

## 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 January 2022 commencing at 7.30 pm

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

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 7368 Councillor Brady outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 7369 Apologies were accepted from Councillors Burke, Stone and Wright.

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

FG 7370 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 7371 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2021:

FG 7372 In response to a query it was confirmed that Members had been appointed to the Events Steering Group at a previous meeting. Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 6 December 2021.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR BRADY ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR HORWICH:

FG 7373 Councillor Brady reported that progress had slowed but an email had been sent to Councillors regarding staying on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and thanked them for their responses. Councillor Brady was currently recovering data from her old laptop and unfortunately the recent planned meeting had to be cancelled, however this would be rescheduled on Zoom to allow for people who did not want to attend in person, after which an in-person meeting could be arranged. Due to ill health, a new Secretary was required and data would have to be retrieved. All Councillors were asked to look out for an email from Councillor Brady in the next couple of days. Councillor Chadwick asked if the flip chart boards used at previous meetings could be removed from his house and Councillor Brady confirmed that she would take them to be kept with other items.

Councillor Brady's update was noted.

TO RECEIVE AND NOTE S10, PART 3 OF THE GOOD COUNCILLOR'S GUIDE 2021 AND HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS REGARDING MEETING PROTOCOL - FOR INFORMATION:

FG 7374 It had been recognised that meetings recently had been quite disorganised and that it was important to note this information for future reference and that all meetings should be conducted in a proper manner, particularly when members of the public were present. Members were reminded that all remarks should be addressed through the Chair and that conversations between Members across the Chamber should not be taking place during the meeting and also that inappropriate or offensive language should not be used.

There was a reminder that the Town Council is a consultee on planning matters and does not have the power to either approve or reject applications. There had recently been an item on the planning agenda at Bolton Council concerning a planning application that had been discussed at Horwich Town Council with the affected resident stating that it had been refused. The Chair of the Planning Committee had explained that Horwich Town Council does not have the power to either approve or reject planning applications but can only comment, only Bolton Council can make this decision.

The Town Clerk informed Members that any residents who contact the office prior to the meeting and wishing to speak are always advised about planning protocol and that the Town Council is a consultee in the process and can comment and make a recommendation only and that decision to either refuse or approve is made by Bolton Council as the local planning authority. It was commented that the terminology used could be seen as misleading, although it was pointed out that the meeting resolution states that Council has made a recommendation to either approve or refuse an application. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would draft a statement to outline the planning protocol and clarify the position of the Council which would be read out by the Chair of Planning at the start of the meeting when members of the public were present.

The information was noted.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 7375 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £1,472.00

Leach Briely Accountants (Completion of payroll 1/9/21 – 30/11/21. Auto Enrolment and Real Time Initiative Compliance Services)	£222.00
Transfer to Town Mayor's Account	£1,250.00

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

- FG 7376
- a. Rivington Heritage Trust: Rivington Visitor Centre Nature Reserve Final Report 2021.
  - b. LALC: Annual Report.
  - c. Summary of Town Councillors' casework.

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

FG 7377 a. Town Mayor of Horwich

The Town Mayor reported that she had enjoyed a busy month. There had been a fantastic turnout at Remembrance Sunday and she had also enjoyed attending the service at Adlington later in the day and the Deputy Mayor had attended services at Bolton and Blackrod on her behalf. The Town Mayor's Cadet had also been invested on Remembrance Sunday. The Mayor had also attended two church Christmas fairs, a food charity event at Tesco and enjoyed a tour of Alliance Learning. The Lighting of the Civic Tree went very well as did the Gingerbread House competition at the Community Centre. The Mayor had enjoyed the Gorton Monastery service which included a brass band performance and had also attended the Wright Place Lunch Club Christmas dinner and presented the Council's Young Horwich Community Champion award to Helena Flanagan at Town Council in December.

The Deputy Town Mayor had attended the Muscular Dystrophy Fundraiser Concert which had included a performance by the Hoover Brass Band.

b. Horwich Ward Councillors

Councillor Grant reported as follows:

- a new community bin had been installed on Vale Avenue
- gully cleaning operations had been carried out on Leicester Avenue due to water cascading onto the playing fields
- corroded railings on Nuttall Avenue had been reported to Streetcare

Councillor Wright had emailed his report to the Town Clerk and this had been forwarded to all Members for information.

Councillor Brady reported as follows:

- the campervan on Georges Lane had finally been removed with assistance from the police and Highways, however two caravans had now appeared behind Telford Street.
- issues on Hopwood Avenue with a resident complaining about collection of the green bag containing dog waste had now been resolved by liaison with Bolton Council.
- planning application 12372/21 mentioned earlier in the meeting had been approved by Bolton Council
- removal of knotweed was planned on the Loco Works site between the railway cutting and Dickinsons banking up to the bridge with remedial work to follow, work was expected to take six weeks and Councillor Brady has asked for Ward Councillors to be involved once TMP has been received
- a decision on the Clean Air Zone was deferred at Bolton today following the protest by taxi drivers which had gridlocked the town centre. The item will be back on the agenda at the next meeting.
- liaison was continuing with Highways and the Environment Agency about Fox and Millers operation which is causing massive problems on Matchmoor Lane. Roadsweepers from Bolton Council

and Armstrongs have been going out to clean the road. Although the operation passed planning permission, the TMP does not appear to be being adhered to.

- Despite bad weather the Christmas Treasure Hunt was well attended and was good for the town.

d. Representatives on Outside Bodies

Councillor Rotheram provided an update on Rivington and Brinscall Advisory Group which had not met for some time accompanied by a lack of communication.

Councillor Denton reported that she had been unable to attend meetings of Horwich Angels.

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.