

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall on Monday, 10 December, 2012 commencing at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors: C. Root (in the Chair), K. Helsby, J. Kellett, J. Lavin, L. McCartin, K. Ramamurthy, K. Thomson
Bolton Ward Councillors: A. Cunliffe, K. McKeon, R. Silvester
Representatives from Rivington and Blackrod High School: Amanda Ferson, Shaun Holden, Michelle Howard.
Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE THE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

FG5852 Councillor Root outlined the procedure

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG5853 Councillor Thomson expressed his thanks to all Councillors and staff, and especially the Town Mayor who had recently attended Mrs Thomson's funeral. He had been very touched to see Councillors from all political parties there and thanked them for their attendance.

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Baxendale, Downes and L. Rock due to illness, from Councillor S. Rock due to work commitments and Councillor Flanigan who was away. who had another commitment.
Resolved to accept the apologies as presented.

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

FG5854 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 November, 2012.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

FG5855 None

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

FG5856 None

Resolved to move the order of business to discuss agenda item 9.

TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FROM RIVINGTON AND BLACKROD HIGH SCHOOL FOR A PROJECT DURING 'FAIRTRADE WEEK 2013' TO PROMOTE FAIRTRADE PHILOSOPHY IN LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS AT A COST OF £460 FROM CHILD AND YOUTH INITIATIVES:

FG5857

Members received a brief overview from representatives from Rivington and Blackrod High School. The project was planned for Fairtrade Week in 2013. It would consist of 2 days of activities, organised and planned by high school pupils for the benefit of younger children from the feeder primary schools in the Horwich and Blackrod area. The aim was to raise awareness of Fairtrade in the local community and how the process works. Activities would include cookery sessions and tee shirt dyeing. Approaches had already been made to the Co-Op and the Emerson Group and other organisations for sponsorship.

Members felt that this a worthwhile project at a relatively low cost. It was made clear that Horwich Town Council would only authorise funds for this project for schools in the Horwich Parish area. Any request for additional funding for primary schools in Blackrod should be addressed to Blackrod Town Council

Resolved to award a grant of £460 to Rivington and Blackrod Grammar School towards the cost of a project promoting Fairtrade to primary school children in Horwich at a cost of £460 from Child and Youth Initiatives.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2012:

FG5858

Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Grants to Voluntary Groups Sub Committee held on 22 November 2012.

TO RECEIVE THE UPDATED TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF USE AS AGREED AT AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE RESOURCE CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2012:

FG5859

Resolved to receive the updated terms and conditions of use as agreed at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Resource Centre Management Committee held on 9 September 2012.

TO DISCUSS CONCERNS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES INCLUDING NOTICES OF FINES FOR DOG FOULING, ISSUES ABOUT STREET SIGNAGE AND LACK OF STREET LIGHTING:

FG5860 Members discussed these issues at some length. It was generally felt that the vast majority of dog owners were responsible and it was a small percentage causing the problem. It was thought that if dog warden services had been cut back, it would have an effect the enforcement of both fines issued and subsequent prosecutions for dog fouling and allowing dogs to stray. It was suggested that possibly the Town Council might wish to assist with the provision of street signs if required.

Members discussed street signage generally and it was queried whether this was part of the town centre improvements promised by Bolton Council or whether the budget had now been lost. It was suggested that existing posts in various parts of the town centre which had held signs for Horwich Market could be utilised for new signage.

It was agreed that the time taken to repair street lighting had improved recently, and it was noted that that members of the public were encouraged to report faulty street lighting to Bolton Council.

Concerns were also raised about illegal parking, especially by drivers on double yellow lines at bus stops, causing problems for the elderly and disabled. Members felt that it would be useful to get an update from Bolton Council on these and other issues and decide what were the priorities and consider making provision in the budget for these areas.

Resolved to ask the Town Clerk to contact Bolton Council Environment Enforcement to attend a future meeting to provide an update on these and other issues that had been raised.

TO APPROVE THE QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2012:

FG5861 Resolved to approve the quarterly statement of accounts to 30 September 2012.

TO APPROVE THE QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2012:

FG5862 Resolved to approve the quarterly budget review to 30 September 2012

TO APPROVE THE QUARTERLY REPORT FROM INTERNAL AUDIT TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2012:

FG5863 Resolved to approve the quarterly report from internal audit to 30 September 2012

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG5864 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as presented and amounting to £13,858.64.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG5865
- a. Councillor K McGeehan: resignation received and acknowledged and vacancy to be posted.
 - b. Horwich Carnival Committee: thanks for grant award of £300 from twinning budget
 - c. LALC: Newsletter December 2012
 - d. Network Rail: formal notification for the purpose of section 42 (a) of the Planning Act 2008 for the Ordsall Chord rail link.

Resolved to note the information presented in the Town Clerk's Report.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

FG5866 Town Mayor:
The Town Mayor reported that she was very busy attending many events in the run up to Christmas. She had been especially pleased at the success of the recent Lighting of the Civic Christmas Tree which had been well organised and very well attended. The Rotary Christmas sleigh had been present and hospitality had been provided by the Crown Hotel. She also expressed her thanks to the band from Rivington and Blackrod High School, the choir from St Mary's RC Primary and the Reverend Jennifer McKenzie for conducting the carol service and the police for attending.

TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AS MONDAY 14 JANUARY 2013 AT 7.30PM:

FG5867 Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting as Monday 14 January 2012 at 7.30pm
Councillor Root declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Chairperson.....

Date.....