

## HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall on Monday 14 April 2014 commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors: C. Root (in the Chair), K. Denton, K. Helsby, J. Kellett, L. McCartin, K. McKeon, A. Morley, K. Ramamurthy, S. Rock, J. Silvester, R. Silvester.  
Town Clerk: C. Hutchinson  
Bolton Ward Councillor: A. Cunliffe  
Ben Williams, Project Manager, Groundwork Lancashire West and Wigan.

### CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE THE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 6091 Councillor Root referred to the procedure that was outlined in the information provided.

### TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 6092 Apologies were accepted from Councillor Thomson due to a family commitment and Councillor L. Rock due to illness.

Resolved unanimously resolved to accept the apologies as presented.

### TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2014:

FG 6093 Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2014.

### TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE SPORT AND CULTURE SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 MARCH 2014:

FG 6094 Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Sport and Culture Sub Committee held on 10 March 2014.

### TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HORWICH RESOURCE CENTRE SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 4 MARCH 2014 AND 8 APRIL 2014:

FG 6095 Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Horwich Resource Centre Sub Committee held on 4 March 2014 and 8 April 2014. Members were especially pleased to learn of the initiative to provide fortnightly drop in sessions in partnership with the Citizens Advice Bureau commencing on 9 May.

### TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STAFFING SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 4 APRIL 2014:

FG 6096 Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Staffing Sub Committee held on 4 April 2014.

TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FLAG GROUP HELD ON 21 MARCH 2014 AND 8 APRIL 2014:

FG 6097 Members were informed that a group of three had met with a vexillologist from the Flag Institute who had produced several designs for consideration, however none of these had been thought to be suitable. The majority of Members were of the opinion that the Council's official coat of arms should be represented on the flag, as it was instantly recognisable as the symbol of both the Council and the town of Horwich. The vexillologist had advised that approval would be required from the Flag Institute before a design could be used. Following discussion about the requirement for registering a new flag design it was agreed to seek further clarification from the Flag Institute before proceeding further and Councillor Root agreed to do this.

Resolved unanimously to withdraw the recommendations of the Flag Group and to obtain clarification on the position regarding legality of registration of a flag design before further discussion.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

FG 6098 None.

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

FG 6099 None.

TO WELCOME MR BEN WILLIAMS, PROJECT MANAGER AT GROUNDWORK LANCASHIRE WEST AND WIGAN TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON RIVINGTON TERRACED GARDENS:

FG 6100 Mr Williams thanked Members for giving him an opportunity to provide an update on the application by the Rivington Heritage Trust to the Heritage Lottery Fund to seek investment for the Chinese Gardens. Rivington Heritage Trust was set up in the late 1990s with the help of United Utilities, as a strategic board made up of representatives from local councils, United Utilities and other interested parties, with Groundwork working on its behalf. In 2012 it applied to the lottery panel but lost out to another major investment application. In 2013 the application was re-submitted and passed stage one of the process, indicating that the competitive element had been won. The next stage is to work on the detail of the application with proposals for understanding the heritage aspect and to set out the principles, which will then go to the public for comment and debate. RHT are targeting a detailed proposal for the end August 2014 to go to HLF for a decision by Christmas 2014.

It is significant that the original structure of the gardens is still intact and visible in some places and this has driven the conserve and repair approach

of the project. Surveys have shown that users like the ruined atmosphere of the area and it is important to preserve this for future generations, while at the same time investing in rebuilding some of the existing derelict structures. The Trust are aware of the major constraints of an overstretched infrastructure in the Rivington and Horwich area and along with Lancashire Highways are looking at options to mitigate any negative impacts.

In response to Members' queries:

- Confirmed there is no intention to replant everything and views obstructed by woodland would be opened up again, with restoration of the historic landscape in keeping with the ecosystem
- Confirmed United Utilities had committed £450,000 investment over five years and RHT were seeking a 50 year lease in order to safeguard future public access
- With regard to disability access issues it was confirmed that reasonable adjustment would be made within the constraints of the site and what is both practical and sympathetic to the site which, due to its location can never be fully accessible.

It was noted that more information was available either on the website [www.rivingtonheritagetrust.co.uk](http://www.rivingtonheritagetrust.co.uk), or [www.facebook.com/rivingtonTG](http://www.facebook.com/rivingtonTG) or on twitter@rivingtonTG Mr Williams was thanked by Members for his interesting and informative update and left the meeting at this point.

TO APPROVE THE COST OF 10 TRI-SIGNS FOR HORWICH AT A COST OF £500 AND SUPPLY OF POOP SCOOP BAGS FOR DISTRIBUTION AS PART OF A 'DOG FOULING CAMPAIGN' THROUGHOUT HORWICH, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BOLTON COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT:

FG 6101      Examples of the tri-signs had been distributed to Members and it was noted that these would be amended to say 'Horwich' instead of 'Bolton' and would compliment signage on existing litter bins as part of the effort to eradicate littering and dog fouling in Horwich.

Resolved unanimously to approve the cost of 10 tri-signs for Horwich at a cost of £500 and supply of poop scoop bags for distribution as part of a 'Dog Fouling Campaign' throughout Horwich in partnership with Bolton Council Environmental Enforcement Unit.

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM HORWICH CARNIVAL COMMITTEE FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF £2,500 TOWARDS THE COST OF CARNIVAL EVENTS IN 2014:

FG 6102      While some Members wished to continue to provide financial assistance to support Carnival events, as in previous years, other Members expressed concerns that there was a lack of financial information and details of 2014 events and also expressed surprise that the Carnival Committee

were requesting assistance from the Town Council following a successful grant application of £10,000 from Awards for All for 2014.

Following lengthy discussion it was resolved by 7 votes to 3 with 1 abstention to defer a decision on this matter until the meeting of the Town Council on 24 April and the Carnival Committee to be asked to provide the relevant financial information in the form of a current bank statement and additional information about proposed Carnival events in time for the meeting.

#### TO APPOINT THE TOWN MAYOR FOR 2014 – 2015:

FG 6103 Proposed by Councillor Morley, seconded by Councillor J. Silvester and resolved by 9 votes to 0 with 2 abstentions to appoint Councillor Richard Silvester as Town Mayor of Horwich for 2014 – 2015.

#### ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 6104 Resolved unanimously to approve the accounts for payment as presented and totalling £ 9,019.79

#### TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 6105
- a. LALC: newsletter March 2014.
  - b. Two Towns Area Forum: minutes of meeting held on 11 March 2014.
  - c. Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Greater Manchester: letter re application to the Ethics Committee.
  - d. Transport for Greater Manchester: emails to Town Clerk re. bus terminus at Lever Park Avenue.
  - e. Letter from Mr Ken Chaisty: proposal for lighting up of Rivington Pike for future events.
  - f. Friends of Horwich Football: email correspondence following the initial meeting of the Sports and Culture Sub Committee on 10 March 2014.
  - g. Horwich Fair Trade Group: letter of thanks for grant award of £250.
  - h. Redeeming Our Communities: invitation to all Members to community consultation event at Horwich Resource Centre on 27 May 2014.

Resolved unanimously to note the Town Clerk's Report.

#### REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

FG 6106 None.

#### TO AGREE A DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AS 12 MAY 2014:

FG 6107 Resolved unanimously to agree the date of the next meeting as 12 May 2014.  
The meeting closed at 8.58 pm

CHAIR.....

DATE.....