tom Benson, Chair of the Music Festival Committee. Mr Benson informed members that a new concept had been adopted in order to ensure the continued success of the Festival. Sponsorship from Bolton at Home had already been confirmed and it was planned to apply for other sources of funding, including Horwich Town Council which had provided generous support in the past. The dates for the Music Festival were during the weekend of 3 – 5 July 2020, with eleven locations, mainly pubs already confirmed as hosting live family friendly music events. Seven primary schools had also agreed to hold events. The intention was for the new format to promote community involvement and showcase local performers and artists. Sponsorship by local businesses would be encouraged and provide a good return on investment as well as encouraging community inclusion.

Resolved to return to Committee.

In response to a query the Town Clerk confirmed that council had made provision in the Sport, Social and Culture budget for 2020 – 2021 of £11,000 for major events in Horwich such as the Music Festival, Carnival and Festival of Racing. Mr Benson and Councillor McKeon were informed that council would expect all its representatives on the Music Festival to be kept informed of progress and dates of future committee meetings. In response to a query it was confirmed that Councillors Aldcroft, Bostocksmith, Rock and Stone were the council's representatives on the Music Festival Committee.

Councillor McKeon and Mr Benson were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting at this point.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2020:

FG 7134 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 10 February 2020.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2020:

FG 7135 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Environmental Improvements Advisory Group held on 12 February 2020, which included the draft resolution for support for the Local Electricity Bill.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE HORWICH COMMUNITY CENTRE SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2020:

FG 7136 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Horwich Community Centre Sub Committee held on 13 February 2020.

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE AN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FOR HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL:

FG 7137 All members had received copies of the draft Environmental Policy as per the recommendations of the Environmental Improvements Advisory Group.

Resolved to approve the Environmental Policy for Horwich Town Council.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON VE75 EVENTS AND TO APPROVE THE COSTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF A SOUND SYSTEM FOR VE DAY REMEMBRANCE SERVICE ON 8 MAY 2020 AND REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE ON 8 NOVEMBER 2020 AT £495 EACH AND FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE CIVIC CHRISTMAS TREE SERVICE ON 4 DECEMBER AT £198:

FG 7138 Resolved to receive the update on planned VE75 events, including the Service of Reflection and Celebration on 8 May and to approve the costs for the supply of a sound system for this, Remembrance Sunday Service on 8 May 2020 at £495 each and for the Lighting of the Civic Christmas Tree Service on 4 December 2020 at £298.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 7139 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £6,499.36 as follows:

Petty Cash	£30.00
Nationwide Capital Finance (Quarterly rental for Xerox copier/ printer)	£187.36
Leach Briely Accountants (Completion of internal audit review for period to 31 December 2019)	£474.00

CB Building and Joinery £5,808.00
(Supply and fitting of 3 x new windows and 1 x fire door at Horwich Community Centre)

Payments to CB Building and Joinery were made in accordance with LGA 1976 (Misc Provisions) s19.

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

- FG 7140
- a. Horwich Music Festival: statement and summary of accounts for Horwich Music Festival 2019.
 - b. LALC: updated constitution 2020; details of Spring Conference 25 April 2020.
 - c. Horwich Cycling Club: email acknowledgement of council's endorsement for the Cycle Safety campaign.
 - d. Wright Place Luncheon Club: monitoring/feedback form for grant award.
 - e. Summary of councillors' casework.

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

FG 7141 Town Mayor's Report

The Town Mayor informed members that recent events attended included the official opening of the new Chorley New Road Primary School building and the Mayor of Bolton's Charity Ball. It was noted that it would be the 30th anniversary of the signing of the twinning agreement with Crowborough on 22 March 2020.

Horwich Ward Councillors

Councillor Wright – Horwich and Blackrod Ward reported as follows: Bolton Council will shortly take delivery of a new high-powered graffiti removing machine that will be trialled in Horwich; GMP have detained six youths in response to anti-social behaviour taking place outside the Bridge Inn and at the former bowling green at the rear, as part of Operation Arden; Highways have confirmed that double yellow lines will soon be placed along Academy Way with breaks to allow for resident parking; Invitation to all councillors to forthcoming events at the Over 50s Lads' Club sessions at Horwich Community Centre: Tuesday 10 March talk and screening of new documentary film by a volunteer from the charity NICE; Tuesday 24 March talk and book signing by Paul Salvesson for his new book about Horwich Loco Works.

Reports from Representatives (as per the approved list):

At a recent meeting of the Rivington and Brinscall Advisory Group, it was noted that representatives from United Utilities were unaware of the sale and proposed development of the "llama field" off Rivington Lane. It was stressed that this site forms an important buffer zone between residential areas in Horwich and the Rivington countryside and should continue to be protected. United Utilities reported that they were tackling the problems of increased disposal of cannabis plants and fly tipping in the Rivington area. Voluntary litter picks including staff from MacDonalds in Chorley and Horwich were currently being arranged.

Reports from Representatives were noted.

TO APPROVE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AS 6 APRIL 2020:

FG 7142 Resolved to approve the date of the next meeting as 6 April 2020.

The meeting closed at 7.59 pm.

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