

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Thursday 24 February 2022 held in the Council Chamber, Horwich Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich commencing at 7.18 pm.

PRPRESENT Councillors: S. Denton (in the Chair), I. Aldcroft, M. Baines, J. Bostocksmith, M. Brady, S. Burke, S. Chadwick, A. Coward, D. Grant, C. Rotheram, G. Stone, S. Williamson.
Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson.

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE FIRE AND SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

TC 4058 The Town Mayor outlined the procedure.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

TC 4059 Resolved to accept apologies from Councillors Rock and Wright.

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

TC 4060 None.

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

TC 4061 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2022:

TC 4062 Resolved to note the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 20 January 2022.

TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EVENTS STEERING GROUP THAT ALL MEMBERS OF HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL ORGANISE EVENTS FOR THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2 – 5 JUNE 2022 IN EACH OF THEIR RESPECTIVE WARDS, WITH ALL PROPOSITIONS AND REQUESTS FOR FUNDING TO BE PRESENTED TO THE EVENTS STEERING GROUP FOR CONSIDERATION, TO ENSURE THAT ALL WARDS ARE FULLY SUPPORTED AND ALSO THAT HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL WILL PROMOTE ALL EVENTS ON ITS WEBSITE AND ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

TC 4063 Members were informed that since this recommendation had been made, it had been decided to reduce events to a more manageable number and three suitable sites had been looked at including St Mary's Football Club, Horwich RMI Cricket Club and Cedar Avenue Field. Permission would have to be obtained from Bolton Council who owned the land at Cedar Avenue. Both the football and cricket clubs had shown an interest in hosting events which would include large inflatables and other family-themed entertainment, refreshments, stalls etc. Councillor Grant had contacted an events company

and it had been confirmed that it would provide public liability insurance and trained staff for all events, subject to confirmation from Bolton Council regarding the Cedar Avenue site.

In view of new information received and the time sensitivity of this matter, it was resolved to approve the amended recommendation that the Town Council's Events Steering Group, assisted by all Members of the Council organises events in Horwich at three separate locations during the Platinum Jubilee bank holiday weekend 2 – 5 June 2022, subject to written confirmation of public liability responsibility for all three events, with further information, including costs for approval to be brought to Council as a matter of urgency.

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM COUNCILLOR CHADWICK THAT HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL WRITES A LETTER TO SUPPORT A BID FOR HORWICH AS THE NEW HOME OF GREAT BRITISH RAILWAYS, THE NEW NATIONAL BODY FOR THE RAILWAYS AND THAT COUNCILLOR CHADWICK PREPARES THE DRAFT LETTER TO BE FORWARDED TO THE TOWN CLERK:

TC 4064 Councillor Chadwick informed Members that Great British Railways, the new body that will absorb National Rail and is looking for a suitable location for its new headquarters in a place with a rich railway heritage and good transport links. Horwich meets the criteria, as a former centre for locomotive engineering, developing some of the most pre-eminent railway individuals of the last century and playing a part in the implementation of the existing railway network. There would also be the added benefit of new jobs to the town, it would be part of the development of the former Loco Works site and the proposal had the full support of the local MP.

The first stage of the process was submission of an expression of interest and it was confirmed that this was being done by Bolton Council as the unitary authority. The final version would be ready on 4 March for agreement for submission on 11 March and would be taken forward by the Regeneration Team. It was noted that there was a 5,000 word limit for the submission, so it would not be helpful to duplicate this content in any letter from the Town Council.

Resolved to approve Councillor Chadwick's request that Horwich Town Council writes a letter of support for consideration of Horwich as the new home of Great British Railways in support of Bolton Council's expression of interest in this matter, Councillor Chadwick to prepare the draft letter and forward it to the Town Clerk.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AS PRESENTED:

TC 4065 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as and amounting to £13,539.44 as follows:

Blacksheep Business Communications*

£27.42

(Phone and internet provision 01/12/22
- 28/02/22)

Namesco Ltd (Renewal of cpanel starter for www.horwich.gov.uk)	£1119.99
HR Solutions* (Monthly HR retainer)	£187.08
Tameside MBC - GMPF (Pension contributions February)	£1,383.58
HM Revenue and Customs (PAYE tax month 10)	£1,821.37
Internal transfer to Salaries & Wages	£10,000.00

Payments to Namesco Ltd were made in accordance with LGA
1972 s142.

TO CONFIRM THE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
AS 24 MARCH 2022:

TC 4066 Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Town
Council as 24 March 2022.

The meeting closed at 7.34pm.

Chairperson..... Date.....

