

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Thursday, 20 September, 2012 commencing at 7.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors: J. J. Lavin (in the Chair), M. Downes, C. Flanigan, K. Helsby, K. McGeehan, L. Rock, S. Rock, K. Thomson  
Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson  
2 members of the public  
1 member of the press

**CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY PROCEDURE**

PL 3162 Councillor Lavin outlined the procedure.

**TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS**

PL 3163 Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Kellett who was attending a Mayoral engagement, Councillor Root due to work commitments and Councillors Baxendale, McCartin and Ramamurthy due to illness.

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

PL 3164 None.

**TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER, 2012.**

PL 3165 Moved by Councillor Thomson  
Seconded by Councillor Helsby and  
Resolved to approve the amended minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 August 2012.

**BOLTON COUNCIL: PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS (TRAFFIC ORDER 313023) ST JOHN STREET/CAPTAIN STREET:**

PL 3166 Members were being asked for comments about proposed waiting restrictions in town centre car parks. The views of ward Councillors, Head of Parking, Representatives of the police and emergency services and the Passenger Transport Executive had been noted and no objections had been received.  
The proposals are additional no waiting at any time restrictions in Back Captain Street, Back Winter Hey Lane and one side of St John Street.  
It was generally agreed that since the three hour restriction came into force it was much easier to park in both car parks. In response to concerns expressed about the problems for traders who wished to unload and load up outside their businesses, the Town Clerk informed Members that an assurance had been received from the highways department that this could continue. It was agreed that there would be a need to request that this should be clearly and

accurately signed. Members did not wish to see local businesses harmed by extensive restrictions.

Proposed by Councillor McGeehan

Seconded by Councillor Helsby

**Resolved to move out of Committee**, to allow members of the public to speak.

A local business owner expressed his satisfaction that the practice of traders loading and unloading at the rear of their property would continue, as otherwise these restrictions would lead to more parking on side streets, affecting local residents, along with the practical difficulties involved for business owners.

There were concerns expressed about the adequacy of the lighting on these car parks with regard to safety and security, along with the problem of rubbish dumping due to inadequate rubbish bin provision.

It was agreed that it was very important to encourage visitors to come to Horwich and there was some resistance to the three hour restriction. It was felt that the no return policy within 24 hours was unreasonable as many businesses make deliveries throughout the day, therefore a shorter no return time should be implemented. It was also pointed out that many residents may be unaware of this restriction.

Doubts were expressed as to whether local traders had been properly consulted by Bolton Council, prior to these restrictions being implemented, however it was confirmed that they had been consulted. A suggestion was made to invite local businesses to future meetings of the Council, as past attempts to engage the local business community had not been successful. It was pointed out that it would be easier for the Council to communicate more effectively with local traders if some sort of business forum or chamber of trade could be set up.

It was also accepted that the public are quite often unaware of where responsibility for certain matters lie, although it is usually Bolton Council, as the unitary authority for Horwich, and as a result do not know where to go to report a problem or complain.

The members of the public present were thanked for their comments.

Proposed by Councillor McGeehan

Seconded by Councillor Thomson

**Resolved to return to Committee**

Members agreed to make the following comments to Bolton Council:

1. Members would like to know if, and how many traders were consulted prior to initial three hour restriction being implemented and wish to request that the no return within 24 hours be amended to two hours.
2. Although Members have no objections to the proposed additional restrictions, they would request that signage should make clear that unloading/loading will still be

allowed for businesses.

3. Members would like to request improvement to the lighting in these areas along with provision of rubbish bins

Proposed by Councillor Thomson

Seconded by Councillor Helsby

Resolved unanimously to request that the Town Clerk inform Bolton Council Highways department of these comments, in writing, by 10 October, 2012.

#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Town & Country Planning Act 1990, Sch 1, Para 8

TO DISCUSS THE PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PARISH:

PL 3167

88537/12

8 Ealand Chase

Erection of first floor extension above garage.

