

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall on Monday, 9 January, 2012 commencing at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: C. A. Root (in the Chair), P. Baxendale, C. Flanigan, K. J. Helsby, J Kellett, J. J. Lavin, L. McCartin, K. McGeehan, and K. Thomson.
The Town Clerk, Mrs Linda Challenger

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

FG 5691 Councillor Root outlined the procedure.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS

FG 5692 Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Ramamurthy due to other commitments, from Councillors Cornthwaite and Rock due to work commitments and from Councillor Downes due to illness.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 DECEMBER, 2011.

FG 5693 Moved by Councillor Helsby
Seconded by Councillor McCartin and
Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 December, 2011.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE INTERNET ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 22 DECEMBER, 2011

FG 5694 Moved by Councillor Kellett
Seconded by Councillor Lavin and
Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Internet Advisory Committee held on 22 December, 2011.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

FG 5695 None.

TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FROM HORWICH HERITAGE FOR A GRANT TOWARDS ROOM RENTAL COSTS AMOUNTING TO £1,500 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2012/2013.

FG 5696

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Councillor Helsby declared a personal interest as a member of Horwich Heritage.
Moved by Councillor Thomson
Seconded by Councillor McCartin and
Resolved to approve the requested financial support, in principle, subject to

budget approval at the meeting of the Town Council on 26 January.

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM HORWICH CARNIVAL FROM THE 2012/2013 BUDGET

FG 5697 It was noted that no amount had been stated.

Moved by Councillor Helsby
Seconded by Councillor Thomson and
Resolved to approve, in principle, financial support subject to budget approval at the meeting of the Town Council on 26 January.

TO CONSIDER A QUOTATION FROM LEACH BRIELY, ACCOUNTANTS FOR THE PROVISION OF QUARTERLY AUDIT OF £420 A QUARTER AND £300 FOR YEAR END SCRUTINY AND ASSISTANCE FOR 2012/2013.

FG 5698 The Town Clerk had contacted Leach Briely about the quotation for quarterly audit as this was showing an increase of 5% over the present year. Leach Briely had offered to retain this charge for 2013/2014 if accepted.

Moved by Councillor Baxendale
Seconded by Councillor Helsby and
Resolved to approve the quotation from Leach Briely, Accountants for the provision of quarterly audit of £420 a quarter and £300 for year end scrutiny and assistance for 2012/2013.

TO CONSIDER A QUOTATION FROM GARY TAYLOR FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2012/2013 FOR PHOTOGRAPHY RETAINER AND WEB SITE MAINTENANCE OF £250 AND ALSO WEB SITE HOSTING AT THE REDUCED COST OF £200 FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2012 TO 31 DECEMBER 2012.

FG 5699

Moved by Councillor Thomson
Seconded by Councillor McCartin and
Resolved to approve the quotation from Gary Taylor for photographer retainer and web site maintenance of £250 for the financial year 2012/2013 and also web site hosting at the reduced cost of £200 for the period 1 January, 2012 to December 2012.

CONSULTATION: BOLTON COUNCIL: DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACE ORDER FOR THE BOROUGH OF BOLTON

FG 5700 Copies of the consultation had been circulated to all Members. Bolton Council, in exercise of its power under the Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulation 2007 proposed to raise a borough-wide Order, the effect of which will be to provide the Police with the power to require a person, in a designated place, not to drink in that place. There were a number of premises types where this would not apply, eg premises with a licence for the

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sale or supply of alcohol. The order would affect all open air spaces such as parks, roads, highways, alleyways and footpaths but would not affect people drinking in their own gardens or in private property etc.

Bolton Council also proposed to revoke the ten existing Designated Public Place Orders for the Borough of Bolton, one of which was The borough of Bolton (Horwich) Designated Public Place Order 2007.

Moved by Councillor Baxendale

Seconded by Councillor Helsby and

Resolved to support this proposal.

TO DISCUSS THE OFFER OF ASSISTANCE FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF HORWICH FOR A PROJECT TO BENEFIT YOUTH

FG 5701

Moved by Councillor McGeehan

Seconded by Councillor Baxendale and

Resolved to ask the Town Clerk to liaise with the Rotary Club of Horwich to arrange a meeting with Councillors Kellett, Baxendale and McGeehan when ideas including a youth shelter could be discussed.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED

FG 5702 The accounts for payment as presented and amounting to £10,445.34 were approved as moved by Councillor Baxendale and seconded by Councillor Thomson.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

FG 5703

- a. Lancashire & Mersey County Training Partnership: Finance Workshop: 8 February 2012. Cost £25. Penwortham, Preston. Details circulated to all Members. Noted.
- b. Town Mayor's Chain – quote requested for general maintenance/safety. The links in the chain needed urgent repair. The Town Clerk had subsequently raised an order with Fattorinis for repairs to links and re-plating amounting to £537.04. Noted.

Moved by Councillor Baxendale

Seconded by Councillor Thomson and

Resolved to note the Town Clerk's report.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

FG 5704

Standards Committee

Councillor Flanigan had produced a detailed written report that was circulated to Members at the meeting.

The Localism Bill proposed the following changes:

The Standards Board for England would cease to operate.

Councils would no longer be required to have a Standards Committee

The National Code of Conduct for elected Members would be dispensed with.

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Councils would be allowed to adopt voluntary codes.

It would appear the Bill gave Councils no powers to take any action in

respect of a breach of the local code. Three of the ten general principles of public life have been removed altogether. These were: honesty, respect for others and duty to uphold the law.

Bolton Council was considering working alongside AGMA to develop a Core Standard including Local Codes. Council was being asked to decide if they supported the creation of a Standards Committee and, if so, whether they wanted to continue to have representation on it. General support for the creation of a Core Standard, retention of a local Standards Committee with representation by the Council was expressed. Town Clerk to note that this matter should be discussed during the meeting of the Town Council on 26 January.

Deputy Town Mayor attending an event on behalf of the Town Mayor
Councillor Kellett had attended a fund raising event for Derian House on 23 December. She had been asked to thank the Town Mayor for his donation and the donation of raffle prizes from which nearly £600 had been raised.

TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AS MONDAY, 13 FEBRUARY, 2012.

FG 5705

Moved by Councillor Baxendale
Seconded by Councillor Helsby and
Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Committee as Monday, 13 February 2012.

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

FG 5706

Moved by Councillor Helsby
Seconded by Councillor Thomson and
Resolved to exclude.