

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall on Monday, 13 February, 2012 commencing at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: C. A. Root (in the Chair), P. Baxendale, N. Cornthwaite, C. Flanigan, K. J. Helsby, J Kellett, J. J. Lavin, L. McCartin, K. McGeehan, K. Ramamurthy, S. Rock and K. Thomson.
The Assistant Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson
Mr M.Cox, Mr Ian Taylor and Mr Keith Davies, from Bolton Council
1 member of the public
Bolton Wards Councillors K.McKeon and R. Silvester

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE
FG 5708 Councillor Root outlined the procedure.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS

FG 5709 Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Downes and from Councillor L. Rock due to illness.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 JANUARY, 2012.

FG 5710 Moved by Councillor Helsby
Seconded by Councillor Kellett and
Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 January, 2012.

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HORWICH RESOURCE CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 JANUARY, 2012

FG 5711 Moved by Councillor Thomson
Seconded by Councillor Lavin and
Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Horwich Resource Centre Management Committee held on 17 January, 2012.

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HORWICH IN BLOOM COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 JANUARY 2012.

FG 5712 Moved by Councillor Baxendale
Seconded by Councillor McCartin and
Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Horwich in Bloom Committee held on 10 January, 2012.

TO WELCOME MR IAN TAYLOR OF BOLTON COUNCIL TO PRESENT A REPORT ON PARKING PROVISION IN HORWICH TOWN CENTRE.

Members welcomed Mr Malcolm Cox from Bolton Council who explained that this report responded to issues about parking and highways raised by the Town Council on 12 December 2011.

Members had also been presented with an additional report, Action Plan for Horwich Town Centre, which provided details of funding for issues raised in the original report.

Members had all received a copy of the report on Parking Provision and Mr Ian Taylor then invited questions from Members.

1. In response to a query, it was confirmed that there would be substantial cost implications involved to reduce the current maximum parking period to 2 hours.
2. It was agreed to leave the parking restriction to 3 hours for the foreseeable future
3. St Johns Street car park - Members felt that due to the considerable cost difference between retention of the existing plinth and construction of a new base on St John Street, to provide an additional 20 car park spaces, it should be recommended that the existing plinth should be utilised.
4. It was reported that traffic calming measures were due to be implemented at the junction of Winter Hey, Lee Lane and Brownlow Road. There were concerns about safety, due to congestion caused by traffic turning right and Members felt that improvements were urgently required. Concerns were raised for pedestrians at this junction and it was confirmed that railings were due to be installed, with an assurance given planned work would take place outside the dates of the Festival of Racing, the Carnival events and any other Town events which would take place in June.
5. Members were concerned that the Town Council had not been given adequate information about the planned development of the old market site.
6. Mr Taylor reported that Beaumont Road car park had recently been relined and the foliage cleared, giving an additional 2 car parking spaces.
7. In addition demolition of the toilets on Captain Street was imminent, along with abolition of existing loading bays, creating an extra 10 car park spaces.

Members were delighted to have received this report which they found to be both sensible, well presented and comprehensive.

Next, Mr Keith Davies explained that this report was linked to the Town Centre Action Plan. The plan identifies a range of schemes, including car parking provision and highways issues, which would benefit the town centre. Finance for these initiatives was to be provided from the funding allocated by Bolton Council from its capital programme for 2011/12 to support town centres in the borough. The Action Plan was to be submitted for approval on 22 February and short term initiatives were to be completed within the next 6 – 12 months. Other initiatives concerned tourism, to promote the identity of Horwich, as well as establishing a business forum, which would be developed with the assistance of Bolton Council officers.

An initiative to encourage partnerships had been included and it was suggested that officers contact Horwich Rotary Club who had already offered assistance to Council.

Members felt that the protection of green space in Horwich was very important and concerns had been raised at some of the proposals in Draft Allocations Plan,

which included building on existing estates in the town, although this would not

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be finalised until 2013.

In response to a query concerning the increase in metal theft, it was confirmed That this would be taken into account when costing signage for the town centre.

Members felt very strongly that the issue of the lack of public toilets in the Town centre still had not been addressed. The use of the toilets at Horwich Resource Centre was discussed, although some Members felt that it was inappropriate due to the number of children and vulnerable users of the Centre would be required. The difficulties of the use by the public of toilets in shops and businesses was raised. It was suggested that this was due to a lack of publicity, that could be addressed via a future business forum.

