

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 14 February 2022 commencing at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: M. Brady (in the Chair) I. Aldcroft, M. Baines, J. Bostocksmith, S. Burke, S. Chadwick, A. Coward, S. Denton, D. Grant, C. Rotheram, G. Stone. C. Hutchinson, Town Clerk.
Mr Neil Brown, Representative - Horwich Festival of Racing

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 7381 Councillor Brady outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 7382 Apologies were accepted from Councillors Rock, Williamson 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 7383 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 7384 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 JANUARY 2022:

FG 7385 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 10 January 2022.

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM MR NEIL BROWN ON HORWICH FESTIVAL OF RACING 2022 AND FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR GRANT FUNDING OF £4,000 FROM THE SPORT, SOCIAL AND CULTURE BUDGET FOR 2022 - 2023:

FG 7386 Councillor Stone declared an interest as a member of Horwich Festival of Racing Committee and that he would not take part in the voting.

Resolved to move out of committee.

Neil informed Members that due to the pandemic it had not been possible to run Festival of Racing events for the last two years and there was now a pent-up demand from participants wishing to take part. The Committee were enthusiastic about planning a similar programme of events to previous years and also to work with the Carnival Committee to arrange the Carnival Parade on the same day as the Races. Events would include national championships for running and walking and there was expected to be a large turnout for the cycling events, with participants coming from all over the country and Eire. It was also planned to emphasise events for children with medals to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Festival of Racing.

Despite the Committee's best efforts, it was proving difficult to keep costs

down with the biggest costs being for traffic/event management, to be able to conform to British Cycling rules and with an approaching deadline to commit to this. There was also the high cost of “chip timing” technology which allows participants to receive instant digital results. In previous years Bolton Council had been the main source of funding but this would be no longer available, which may mean that the Committee will have to use the majority of existing funds to finance this year’s events. It was noted that the Emerson Group had just provided £1,000 funding and it was hoped that Festival of Racing events would stay in Horwich and with the Carnival make a big event for the town in 2022.

Members recognised the importance of the Festival of Racing, unique in the UK and the Carnival and that these events put Horwich on the map. Councillor Brady agreed to bring up the matter of funding with Bolton Council and also to contact Highways regarding the condition of Chorley New Road from the Crown to Winter Hey Lane, as this would not be fully acceptable to British Cycling in its current state. It was expected that the roadworks on Chorley Old Road and Church Street/Lee Lane would be completed before the Festival of Racing events which were taking place from 15 – 19 June. Councillor Grant and Councillor Brady agreed to take up the matter of road closures with Highways with regard to costs involved. Councillor Brady also agreed to check the start and completion dates for the flood attenuation works planned for Station Park. In response to a query, it was confirmed that the gantry at the start and finish of racing events would be taken down to allow the Carnival Parade to pass through.

In response to a query, the Town Clerk confirmed that a grant application form had been sent to the Carnival Committee and that further information regarding Carnival events was yet to be received.

Resolved to move back into committee.

Members were pleased to see that the Festival of Racing and Horwich Carnival back together again after several years and resolved to approve the request for grant funding of £4,000 for Horwich Festival of Racing events for 2022.

Neil was thanked for his presentation and left the meeting at this point.

TO APPROVE THE STATEMENT OF QUARTERLY ACCOUNTS TO THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2021:

FG 7387 Resolved to approve the statement of quarterly accounts to the period ending 31 December 2021

TO APPROVE THE QUARTERLY REPORT FROM INTERNAL AUDIT TO THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2021:

FG 7388 Resolved to approve the quarterly report from internal audit to the period ending 31 December 2021.

TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION THAT THE AUTHORISED SIGNATORIES ON THE CURRENT MANDATE FOR THE COUNCIL’S BUSINESS RESERVE ACCOUNT WITH THE NATWEST BANK BE CHANGED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS 5 AND 6 AND THE CURRENT MANDATE WILL CONTINUE AS AMENDED:

FG 7389 Resolved to approve a resolution that the authorised signatories on the current

mandate for the Council's Business Reserve account with the NatWest bank be changed in accordance with Sections 5 and 6 and the current mandate will continue as amended.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR GRANT INCLUDING AN UPDATE ON FLAGPOLES AND A REQUEST FOR AUTHORISATION TO RENEW QUOTES:

FG 7390 Councillor Grant informed Members that previous quotes obtained in 2019 required revisiting, following agreement from Bolton Council that, alternative suppliers to Robertsons could now be considered, subject to acceptance of liability.

