

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall on Monday, 2 April, 2012 commencing at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: C. A. Root (in the Chair), P. Baxendale, M. Downes, K. J. Helsby, J Kellett, J. J. Lavin, L. McCartin, K. Ramamurthy, L. Rock, S. Rock and K. Thomson.

The Assistant Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

FG 5739 Councillor Root outlined the procedure.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS

FG 5740 Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Cornthwaite, Flanigan and McGeehan due to work commitments.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 MARCH, 2012.

FG 5741 Moved by Councillor S.Rock  
Seconded by Councillor Baxendale and  
Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 March, 2012, with an amendment that the apology for lateness from Councillor Thomson was removed and a apology received due to attendance at another meeting.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STAFFING SUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 MARCH 2012:

FG 5742 Moved by Councillor L.Rock  
Seconded by Councillor Thomson and  
Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Staffing Sub Committee held on 12 March 2012

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUB COMMITTEE FOR TOILET PROVISION HELD ON 22 MARCH:

FG 5743      Proposed by Councillor Kellett  
                  Seconded by Councillor McCartin  
                  Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Sub  
                  Committee for Toilet Provision held on 22 March 2012

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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FG 5744      None.

TO WELCOME REPRESENTATIVES FROM HORWICH ST MARY'S PRIMARY  
SCHOOL AND TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH  
FUNDING FOR A VISIT TO FRANCE BY YEAR 6 PUPILS:

FG 5745

Councillor Helsby declared a personal interest as a Governor of St Mary's R.C. Primary School

Councillor Root welcomed Mrs Elaine Travers and Mr Jake Watkiss to the meeting. Mrs Travers explained that the residential visit to France for Year 6 pupils had attracted all 34 pupils in the class and explained that the benefits of the trip would be wide ranging, cultural and educational. Jake Watkiss had been on last year's trip and explained how the various activities, including visiting a war cemetery and learning French had been of great benefit to him when he had moved up to high school. The total cost of the trip would be £13,600. The school was facing considerable demand on its own resources due to a number of pupils who were facing deprivation due to financial hardship. The school had received a donation from the church, but there was a shortfall of approximately £900, although it was stressed that the school would be grateful for any amount. It was noted that the school had received a grant of £1,000 towards the same trip last year and some Members felt it was not appropriate to provide further financial assistance, as it may appear unfair to other primary schools.

Councillor Root and the rest of the Council thanked Elaine Travers and Jake Watkiss and they left the chamber

Following a discussion about an appropriate level of support, given the level of deprivation within the school impacting on school funds it was Moved by Councillor Baxendale

Seconded by Councillor McCartin

Resolved by 8 votes to 1 vote with 2 abstentions to award a grant of £1,000 to St Mary's R.C. Primary School towards the costs of the trip to France by Year 6 from the Child and Youth Projects Budget, with the condition that they should be informed that it may not be possible for Council to offer any further financial assistance, for future years, as this is the second year of support and other schools must have a chance to be considered.

**TO DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF BOTH THE DIAMOND JUBILEE AND THE OLYMPIC TORCH INCLUDING THE USE OF THE £3,000 MAXIMUM BUDGET AGREED AND ANY ADDITIONAL OPTION FROM THE CHILD AND YOUTH INITIATIVE FUND:**

FG 5746 Members discussed the option of distributing commemorative items and it was agreed that the cost of providing either mugs or book tokens was too prohibitive. An alternative suggestion of providing bookmarks for all primary school pupils in Horwich was not thought to be suitable. It was agreed that other suggestions such as confectionary and pencils were inappropriate on health and safety grounds.  
Proposed by Councillor Downes  
Seconded by Councillor Thomson  
Resolved to allocate an offer of £100 to each of the six primary schools for Diamond Jubilee/Olympic Celebrations, with the Press to be informed and a letter sent to all six to offer support. It was noted that the Olympic Torch will pass through Horwich at the Crown roundabout at approximately 7.10 am on 1 June.

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ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 5747 Accounts for payment as presented and amounting to £22,413.40 were approved  
as moved by Councillor Root and Councillor S. Rock.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

FG 5748 L.A.L.C.: Quality Parish Scheme Workshop on 23 May 2012:  
March Newsletter. Noted  
b. Letter from Julie Hilling MP re a constituent's concerns about Horwich Market. Referred to Bolton Council  
c. Email from Mr and Mrs Ashton thanking the Mayor and Mayoress for their visit on the occasion of their Golden Wedding anniversary  
d. Bolton Licensing Unit: Premises application no. 260: variation of licence for the Queens Head public house for use of rear beer garden and extension of front area by 2m. Noted  
  
Moved by Councillor Root  
Seconded by Councillor S. Rock  
Resolved to note the Town Clerk's report

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

FG 5749

Town Mayor

Councillor Baxendale informed everyone that tickets were available for his fund raising event on 18 April in aid of the R.N.L.I.

TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING AS MONDAY 14 MAY 2012:

FG 5750

Moved by Councillor Kellett

Seconded by Councillor Helsby

Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting as Monday 14 May 2012

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chairperson .....

Date .....

