

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 13 June 2022 commencing at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: D. Grant (in the Chair) I. Aldcroft, M. Baines, M. Brady, S. Burke, S. Chadwick, A. Coward, S. Rock, C. Rotheram, G. Stone, S. Williamson, P. Wright.
C. Hutchinson, Town Clerk.
Steven Wong, Corporate Affairs, United Utilities.
1 member of the public.

TO APPOINT THE CHAIR OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE FOR 2022 – 2023:

FG 7429 Resolved to appoint Councillor Grant as Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for 2022 – 2023. On behalf of Council, Councillor Grant thanked Councillor Brady for all her work as Chair of the Committee for the last three years.

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 7430 Councillor Grant outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO APPOINT THE DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE FOR 2022 – 2023:

FG 7431 Resolved to appoint Councillor Williamson as Deputy Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for 2022 – 2023.

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

FG 7432 Apologies were accepted from Councillor Denton and apologies for lateness were accepted from Councillors Chadwick and Rock.

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

FG 7433 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 7434 None.

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM STEVEN WONG FROM UNITED UTILITIES ON THE PUBLIC SURVEY ON THE RIVINGTON ESTATE:

FG 7435 Resolved to move out of Committee.

Mr Wong informed Members that United Utilities were in the process of carrying out a public consultation with local residents which included 8,000 properties, local businesses and key stakeholders, with the aim of devising a strategy for the ongoing maintenance and future improvement of the Rivington estate. It was acknowledged that there had been a huge increase in visitor numbers due to lockdown with an accompanying increase in anti-social behaviour especially in the evenings. 1,500 feedback responses had been received and the public would

be informed of the feedback in July. Further consultation was planned with both Chorley and Bolton Council highways as it was acknowledged that there was a traffic impact on the wider area, to be followed by a number of public drop-in sessions.

Councillor Rock arrived this point.

It was acknowledged that inconsiderate parking was a problem in the Green Lane area and this had been highlighted in the public responses received. Members raised several queries including the potential sale of a plot of land on Dryfield Lane, a permanent park and ride scheme to encourage less traffic, the possibility of a traffic free day once a month and provision of cycle parking. Mr Wong confirmed that he would pass this queries on to United Utilities for response. It was noted that there were also problems with traffic using Georges Lane, particularly with off- road vehicles in the evenings and it had been suggested that access could be blocked by the installation of a gate, however this would cause a problem for Bolton Mountain Rescue who required constant access.

While it was accepted that the Rivington estate had been left by Lord Leverhulme to be used by the people of Bolton and this still applies, there was a need for balance and compliance with the law, and noting that people live and work in Rivington village. Current usage figures were approximately 1.25 million visitors annually from an enormous radius and United Utilities were looking at different options to manage the estate. Mr Wong confirmed that United Utilities had not reached the stage of considering implementing parking charges but had the opinion that some control was necessary. Any revenue from parking charges would be re-invested in maintaining and improving the estate and United Utilities were looking at all options. In response to concerns raised that local people who used the estate frequently might be priced out, it was confirmed that consideration could be given to a frequent tariff rate for local residents in the BL6 area.

On a positive note, United Utilities hoped to assist Rivington Heritage Trust with the work to continued improvements to the Chinese Gardens which had led to a number of successful concerts and events being held there.

Resolved to move back into Committee.

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

TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR GRANT ON THE UNITED UTILITIES CONSULTATION AND TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL TO WRITE A LETTER OF CONCERN ON THE POSSIBILITY OF CHARGING PARLING FEES FOR THE RIVINGTON ESTATE:

FG 7436 In view of the insight provided by Mr Wong regarding the possibility of car park charges, it was resolved to ask Members to send any comments and concerns to the Town Clerk by 30 June and these would be forwarded to United Utilities.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 MAY 2022:

FG 7437 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 9 May 2022.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BRADY REGARDING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES AND TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS FUNDED FROM THE REGENERATION BUDGET:

- a. The Town Council submits a series of road closures of Winter Hey Lane to facilitate street markets, dates and times to be agreed with local businesses at a cost of £1,100 with additional traffic management costs to be confirmed.
- b. The Town Council sets up a Horwich Town Centre loyalty card scheme to support local businesses by encouraging residents to shop locally as per the recommendations of the meeting of the Environmental Advisory Group held on 20 February.

