

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Thursday 24 March 2022 commencing at 7.15 pm.

PRESENT Councillors: S. Denton (in the Chair), I. Aldcroft, J. Bostocksmith, M. Baines, M. Brady, D. Grant, C. Rotheram, G. Stone, S. Williamson, P. Wright
Deputy Town Clerk, C. Morris.
Councillor S. Baines, Ward Councillor Horwich & Blackrod
Councillor K. McKeon, Ward Councillor Horwich North East
Councillor R. Silvester, Ward Councillor Horwich North East
1 member of the public.

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE FIRE AND SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

TC 4067 Councillor Denton outlined the procedure.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

TC 4068 Resolved to accept apologies from Councillors Burke, Chadwick, Coward and Rock

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

TC 4069 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 4070 Councillor Denton informed the meeting that as Councillor Chadwick, as proposer of agenda items 10 and 11 had given his apologies and was not present, these proposals were subject to point 1 C of Standing Orders 'A motion on the agenda that is not moved by its proposer may be treated by the Chairman of the meeting as withdrawn.'

In response to a query it was pointed out that this was at the discretion of the Chair and Councillor Denton confirmed that she would allow discussion of these matters during Public Participation and that agenda items 10 and 11 would not be withdrawn.

Resolved to move out of committee to allow members of the public to speak.

Several members of the public present expressed their views on this matter with all expressing disappointment that Bolton Council's submission to host the Great British Railways Headquarters had not included Horwich as a potential location. It was agreed that Horwich Town Council should have been involved in the application process and kept fully updated, so as to provide a clearer understanding of the reasons why an alternative location had been put forward by the officers who had assessed the criteria and produced the application.

The Town Council had placed great emphasis on the town's railway heritage, however it was pointed out that deliverability of the project based on all of the stated criteria was extremely important. There was a suggestion that there was the possibility that GM may now threaten to take the bid away from Bolton. It was noted that a successful bid for Bolton would benefit Horwich as well by bringing skilled and highly paid jobs to the whole of the borough.

Resolved to move back into committee.

Members expressed their frustration and disappointment that Horwich had not been included in the bid in addition to Bolton town centre and also that Horwich Council had not been informed by Bolton Council about their decision and had only been told that Bolton Council had put in a bid for Bolton town centre two days after it had been submitted and that the reasons should have been explained in the Bolton Council meeting held the previous evening.

The view that Bolton would be unlikely to win the bid was expressed. It was felt that if Bolton Council had an issue with the proposed location within Horwich then they should have consulted with Horwich Town Council to find a resolution.

Councillor Brady confirmed that she had seen the draft bid on 14 March and had commented on it before it had been submitted. It was unclear who else had seen the draft as a request had to be made to view it. It was disappointing when an idea did not get taken forward but it was important to trust the judgement of experienced officers who had written the bid.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY 2022:

TC 4071 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 24 February 2022.

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY 2022:

TC 4072 Resolved to note the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24 February 2022.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 MARCH 2022:

TC 4073 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Grants to Voluntary Sub Committee held on 8 March 2022.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE HORWICH COMMUNITY CENTRE SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 MARCH 2022:

TC 4074 Resolved to approve the minutes and the recommendations of the meeting of the Horwich Community Centre Sub Committee held on

16 March 2022.

TO APPROVE THE COSTS FOR ADDITIONAL ENTERTAINMENT AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE WEEKEND EVENTS 2-4 JUNE 2022:

TC 4075 It was noted that overall costs for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend events 2-4 June 2022 had not yet been submitted, however costs for a group to supply entertainment over the three-day period had been circulated via email with the current amount standing at £4128-00.

TO CONSIDER SETTING UP A WORKING PARTY TO DRAFT A LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE, EXPLAINING WHY HORWICH IS BEST SUITED FOR THE GREAT BRITISH RAILWAY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS:

TC 4076 Resolved to set up a working party comprising of Councillor Chadwick and Councillor Grant to draft a letter to the Secretary of State, explaining why Horwich is best suited for the Great British Railway National Headquarters. The Deputy Town Clerk advised Members that all correspondence on behalf of the Council, before being signed by the Chair of the Council is checked by the Proper Officer of the Council to ensure the correctness of its contents.

TO CONSIDER THAT COUNCILLOR CHADWICK DRAFTS A LETTER EXPRESSING HORWICH TOWN COUNCILS THOUGHTS ON BOLTON COUNCILS DECISION REGARDING THE GREAT BRITISH RAILWAYS EOI:

TC 4077 Resolved for Councillor Chadwick to draft a letter expressing Horwich Town Council's disappointment on Bolton Council's decision to exclude Horwich from its Great British Railways EOI, in spite of its long railway history and to state that its previous support for Bolton's bid is now null and void. The Deputy Town Clerk again advised Members that all correspondence on behalf of the Council, before being signed by the Chair of the Council is checked by the Proper Officer of the Council to ensure the correctness of its contents.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AS PRESENTED:

TC 4078 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as and amounting to £12,160.43 as follows:

Blackstone Business Communications* (Phone and internet provision 1/3/22 – 31/3/22)	£27.44
HR Solutions* (Monthly HR retainer)	£187.08
Nationwide Franking Sense (Quarterly rental – Ricoh copier)	£187.36
Quarterly rental – Xerox copier)	£351.00

Leach Brierly Accountants (Completion of payroll from 01/12/21 - 28/02/22. Auto enrolment compliance services. Real time initiative compliance services)	£222.00
Horwich Community Centre (VAT reclaim 1/7/21 – 30/9/21)	£455.56
Tameside MBC-GMPF (Pension contributions March)	£1437.45
HMRC (PAYE Tax Month 11)	£1,811.02
<u>LGA 1972 s137</u>	
1471 Horwich Air Training Corps	£326.52
Horwich Harvest Project	£270.00
Horwich RMI Bowling Club	£500.00
Rivington Heritage Trust	£485.00
Beacon Primary School	£600.00
KD's Over 50's Men's Club	£300.00
Transfer to Salaries & Wages	£5,000.00

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

