

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Monday 10 February 2020 commencing at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: M. Brady (in the Chair), I. Aldcroft, M. Baines, J. Bostocksmith, S. Burke, A. Coward, K. Denton, S. Denton, D. Grant, C. Rotheram, S. Rock, G. Stone, P. Wright.
C. Hutchinson, Town Clerk.

Members observed a minute's silence in memory of Mr Ian Hamilton, former Town Mayor and town councillor.

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 7115 Councillor Brady outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 7116 Resolved to accept apologies from Councillor Chadwick.

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

FG 7117 None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT MAY PUT QUESTIONS OR MAKE OBSERVATIONS REGARDING MATTERS IN RELATION TO WHICH THE TOWN COUNCIL HAS POWERS OR DUTIES OR WHICH AFFECT THE PARISH. MAXIMUM PERIOD 15 MINUTES:

FG 7118 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2020:

FG 7119 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13 January 2020.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL STEERING GROUP ON PROGRESS TO DATE:

FG 7120 Councillor Grant, on behalf of the Youth Council Steering Group reported that both high schools had responded positively to the letter which had been sent out detailing the council's plans for a youth council and that an initial meeting would be arranged for after the half term break.

Resolved to note the report from the Youth Council Steering Group on progress to date.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE HORWICH TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN CONSULTATION PROCESS:

FG 7121 It was reported that consultation on the Draft Masterplan had gone live online with hard copies available at various locations. Two drop-in events had already taken place with deadline for submission of all questionnaires on 23 February 2020. Councillors were asked to encourage members of the public to take part in the consultation to highlight which improvements were

required at the present time rather than in the future. Time permitting Councillor Brady was hoping to contact local shop and business owners to arrange a meeting before the deadline for submissions.

Resolved to note the update on the Horwich Town Centre Draft Masterplan consultation process.

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE A NEW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN TO GO FORWARD TOWARDS ACCREDITATION UNDER THE LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME:

FG 7122 Copies of a draft Engagement Strategy and Action Plan had been sent to all members. These would form part of the accreditation for the Local Council Award scheme (LCAS) which lasts for four years. The Action Plan included suggestions for a three year plan for the present council, some of which are attainable through budget provision in 2020 – 2021, with others requiring longer term planning. Management and improvement of Green Lane playing fields is an important part of the council's current and future plans, with other suggestions for child and youth activities noted.

Resolved to approve the new Community Engagement Strategy and Action Plan to go forward towards accreditation for a Quality Award under the Local Council Award Scheme

TO CONSIDER ENDORSEMENT FOR HORWICH CYCLING CLUB'S SAFETY CAMPAIGN FOR CYCLISTS:

FG 7123 Resolved to endorse Horwich Cycling Club's Safety Campaign for Cyclists and also to encourage education for cyclists of all ages and mutual respect from both cyclists and motorists when sharing the road.

TO APPROVE THE CONTINUATION OF VARIABLE DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS TO UTILITY SUPPLIERS, AS PER THE COUNCIL'S MODEL FINANCIAL REGULATIONS 6.7:

FG 7124 Resolved to approve the continuation of variable direct debits to utility suppliers as per the council's Model Financial Regulations 6.7.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 7125 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £25,366.26 as follows:

Petty Cash	£30.00
BBB Printing (Staff ID badge, holder and lanyard for Melissa Aarnio)	£7.08
Parish and Town Training (Planning and Effective Meetings training for Councillors Aldcroft and Stone)	£100.00
Sentinel Environmental (Asbestos re-inspection survey at Horwich Community Centre)	£120.00

Bolton Council (Charges for running 2019 town council elections)	£7,309.18
Bolton Council (Horwich Christmas lights 2019)	£7,800.00
Horwich Town Council (Salaries and wages account)	£10,000.00

Payments to Sentinel Environmental were made in accordance with LGA 1976 (Misc Provisions) s19 and to Bolton Council for Christmas lights under LGA 1972 s142. In response to a query about the printing costs for ballot papers as part of the charges from Bolton Council for running the 2019 town council elections, Councillors Brady and Wright offered to investigate this matter on behalf of the town council.

TOWN CLERKS REPORT (EMAILED TO MEMBERS) – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 7126
- a. Grant monitoring/feedback forms: Horwich Royal British Legion, Horwich and District Hub, Horwich Public Hall Ladies' Bowling Club, Friday Lunch Club and Tuesday Lunch Club.
 - b. GMP: details of police surgeries January – March 2020.
 - c. Bolton and South Lancashire Community Rail Partnership: January 2020 update; 'A Song for Horwich' article by Paul Salvesson.
 - d. LALC: invitation to nominate the Town Mayor and Mayoress for the ballot for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party 12 May 2020.
 - e. Chorley New Road Primary School: invitation to the official opening on 22 February 2020.
 - f. Summary of councillors' casework.

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

FG 7127 Town Mayor's Report

The Town Mayor reported that he had attended two events since his last report. The first was the Bethel Crowd's performance of their pantomime "Frosted" at Westhoughton United Reform Church and as always was both excellent and well attended. The second was at Blackburn Cathedral for a Sequence of Words and Music for Epiphany to Candlemas.

Horwich Ward Councillors

Information was provided on: consultation process on the Draft Masterplan for the town centre ongoing until 23 February 2020, Bolton Council budget to be agreed soon, awaiting Peel's response following refusal of latest planning application for Golf Club site, query regarding ownership of land off Lever Park following a speculative planning application for housing development

Reports from Representatives (as per the approved list):

Councillor Grant informed members that due to time constraints, the VE Day Celebrations Group had decided on the production of a limited amount of information packs which would include information on street parties, some history and various VE Day events taking place in Horwich. This would be actioned through Horwich Heritage who had been advised to apply for grant funding from the town council and other sources.

The reports were noted.

IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS ABOUT TO BE TRANSACTED IT IS ADVISABLE THAT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC SHOULD BE TEMPORARILY EXCLUDED AND IF PRESENT ASKED TO WITHDRAW