All 3 officers were thanked for their attendance and Members were assured that Council would be kept informed of any developments.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

FG 5714 **The meeting was suspended** in order to allow a member of the public to speak. **On return to committee:**
Councillor Root said that the issues raised were very important to the future development of Horwich. It was felt that the Localism Bill would offer new opportunities, and should be brought to Council for discussion. She thanked the member of the public for his input.

TO APPROVE THE QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2011:

FG 5715 Moved by Councillor McCartin
Seconded by Councillor Helsby and
Resolved to approve the quarterly financial statement of accounts to 31 December 2011

TO APPROVE THE QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW TO 31 DECEMBER 2011:

FG 5716 Moved by Councillor Kellett
Seconded by Councillor Helsby and
Resolved to approve the quarterly budget review to 31 December 2011.

TO RECEIVE THE QUARTERLY REPORT FROM INTERNAL AUDIT TO 31 DECEMBER 2011:

FG 5717 Moved by Councillor S. Rock
Seconded by Councillor McCartin
Resolved to receive the quarterly report from internal audit to 31 December 2011.

TO CONSIDER A QUOTATION FROM HW AUDIO FOR PROVISION OF SOUND EQUIPMENT AMOUNTING TO £255 FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AND £198 FOR THE

LIGHTING OF THE CIVIC CHRISTMAS TREE SERVICE

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FG 5718 Moved by Councillor Baxendale
 Seconded by Councillor Thomson and
 Resolved to approve the quotation from HW Audio for provision of sound
 equipment amounting to £255 for Remembrance Sunday and £198 for the
 Lighting of the Civic Christmas Tree Service.

TO CONSIDER A QUOTATION FROM RIVINGTON AND ADLINGTON BRASS BAND AMOUNTING TO £350 FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

FG 5719 Members were informed that there had been a 6% increase from 2011, due to
 increased insurance costs and the cost of instruments. Although some members
 felt it was important to support a local band, the Assistant Town Clerk was asked
 to obtain a quote from the Farnworth and Walkden band for comparison
 Moved by Councillor Kellett
 Seconded by Councillor McGeehan
 Resolved to defer a decision to approve the quotation from Rivington and
 Adlington Brass Band amounting to £350 for Remembrance Sunday until a quote
 had been provided by Farnworth and Walkden Band.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED

FG 5720 Accounts for payment as presented and amounting to £6,901.32 were approved
 as moved by Councillor Baxendale and seconded by Councillor Thomson.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION

FG 5721 a. Letter of thanks from Horwich Heritage for grant of £750
 b. Grant received from Bolton Council for £250 towards cost of
 Christmas lighting scheme
 c. Grant received from Horwich Resource Centre Management Committee
 For £800 towards sponsorship of Horwich in Bloom 2011
 d. Mayoral Chain: cost of refurbishment reduced to £406.14
 e. BT: offer to take up fixed price 2 year contract before 31 March at
 present price
 f. Horwich Fairtrade Group meeting 10 January: thanks expressed for
 financial support from Town Council: Fairtrade event 25 February
 ‘Stepping Out’ coffee morning at various churches in Horwich.
 Moved by Councillor Baxendale
 Seconded by Councillor Thomson
 Resolved to note the Town Clerk's report.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

FG 5722 Meeting with Horwich Rotary

Councillor McGeehan reported that following a meeting with Horwich Rotary Club, the next step was to identify a suitable site for a project. The suggestion of using graffiti panels with a monthly competition was discussed, but not thought to be appropriate. Other suggestions were the replanting of the flowerbed on

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Scholes Bank and the planting of the flowerbeds beside the Public Hall, although it was noted these had been subject to vandalism in the past. The possibility of sponsorship of a roundabout had also been mentioned. A problem with litter on Mansell Way had been identified and it was confirmed that Bolton Council had been made aware of this, as there were cost implications, as work would involve the closure of a traffic lane. Again the issue of toilet provision was raised and it was acknowledged there would be a massive capital cost involved. Members felt that it should be delegated to a separate sub-committee, of Horwich Town Councillors and some representation from ward councillors.

TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AS
MONDAY 12 MARCH 2012

FG 5723 Moved by Councillor McGeehan
 Seconded by Councillor Root and
 Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Committee as
 Monday 12 March 2012

IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS ABOUT TO BE
DISCUSSED, IT IS ADVISABLE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT THE PRESS AND
PUBLIC BE TEMPORARILY EXCLUDED, AND, IF PRESENT, ARE INSTRUCTED TO
WITHDRAW.

FG 5724 Moved by Councillor Thomson
 Seconded by Councillor Baxendale
 Resolved to exclude.