In response to a query from the Town Clerk regarding responsibility for lowering and raising the flag on the new flagpole, Councillor Grant confirmed that Bolton Council Building Support staff would be asked to do this and that also Councillors could also volunteer to do this.

Councillor Grant's report was noted and it was resolved to approve the request to renew quotes for flagpoles.

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM COUNCILLOR GRANT FOR COUNCIL TO DISCUSS FUNDING FOR, AND IDENTIFY SUITABLE LOCATIONS FOR A COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR IN HORWICH TOWN CENTRE AND APPROVE FURTHER ACTION:

FG 7391 The Council had been approached by London Hearts, a national charity who placed defibrillators in local communities and provided small grants for this purpose Councillor Grant informed Members that he would like Council to carry out an audit of and create a list of defibrillator locations in Horwich and identify any gaps and suitable locations. Councillors were asked to obtain this information from within their own wards and send it to the Town Clerk who would collate it.

A quotation of £1,225, which included a £300 grant had been obtained from London Hearts for a public access defibrillator in a heated external locked cabinet, which could be fixed on the exterior wall of a building in the town centre, with an access code provided by the emergency services on dialling 999. Although this was a substantial cost, some Members expressed the view that such a vital piece of life saving equipment should be available and easily accessible for public use 24/7.

Resolved to approve the request for an audit of defibrillator locations in Horwich, produce a list and consider further options when this had been completed.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 7392 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £19,364.96

Direct Workwear (Uniform for caretaking staff)	£36.96
Pixelcreated (Website updates 01.12.21 – 31.01.22)	£50.00
Leach Briely Accountants (Completion of internal audit review for	£510.00

the period ending 31 December 2021)

Kays Traffic Management Systems Ltd (Provision of traffic management for Remembrance Sunday Parade 2021)	£2,178.00
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Hardman and Cain Ltd (Interim payment for supply and installation of 225m safety fencing and ground reinforcement around access points at Green Lane playing fields)	£16,590.00
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Payments to Pixelcreated were made in accordance with LGA 1972 s142 and to Kays Traffic Management Systems Ltd in accordance with LGA 1972 137.

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

- FG 7393
- a. UNISON: Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 – notice to employer of ballot results for industrial action as per independent scrutineer’s report.
 - b. NALC: report on 2021 local (town and parish) council elections.
 - c. Bolton at Home: street naming update on new affordable housing development off Singleton Avenue.
 - d. Bolton Youth and Play Services: update on provision of play sessions in Horwich including half term activity session on Green Lane playing fields.
 - e. Bolton Council: Active travel Capability Fund Consultation for Horwich and Farnworth
 - f. Summary of Town Councillors’ casework.

The Town Clerk’s report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 7394
- a. Town Mayor of Horwich
Councillor Denton reported that it had been a fairly quiet period. She had attended the Mayor of Bolton’s Civic Service and the Town Mayor of Westhoughton’s delayed inauguration. She had met recently with the Town Mayors of Blackrod and Westhoughton and it had been agreed that they would hold a joint charity event at Hilltops in Blackrod before the end of the civic year.
 - b. Horwich Ward Councillors
Councillor Grant reported as follows:
 - Acknowledgement of the work done by the Town Clerk, Councillor Brady and Councillor Burke in progressing the installation of the safety fence on Green Lane which was now nearing completion.
 - Most casework had been in Blackrod, had been relatively quiet in Horwich

Councillor Brady reported as follows:

 - PACT meeting arranged for 18 February at Horwich Library
 - Planning application for demolition of Knowle House Farm refused at Bolton

- Appeal hearing for application for development on the “llama field” off Lever Park Avenue due to take place on 22 February at Bolton Town Hall
- Armstrong’s Pilkingtons Quarry application appeal had been successful
- Tipping on Matchmoor Lane, operators have been told to pay for cleaning
- Flood alleviation measures due to start on Old Station Park and arranging a meeting with Malcolm Russell regarding the future use of the park and also to discuss drainage and pitch on Pickups Field
- Great British Railways headquarters bid, confirmed that Bolton Council would submit an expression of interest before deadline of 11 March
- Consultations on Active Travel and Neighbourhood Policing both active

c. Representatives on Outside Bodies

None.

TO CONFIRM THE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AS 14 MARCH 2022:

FG 7395 Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee as 14 March 2022.

The meeting closed at 8.29pm.

Chair..... Date.....