

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 12 August 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.
Reverend Caroline Tracey, Janice Escourt, Horwich Angels.
1 members of the press.

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 7025 Councillor Brady outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 7026 None.

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

FG 7027 None.

TO WELCOME REVEREND CAROLINE TRACEY AND JANICE ESCOURT TO GIVE A PRESENTATION TO EXPLAIN THE ROLE OF THE HORWICH ANGELS:

FG 7028 Reverend Tracey informed members that The Horwich Angels Chaplaincy Team operates under the banner of the Greater Manchester Industrial Mission in partnership with Churches Together in Horwich and also works closely with the Middlebrook Angels Chaplaincy Team. It has been operating for six months and has recruited its first 'Angel' Janice Escourt who gave a short presentation about the work involved understanding and dealing with the challenges faced by small businesses. The aim was to cover all of Horwich, however more volunteers were needed. In response to a query it was confirmed that training was provided by the Middlebrook Angels and that volunteers were trained in how to refer issues if required.

Members agreed that retail chaplaincy has an important role to play and would discuss the appointment of a representative on the Horwich Angels Management Committee as a separate agenda item. Reverend Tracey and Ms Escourt were thanked for their presentation.

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 7029 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 JUNE 2019:

FG 7030 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 10 June 2019 with an amendment to FG 7018 to remove Councillor Chadwick as a representative on the Neighbourhood Plan

Steering Group.

TO APPROVE THE STATEMENT OF QUARTERLY ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET REVIEW TO THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2019:

- FG 7031 In response to a query it was confirmed that £12,000 had been transferred to Horwich Community Centre from its own reserve account in order to carry out refurbishment of the Centre in 2018. Resolved to approve the statement of quarterly accounts and budget review to the period ending 30 June 2019 with the following amendments:
- £188 incorrectly entered into elections column, should have been included in equipment column
 - incorrect spelling of Green Lane as Group Lane.

TO APPROVE THE QUARTERLY REPORT FROM INTERNAL AUDIT TO THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2019:

- FG 7032 Resolved to approve the quarterly report from internal audit to the period ending 30 June 2019.

TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE AS REPRESENTATIVES ON THE FOLLOWING OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2019 – 2020:

- FG 7033 Resolved to appoint the following Members to serve as Representatives on the following Outside Bodies for 2019 – 2020:
- a. Horwich Music Festival Committee
Councillors Aldcroft, Bostocksmith, Rock and Stone..
 - b. Horwich Angels Management Committee
Councillor S. Denton.

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HORWICH TOWN CENTRE STEERING GROUP HELD ON 17 JULY 2019:

- FG 7034 In response to queries about Council representation on the Group and funding for improvements to Station Park Councillor Brady confirmed that the Council was represented by Councillor Rotherham and the Town Clerk and that the initiative was intended to be resident driven and was still at an early stage. Resolved to note the minutes of the meeting of the Horwich Town Centre Steering Group held on 17 July 2019.

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE OFFICE OF CHRIS GREEN, M.P. TO ARRANGE THE FLYING OF THE LANCASHIRE FLAG FROM THE HORWICH FLAGPOLE ON 27 NOVEMBER 2019:

- FG 7035 Resolved to approve the request from the office of Chris Green M.P. to arrange the flying of the Lancashire flag from the Horwich flagpole on 27 November 2019.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR GRANT ON SETTING UP A STEERING GROUP TO LIAISE WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS WITH THE AIM OF SETTING UP TWO YOUTH COUNCILS, ONE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND ONE FOR HIGH SCHOOLS AND TO AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSALS:

- FG 7036 Councillor Grant informed members that he was proposing that the Council set up a steering group that would liaise with local primary and high schools with the aim of setting up two youth councils to meet on a quarterly basis in the Council Chamber with the Mayor as Chair. The schools would appoint and the

make up of each council would be one representative from each year of the two high schools and 1 -2 representatives from each primary school covering both key stages. Councillor Grant volunteered to lead on this initiative and liaise with the schools. In response to a query it was confirmed that the proposed youth councils would be separate from any existing internal school councils. It was noted that there is an existing scheme in Blackrod and it would be of benefit for any interested councillors to investigate how it works.

Resolved to establish a Steering Group with the aim of liaising with local schools with the aim of setting up two youth councils for primary and high schools which would meet on a quarterly basis in the Council Chamber. Resolved to appoint Councillors Bostocksmith, Grant, Rock and Stone to serve on this group.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR CHADWICK ON A PROPOSAL FOR THE INSTALLATION OF BUNTING IN THE TOWN CENTRE AREA FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS AND TO AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSALS:

FG 7037 Councillor Chadwick had asked that Council consider a proposal to install bunting in the town centre during the spring and summer months to celebrate the many events and activities that Horwich is fortunate to have, as it had been used in the past, 2012 was the last time it had been used.