FG 7438 Councillor Brady informed Members that she had recently met with local businesses who had expressed concerns that Horwich town centre was failing. While it was accepted that this was a nationwide trend and that there had been a move to online shopping especially since lockdown, it was important to show that the Council was willing to try and help. The proposal was for specialist street markets such as makers' market and art exhibitions to be held once a month between 9.00am – 1.00pm on the first or second Saturday of the month on Winter Hey Lane with the road closed between Harrison Street and St John Street.

Councillor Chadwick arrived at this point.

It was noted that there was a balance to be reached between businesses showing more flexibility with the difficulties of running a small business. A trial of late night shopping opening hours was yet to prove successful, although it was felt that it may take time for momentum to gather pace. Members thought that in principle both were good ideas to increase footfall in the town centre, however there were some concerns regarding businesses taking up car parking spaces and traffic management costs. Councillor Brady informed Members that a parking strategy would be introduced as part of town centre regeneration plans in 2023.

Resolved to approve funding in principle for:

- a. A series of temporary road closures on part of Winter Hey Lane at a cost of £1,100 plus temporary traffic management costs.
- b. The setting up of a Horwich shops loyalty card scheme, as per the recommendations of the Environmental Advisory Group held on 20 February 2020.

Councillor Brady confirmed that she would meet with local businesses to take these proposals forward and report back to Council once agreement had been reached.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR GRANT TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO BOLTON COUNCIL FOR THE ADDITION OF THE PUBLIC HALL AND BOWLING GREEN TO THE ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE REGISTER:

FG 7439 Councillor Grant informed Members that although there were no immediate plans for the Public Hall under SAMP proposals, Bolton Council could not give any assurances for the future so it was important to include it on the register to protect its original status as being donated to the people of Horwich for their use. Resolved to submit an application to Bolton Council for the addition of the Public

Hall, bowling green and associated land to the asset of community value register.

TO APPROVE THE COST OF REPLACEMENT CHRISTMAS LIGHTING FESTOONS FOR WINTER HEY LANE AT A COST OF £900:

FG 7440 Resolved to approve in principle the cost of replacement Christmas lighting festoons on Winter Hey Lane at a cost of £900 and that the Events Steering Group are tasked with sourcing costs for additional Christmas lighting features and reporting back to Council at a later date.

TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT FUNDING FROM THE SPORTS, SOCIAL AND CULTURE BUDGET FOR 2022 – 2023:

- a. South East Lancashire Community Rail Partnership - £1,000 towards cost of dedicated Sunday/Bank Holiday bus link between Horwich Parkway and the Rivington Estate.
- b. St Elizabeth's PCC - £2,000 towards costs of replacement church doors and disabled access ramp.

FG 7441 In response to a query the Town Clerk confirmed that these applications had been brought to Council for consideration as they exceeded the maximum £500 that could be recommended by the Grants to Voluntary Groups Sub Committee.

Resolved to approve grant funding of £1,000 to South East Lancashire Community Rail Partnership towards the cost of a dedicated Sunday/Bank Holiday bus link between Horwich Parkway and the Rivington Estate.

Resolved to defer a decision on the application from St Elizabeth's PCC for £2,000 and to request clarification on current disabled access provision in relation to the requirements of existing legislation.

TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE FOLLOWING SUB COMMITTEES FOR 2022 - 2023:

FG 7442

- a. Staffing
Resolved to appoint Councillors Brady, Denton, Grant, Rock, Stone
- b. Community Centre
Resolved to appoint Councillors Aldcroft, Brady, Denton, Grant, Rock, Williamson.
- c. Grants to Voluntary Groups
Resolved to appoint Councillors Aldcroft, Baines, Chadwick, Denton, Rotheram.
- d. Finance Review
Resolved to appoint Councillors Brady, Grant, Rock, Rotheram, Stone, Williamson.
- e. Civic Awards and Civic Signs
Resolved to appoint Councillors Baines, Chadwick, Coward, Rock, Wright.
- f. Marketing and Promotion
Resolved to appoint Councillors Aldcroft, Bostocksmith, Rotheram, Stone, Wright.
- g. Standing Orders
Resolved to appoint Councillors Aldcroft, Grant, Rotheram, Stone, Wright.
- h. Appeals Panel
Resolved to appoint Councillors Aldcroft, Baines, Burke, Chadwick, Williamson.

TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE FOLLOWING ADVISORY/STEERING GROUPS FOR 2022 – 2023:

FG 7443

- a. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Resolved to appoint Councillors Brady, Chadwick, Rotheram, Stone.
- b. Sports Advisory Group
Resolved to appoint Councillors Baines, Brady, Burke, Chadwick, Stone.
- c. Environmental Improvements Advisory Group
Resolved to appoint Councillors Bostocksmith, Burke, Chadwick, Grant, Rotheram.
- d. Youth Council Steering Group
Resolved to appoint Councillors Bostocksmith, Grant, Stone.
- e. Events Steering Group
Resolved to appoint Councillors Chadwick, Rotheram, Williamson

TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE AS REPRESENTATIVES ON THE FOLLOWING
OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2022 – 2023:

FG 7444

- a. Horwich Loco Works Liaison Committee
Resolved to appoint Councillors Baines, Burke and Rotheram.
- b. Horwich Carnival Committee
Resolved to appoint Councillors Burke, Coward and Denton.
- c. Rivington and Blackrod High School Trust
Resolved to appoint Councillors Bostocksmith and Rotheram.
- d. LALC
Resolved to appoint Councillors Bostocksmith and Stone.
- e. Rivington and Brinscall Advisory Group
Resolved to appoint Councillor Rotheram.
- f. Montcliffe and Pilkington Quarry Liaison Group
Resolved to appoint Councillor Stone.
- g. Horwich Angels Management Committee
Resolved to appoint Councillor Denton.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 7445 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £30,678.17

Transfer to Mayor's Charity Account (First payment – mayoral allowance 2022 -23)	£1,750.00
Transfer to Salaries and Wages Account	£10,000.00
Nationwide Capital Finance (Quarterly rental Xerox C450 copier)	£187.36
(Quarterly rental Ricoh IM C200 copier)	£441.00
HM Revenue and Customs (PAYE tax month 2)	£1,794.31
<u>Platinum Jubilee Events 2/3/4 June 2022</u>	
Ron DJ Services	£600.00
Eagley Band	£350.00
JM Entertainment	£11,583.00
S & A Medical Ltd	£250.00
Greens Environmental	£556.80
Falconry UK	£1,309.70
CDS Events	£456.00

James Norton	£600.00
Young Once	£200.00
Nicole Wooff	£50.00
Lori Nicole	£150.00
Callum Harrison	£150.00
Lucy Crear	£100.00
Niall McFadden Music	£150.00

Payments to suppliers for Platinum Jubilee events were made in accordance with LGA 1972 s144 and s137.

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

- FG 7446
- a. Horwich Festival of Racing: email about cancellation of event in 2022.
 - b. Horwich Carnival: email about cancellation of event in 2022.
 - c. Summary of Town Councillors' casework.

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

FG 7447 a. Town Mayor of Horwich

The Town Mayor informed Members that he had enjoyed an extremely busy first month in office. Following his Inauguration and Civic Sunday service and reception, he had attended various events including the launch of the Rivington bus link, a presentation at a local pub for their fundraising efforts as well as several Jubilee events in Bolton and Horwich, including the Town Council's 3-day event over the extended bank holiday weekend. He had been represented at the Horwich Air Cadets presentation evening and a presentation at St Joseph's RC High School by the Deputy Town Mayor.

b. Horwich Ward Councillors

Councillor Brady – flood alleviation measures work sue to start on Station Park in August; Town Centre Regeneration Group to meet in July; Active Travel Forum had submitted comments on De Havilland Way consultation; Hardman and Cain being chased to complete fence installation of safety fence on Green Lane; wildflower sowing on Green Lane.

Councillor Wright – mixed public reaction to De Havilland Way consultation
Councillor Grant – update on leaseholder issues.

c. Representatives on Outside Bodies

Councillor Rotheram to attend next meeting of Rivington and Brinscall Advisory Group.

TO CONFIRM THE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AS 8 AUGUST 2022:

- FG 7448 Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee as 8 August 2022.

The meeting closed at 9.06 pm.

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