There had been no objections.

Proposed by Councillor S. Rock

Seconded by Councillor Helsby

Resolved to support this application by 8 votes to 0.

88566/12

The Linkway

Erection of building to form one A3 restaurant unit and one A1/A3/A5 unit included amended parking, layout and associated works.

The original application had been amended to include the addition of a take away unit within the proposed existing floor space. Additional information concerning the applicant's justification of the proposed uses without resulting in the demise of the town centre was not yet available and Members were concerned that they were again being asked to reach a decision based on insufficient information.

Concerns were also expressed at the loss of parking spaces in a sometimes extremely congested car park at certain times and wanted these comments to be passed to the planning department.

Proposed by Councillor McGeehan

Seconded by Councillor Helsby

Resolved to support this application by 7 votes to 1

88571/12

5 – 7 Longworth Road

Prior notification for the installation of equipment cabinet

This was for a high speed BT broadband cabinet resulting in faster broadband speeds.

Proposed by Councillor McGeehan

Seconded by Councillor S. Rock

Resolved to support this application by 8 votes to 0.

88572/12

Pavement at side of 24 Winter Hey Lane

Prior notification for the installation of an equipment cabinet.

This was an application for a similar installation as the previous application, in a different location.

Proposed by Councillor S. Rock

Seconded by Councillor McGeehan

Resolved to support this application by 8 votes to 0.

88584/12

46 Winter Hey Lane

Change of use and conversion of shop into one two bedroom dwelling

No objections had been received. In response to a query from Highways it was confirmed that parking spaces would be within the curtilage of the building and access provided on to St John Street via an existing gate.

Proposed by Councillor S. Rock

Seconded by Councillor McGeehan

Resolved to support this application by 8 votes to 0.

88596/12

Amartis, 4 Factory Hill

Certificate of lawfulness for proposed erection of single storey extension.

There had already been a large extension added to this property and some Members expressed concerns at the increasing use of such applications, used when alterations have been done without having prior planning permission, or when halfway through construction. The Town Clerk had queried the reason for this with the planning department but the response received had been insufficient.

Concerns were expressed with regard to the recent changes in planning regulation, as they raised the prospect of the building of large extensions without planning permission and the possibility of the local authority being able to make alterations to permitted development in conservation areas.

Proposed by Councillor Helsby

Seconded by Councillor McGeehan

Resolved to support this application by 8 votes to 0.

88602/12

35 The Linkway

Erection of four internally illuminated signs

Proposed by Councillor Helsby

Seconded by Councillor Thomson

Resolved to support this application by 8 votes to 0.

88649/12

1 Aspinall Court

Erection of a boiler enclosure and flue

Proposed by Councillor McGeehan

Seconded by Councillor Thomson

Resolved to support this application by 8 votes to 0.

CONTRARY

PLANNING DECISIONS:

PL 3168

None

Correspondence: FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

PL 3169

- a. Bolton Council: construction of pedestrian crossing at Chorley Old Road/Mill View
- b. Asif Adam: copy email to Bolton Planning re objections to commercial development at Kildonan House surgery
- c. Letter from business owner in Horwich about the condition of town centre footpaths and pavements and Town Clerk's reply
- d. Horwich Fairtrade Group: email about forthcoming events and appeal for volunteers to help at Fairtrade events

Moved by Councillor Helsby

Seconded by Councillor Thomson

Resolved that the correspondence be received.

TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING AS THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER 2012:

PL 3170

Moved by Councillor Lavin

Seconded by Councillor Helsby

Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 18

October 2012

OTHER PLANNING MATTERS: FOR INFORMATION ONLY

PL 3171

Enforcement Update

An update on enforcement action concerning the proliferation of vehicles with new signage on Chorley New Road, this may now be a police matter.

The Chairperson, thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.23pm.

.....  
Chairperson

.....  
Date