Bolton Council install the Christmas lighting which are attached to lighting columns which are their property and had already confirmed that realistically the only road where bunting could be erected using the existing catenary wire is Winter Hey Lane. Chorley New Road is too wide and sagging of the bunting would not allow sufficient height clearance across the carriageway and on Lee Lane the spacing of the lighting columns would not allow sufficient height clearance. The cost for installation and removal is currently charged at £90 per hour to include 2 men and a tower vehicle. In response the following points were made:

- if Bolton Council were to give permission, it could be more cost effective to have a private firm carry out the installation, although they would have to be indemnified by Bolton Council with adequate risk assessment and health and safety practices
- a suggestion was made that the Fire Service could be asked to install the bunting
- alternatives to installation of bunting across the carriageway were put forward including between lighting columns and on shop fronts, although it was accepted that the latter could prove problematic and time consuming as would have to get permission from a large number of landlords
- Councillors Chadwick and Rotherham to provide details of suitable contractors and Councillor Rotherham to provide costs for bunting.

Resolved to improve in principle the proposal for the installation of bunting in the town centre area for the summer months and to contact Bolton Council to progress this matter further.

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM COUNCILLOR CHADWICK TO CONSIDER THE RELOCATION OF THE FLAGPOLE FROM THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE ON SCHOLES BANK TO THE PUBLIC HALL AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSAL:

FG 7038 Councillor Chadwick had clarified that rather than the relocation of the existing flag pole at the Garden of Remembrance, consideration should be given to the installation of 2 flag poles on the grassed area at the side of the Public Hall.

Resolved to seek clarification from Bolton Council on the feasibility and cost of the installation of 2 flag poles on the grassed area at the side of the Public Hall.

TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATION OF PICKUPS FIELD AS AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE:

FG 7039 Resolved that Horwich Town Council request the nomination of Pickups Field as an Asset of Community Value in order to maintain pressure on Bolton Council to prevent the sale of the field for housing development.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 7040 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £9,628.52 as follows:

Petty Cash	£70.00
Salaries & Wages Imprest Account	£5,000.00
Parrs Workplace Equipment (2 x litter pickers for street cleaning)	£64.80
Gary Taylor Photographer (Design and supply of silhouette image)	£100.00
Leach Briely Accountants (Internal audit review to 30.06.19)	£474.00
Nationwide Franking Sense (Copy charges Xerox copier to 30.06.19)	£325.78
	£35.42
	£833.91
Horwich Resource Centre (VAT refund to 30.06.19)	
Bolton Council (Planting of 24 roadside troughs in Horwich town centre)	£1,065.60
HM Revenue and Customs (PAYE tax month 4)	£1,659.01

Payment to Gary Taylor was made in accordance with LGA 1972 s142 and to Bolton Council in accordance with LGA 1972 s144.

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

FG 7041 a. Bolton Council: notification of successful nomination by Horwich

Town Council to list Horwich Community Centre, Beaumont Road, Horwich BL6 7BG as an Asset of Community Value.

- b.Grants to voluntary groups monitoring/feedback forms received from: Horwich Harvest Project, Bridge Street Conservation Group and Horwich Bowling Club.
- c.Summary of Councillors' casework.

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

FG 7042

Town Mayor's Report

The Town Mayor reported that mayoral duties over the past few weeks had included the opening of Horwich Music Festival, Cedar Avenue Village Green Fete, Horwich Parish Primary School Summer Fair and the awarding of the Civic Medal to Mrs Mary Yates, with all outdoor events enjoying the benefit of good weather which contributed to their success. The Deputy Town Mayor had attended several events on behalf of the Town Mayor while he had been on holiday, these included Bolton Youth Orchestra and Bolton Youth Harmonies concert, the Royal British Legion Greater Manchester Regional Annual Church Service and the opening of the new Horwich Heritage exhibition on the West Pennine Moors.

Horwich Ward Councillors

Horwich & Blackrod Ward:

Councillor Baines - invitation to all Town Councillors to attend a meeting to receive an update on the proposed new health centre to be held at the Conservative Club, Bridge Street at 7.00pm on 19 August 2019.

Councillor Cunliffe - contacted Highways following a recent ram raid incident on Wright Street and received a response that standard bollards are not intended for protection use but officers would check to see if there are any other furnishings more suitable for this purpose.

Councillor Wright - £10 million pot of money allocated for road resurfacing works and pavement repairs has now increased by £2 million bringing the amount that can be spent in each Ward to £600,000. Next meeting of Two Towns Forum will be on 8 October 2019 and following an exchange of emails with Malcolm Russell, confirmation of an agenda item discussing the possibility of improvements to Station Park at this meeting.

Horwich North East Ward:

Councillor Brady – list of proposed roads for resurfacing and repair has been sent to Highways who will prioritise as assessment has already been carried out. The sale of Pickups Field will be considered by full Council week beginning 19 August. Additional funding for the Area Forum has been confirmed. Following a request from the Town Council's Sports Advisory Group, Councillor Brady to contact Councillor McKeon to request an update on discussions with RBHS on the way forward for management of Green Lane playing fields and also investigate action with regard to the sink hole on Ainsworth Avenue.

Representatives on outside Bodies (as per the approved list).
None.

The Reports from Representatives were noted.

TO APPROVE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AS 9 SEPTEMBER 2019:

FG 7043 Resolved to approve the date of the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee as 9 September 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.56pm.

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