

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Horwich Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall on Thursday, 16 May 2013, commencing at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors: C. Root, Town Mayor (in the Chair), K. Denton, C. Flanigan, K. Helsby, J. Kellett, L. McCartin, K. Ramamurthy, L. Rock, S. Rock, R. Silvester and K. Thomson
 Town Clerk, Ms C Hutchinson
 Mayor and Mayoress of Bolton
 Town Mayor and Mayoress of Blackrod
 Town Mayor and Mayoress of Westhoughton
 Deputy Town Mayor and Mayoress of Adlington
 The Mayor's Clergy Reverend S. Fletcher and Reverend K Lafferty
 Approximately 30 invited guests.
 3 members of the press.

TO APPOINT THE TOWN MAYOR FOR 2013/2014

AM 168 In moving Councillor Root as Town Mayor for 2013/2014 Councillor S. Rock spoke about her early life, she was born in Hounslow Middlesex and attended Heston Secondary Modern School. When offered the career choice of either working in a factory or joining the army, Councillor Root signed on in 1970 and served as a radar operator in the Women's Royal Army. On leaving the Army four years later her career path became quite varied as she worked as bus conductor, petrol pump attendant and traffic warden. Her career path then took a different direction when she went to work in the public sector for Bradford Council, followed by Places for People and the Housing Corporation. Since first starting to work in the field of equality in 1984, Councillor Root is now one of the leading public sector equality and diversity consultants in the country and has received many awards for her work. She made the decision to move to Horwich in the 1980s and was elected as a Town Councillor two years ago and Chairs the Finance and General Purposes Committee as well as sitting on a number of other Council Committees.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Helsby spoke of the positive contribution Councillor Root has made in the short time that she has served on Horwich Town Council. In her role as Chairperson of Finance and General Purposes Committee, the timeframe of her office has been characterised by both great change and great progress and she is held in high esteem by members of the Council and the other organisations she has helped to serve. Through her personality, commitment and positive approach and enormous capacity for work Councillor Root has made a great contribution to Horwich and she is especially interested in helping young people and this may feature in her term of office as Mayor and she is

wished every success with this and with her year ahead as Town Mayor of Horwich.

It was unanimously resolved to appoint Councillor C Root as Town Mayor for 2013/2014.

UNDERTAKING BY THE TOWN MAYOR TO OBSERVE THE CODE OF CONDUCT THAT IS EXPECTED OF MEMBERS OF THE HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

AM 169 Councillor Root signed the declaration that was then witnessed by the Town Clerk.

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE THE EVACUATION PROCEDURE IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE:

AM 170 Councillor Root referred to the copies of the instructions for fire evacuation procedure including the requirement for visitors to sign the attendance register if they had not already done so.

OPENING PRAYERS CONDUCTED BY REVEREND STEPHEN FLETCHER

Opening prayers were offered by Reverend Stephen Fletcher

APPOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

AM 171 Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Downes and Councillor Lavin due to ill health.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

AM 172 None.

TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2012/2013.

AM 173 Copies had been circulated to all Members.
Resolved unanimously to approve the Annual Report for the year 2012/2013.

PRESENTATIONS TO RETIRING TOWN MAYOR AND MAYORESS

AM 174 The Town Mayor presented the retiring Town Mayor with an engraved medallion and the retiring Town Mayoress with a brooch.

APPOINTMENT OF TOWN MAYORESS FOR 2013/2014.

AM 175 Councillor Root was pleased to announce that Ms Patricia Holmes would be her Town Mayoress.

TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS

AM 176 Councillor Root thanked both Councillor S. Rock and Councillor Helsby for proposing and seconding her for appointment as Town Mayor and thanked Ms Patricia Holmes for agreeing to become the Town Mayoress. She paid tribute to the hard work of the two Town Mayors who had been in office since she had become a Councillor, the late Peter Baxendale and his wife Frances for their elegance and the retiring Town Mayor Councillor Joyce Kellett for her enthusiasm and energy. She also thanked the Council's staff for their help and support and the retiring Town Mayor for all of her support during her year as Deputy. Councillor Root said she was very much looking forward to being Town Mayor and as well as continuing the work done by the retiring Mayor in helping local Horwich charities, she was also looking forward to the development of a youth council, if should it be approved by Council.

Finally Councillor Root thanked the members of her family and her friends who had travelled long distances to be at the meeting and looked forward to greeting everyone at the reception afterwards.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR FOR 2013/2014.

AM 177 Moved by Councillor Helsby
Seconded by Councillor Kellett and
Resolved by 6 votes to 0 with 4 abstentions to appoint Councillor Silvester as Deputy Town Mayor for 2013/2014.

UNDERTAKING BY DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR TO OBSERVE THE CODE OF CONDUCT
THAT IS EXPECTED OF MEMBERS OF HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

AM 178 Councillor Silvester signed the declaration that was then witnessed by the Town Clerk.

TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE TOWN COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL
REGULATIONS

AM 179 Resolved unanimously to approve and adopt the Town Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

TO APPOINT THE FOLLOWING STANDING COMMITTEES ON WHICH ALL MEMBERS
WILL SERVE:

AM 180 a. Finance and General Purposes Committee
b. Planning Committee

Resolved unanimously to appoint all Members to serve on the

Finance and General Purposes Committee and Planning Committee

TO AGREE TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE FOLLOWING SUB COMMITTEES AT THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE ON 10 JUNE, 2013:

- AM 181
 - a. Community Initiatives
 - b. Staffing
 - c. Appeals
 - d. Horwich Official Town Guide
 - e. Grants to Voluntary Organisations
 - f. Civic Awards
 - g. Newsletters
 - h. Finance Review

Resolved unanimously to agree to appoint Members to serve on these Sub Committees at the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to be held on 10 June, 2013.

TO APPROVE THE DATES FOR MEETINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEES FOR 2013/2014.

AM 182 A list of dates had been circulated to all Members.

It was resolved unanimously to approve changing the date of the Town Council and Planning Committees from 20 June to 27 June, as a by election for the vacancy in Bridge Ward was due to take place on 20 June.

It was resolved unanimously to approve the dates for the meetings of the Town Council and Standing Committees for 2013/2014 with the approved amendment.

Councillor Root thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.02 pm.

.....
Chairperson

.....
Date