

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

PRESENT: Councillors: S. Rock (in the Chair), P. Baxendale, M. Downes, K. Helsby, J. Kellett, J. Lavin, L. McCartin, L. Rock, and K. Thomson.
Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson
Councillor K. McKeon, Bolton Ward Councillor
1 member of the public
Representative from Groundwork, Lucy West

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE THE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 5784 Councillor Rock outlined the procedure

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 5785 Apologies were accepted from Councillors Flanigan, McGeehan and Root due to work commitments

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 JUNE 2012:

FG 5786 Moved by Councillor Helsby
Seconded by Councillor L. Rock
Resolved to approve the minutes of the Committee held on 11 June 2012

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HORWICH RESOURCE CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 JUNE 2012:

FG 5787 Moved by Councillor McCartin
Seconded by Councillor Thomson
Resolved to approve the minutes of the Resource Centre Management Committee meeting held on 12 June 2012

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HORWICH IN BLOOM ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 JUNE 2012:

FG 5788 Moved by Councillor L. Rock
Seconded by Councillor Baxendale
Resolved to approve the minutes of the Horwich in Bloom Advisory Committee held on 12 June, 2012.

TO WELCOME A REPRESENTATIVE FROM GROUNDWORK AND RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE APPLICATION FOR THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND – PARKS FOR PEOPLE GRANT TO CONSERVE AND SECURE INVESTMENT IN THE RIVINGTON TERRACED GARDENS SITE:

FG 5789

Members welcomed Lucy West from Groundwork to the meeting to receive an update on the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The bid is in its initial stage which involves consultation with the community through a community forum along with consultation with visitors on site. There has been a lack of a long term management plan for the site and substantial investment will be required to improve the usage of the site.

The application details two broad parameters, that full restoration is not an option, but there will be partial restoration of the existing structures and there are no plans for any commercial development i.e. a visitor centre on the site.

The main points of the application are as follows:

1. There are heritage considerations such as sympathetic conservation of existing structures i.e. summerhouses and bridges
2. An emphasis on educational content due to the history and heritage of this unique site
3. Requirement for improvement to pathways and access, including DDA compliance in some areas
4. Further engagement with the local community through learning opportunities with local schools, Rivington and Blackrod High School and Rivington Primary have already been involved
5. Production of a long term management plan with the acceptance that parts of the site have become naturalised over the years and some tree thinning will be necessary to open up the site further.

Three community drop-in meetings have already taken place and stakeholder meetings will continue along with user surveys in libraries and on site. It will not be known until December whether the bid has been successful.

Members expressed concerns regarding the involvement of the landowners, United Utilities, as it was generally felt that they had failed to provide adequate maintenance of the site over many years. Groundwork confirmed that, if the bid was successful, in partnership with United Utilities, there would be a 25 year management plan for the site put into place.

Members did generally agree that any investment was better than none at all and were pleased to learn of the sympathetic plans for restoration along with the assurance that there would be no commercial development on the site. They were also pleased to learn of the excellent heritage and educational opportunities that would be available once the funding was in place.. They hoped that the bid would be successful and thanked Ms West for her attendance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

FG 5790

Moved by Councillor L Rock

Seconded by Councillor Thomson

Resolved to move out of Committee to allow a member of the public to speak.

Moved by Councillor Thomson

Seconded by Councillor McCartin

Resolved to return to Committee.

On return to Committee, it was noted that an initial meeting of the

'Friends of Ridgmont' group was to take place at 7.30pm on 25 September at Horwich Resource Centre. Councillor McKeon was thanked for providing Council with this information.

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

FG 5791 Councillor Helsby declared a personal interest as a member of Horwich RMI Social Club for the next item on the agenda.

: TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM HORWICH RMI CRICKET CLUB UNDER 13s UNDER THE CHILD AND YOUTH PROJECTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOWARDS THE COST OF A TRIP TO THE NATIONAL NORTHERN ENGLAND FINALS:

FG 5792 It was reported that the under 13s team had enjoyed a successful season and had continued to progress at both local and national level. Members felt that it was important to give support to these young people.
Moved by Councillor Baxendale
Seconded by Councillor Downes
Resolved to award a grant of £250 to Horwich RMI Cricket Club Under 13s under the Child and Youth Projects budget by 8 votes to 0 with 1 abstention.

TO APPROVE THE DATE OF CIVIC SUNDAY AS 19 MAY 2013:

FG 5793 Moved by Councillor Baxendale
Seconded by Councillor Thomson
Resolved to approve the date for Civic Sunday as 19 May 2013

TO APPOINT A REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF LALC FOR 2012 – 2013:

FG 5794 Moved by Councillor McCartin
Seconded by Councillor Helsby
Resolved to appoint Councillor Root to serve as representative on the Executive Committee of LALC for 2012 – 2013.

TO APPOINT A MAXIMUM OF FIVE VOTING MEMBERS TO REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE LALC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO TAKE PLACE AT COUNTY HALL PRESTON COMMENCING AT 1.45PM ON SATURDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2012:

FG 5795 It was moved by Councillor Downes
Seconded by Councillor McCartin
Resolved to appoint Councillor Root and the Town Clerk to represent Council at the LALC Annual General Meeting to take place at County Hall, Preston commencing at 1.45pm on Saturday 10 November 2012. Any other Members

wishing to attend should contact the Town Clerk by 29 August. The Town Clerk will email this information to any Councillors not present.

FG 5796 TO CONSIDER SUBMITTING A RESOLUTION(S) FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION BY THE DELEGATES ATTENDING THE LALC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 10 NOVEMBER 2012:

Moved by Councillor Helsby

Seconded by Councillor Thomson

Resolved that any Member wishing to propose a resolution to contact the Town Clerk by deadline of 29 August. The Town Clerk will email this information to any Councillors not present.

TO DISCUSS THE NEW CODE OF CONDUCT AND REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS, AS ADOPTED BY BOLTON COUNCIL IN JULY 2012, WITH AMENDMENTS FOR USE BY HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL:

FG 5797 After some discussion members agreed that the content of these documents was very similar to the previous Code of Conduct, with one proposed addition. The Town Clerk was due to attend a meeting with Helen Gorman on the 15 August and would report back to Members, with a view to Council adopting the new Code at the earliest opportunity, at Town Council on 23 August.

Moved by Councillor Thomson

Seconded by Councillor Baxendale

Resolved to adopt the new Code of Conduct and Register of Members' Interests at the Town Council meeting on 23 August, subject to advice received from the Town Clerk.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 5798 The accounts for payment as presented and amounting to £11,254.54 were approved as moved by Councillor Baxendale and seconded by Councillor McCartin.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

FG 5799

- a. Horwich Heritage: agenda for AGM held 12 June 2012: minutes of AGM 2011; reports from Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer
- b. Update on Friday Night Fitness Zone
- c. Letter of thanks from Horwich Visiting Service for donation of £500
- d. Email of thanks from Wright Place Luncheon Club for donation of £150
- e. Letter of thanks from Horwich Ladies Bowling Club for donation of £100
- f. LALC: information about risk assessment, employment and community engagement workshops.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

FG 5800 Town Mayor

The mayor reported that she had enjoyed a very successful start to her civic year, having already attended 40 engagements. She informed members that she had

produced a diary of photographs and press cuttings which would be available for perusal at each meeting.

FG 5801

TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AS MONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2012:

Moved by Councillor Helsby

Seconded by Councillor Thomson

Resolved that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Monday 10 September 2012.

The meeting closed at 8.18pm

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Chairperson

Date