

## 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 October 2022 commencing at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: D. Grant (in the Chair) I. Aldcroft, M. Baines, J. Bostocksmith, M. Brady, S. Burke, S. Chadwick, S. Rock, C. Rotheram, G. Stone, S. Williamson, P. Wright.  
C. Hutchinson, Town Clerk.  
1 member of the public.

### CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 7461 Councillor Grant outlined the procedure from the information provided.

### TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

FG 7462 Apologies were accepted from Councillor Denton and an apology for lateness was accepted from Councillor Rock.

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

FG 7463 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 7464 Resolved to move out of Committee.

Members were informed of the difficulties experienced by some elderly residents living in the Sandringham Road/Ainsworth Avenue area due to the extremely steep incline, particularly in the winter months and asked if there was anything that the Council could do to assist such as installing a handrail.

Resolved to move back into Committee.

This was noted and it was confirmed that in the first instance Members could bring this matter as an agenda item to a future meeting as a request to refer to Horwich North East Ward Councillors for their attention. It was confirmed by Councillor Brady that there had been no final decision made by Bolton Council on gritting and it would be assessed on the basis of risk.

Councillor Rock arrived at this point.

### TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 AUGUST 2022:

FG 7465 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 8 August 2022.

### TO RECEIVE A WRITTEN REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR CHADWICK ON MATCH DAY AND EVENT PARKING IN HORWICH AND TO CONSIDER A MOTION THAT HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL MAKES RELEVANT ENQUIRIES TO THE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY AND

REQUESTS A SUITABLE RESOLUTION FROM BOLTON COUNCIL AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS:

FG 7466 Councillor Chadwick verbally reported that he had been contacted by residents in various areas about parking problems on match days. The biggest issue was on the Meadows estate behind Middlebrook. There used to be measures in place to maintain residents only parking on match days but these had gone as the fortunes of the club had declined. As the club had done better recently crowds had returned but there was a marked lack of traffic management. Events at Bolton Arena also caused parking problems but to a lesser degree.

It was confirmed that residents of the Meadows had met with Bolton Wanderers who had agreed to provide signs for use on match days. However, it was expected that the increase in the cost of using the official car parks and the reduction in car park size due to future development would worsen the situation.

Besides the Meadows, other affected areas included Middlebrook View Estate, St Leonard's Avenue, Austin's Lane, Crompton Road, Victoria Road/College Drive and Ainscow Avenue. There was a general issue with inconsiderate and sometimes dangerous parking in Horwich, including school day parking in some areas and also on the bend at the top of Green Lane near Tiger's Clough.

It was agreed that the problem was due to a lack of enforcement by the police, Some drivers were breaking the highway code by parking within 10 metres of a highway junction, but it was not regarded as high priority by the police. It was suggested that this matter could be raised by residents at PACT meetings. Members were informed that Highways TROs had yet to be completed on 120 roads that had been requested by Ward Councillors throughout Horwich to prevent dangerous parking as these were waiting to be assessed by Highways engineers. It was agreed that the onus should be on Bolton Wanderers as match organisers to take responsibility for traffic management.

Resolved that Horwich Town Council writes to Bolton Wanderers expressing concern about match day parking and the effect on local residents and to ask what suitable traffic measures can be put into place to alleviate this in the listed areas and to await a response. If not forthcoming then to seek a response on this matter from Bolton Council.

Also resolved that Horwich Town Council writes to Bolton Council to express concern about inconsiderate/dangerous parking on the bend at the top of Green Lane and to request a suitable resolution.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 7467 In response to a query it was confirmed that the reindeer family Christmas lighting future had been purchased by Councillor Brady at a discounted price to add to the town centre lighting in a suitable location. The Town Clerk was awaiting a response from street lighting to confirm if the feature could be located next to the civic Christmas tree at the Crown roundabout, utilising the existing power source. There had been similar displays in Astley Bridge and Egerton, both of which had escaped being vandalised.

Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £4,374.59

Pixelcreated (Website updates Aug/Sept)	45.00
C. Hutchinson – Petty Cash	70.00
Councillor M. Brady (Re-imburement – Christmas lighting feature)	259.99
Leach Briely Accountants (Completion of payroll & real time compliance services)	279.60
PKF Littlejohn LLP (Completion of AGAR for year ended 31.03.22)	720.00
Horwich Heritage (Grant award)	2,000.00
Transfer to Town Mayor's Charity Account	1,000.00

Payment to Pixelcreated was made in accordance with LGA 1972 s142, to Councillor Brady with LGA s144/s137, to PKF Littlejohn with Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and to Horwich Heritage with LGA 1972 s137/s144.

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

- FG 7468
- a. Record of outstanding motions.
  - b. Bolton Council: notification of partially successful nomination for an Asset of Community Value – Horwich Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich, Bolton BL6 7AR.
  - c. Bolton Council: receipt of nomination for an Asset of Community Value – Chorley New Road 'Pocket Park', land adjacent to 244 Chorley New Road, Horwich, Bolton BL6 5NP.
  - d. Eccleston Homes: residential development on land off Lever Park Avenue, Horwich – public art questionnaire.
  - e. Community Asset Transfer for land at Telford Street, Horwich: notes from a meeting held on 23 August 2022.
  - f. 42<sup>nd</sup> Bolton (St Elizabeth's) Scout Group: feedback form for grant of £300 – March 2020.
  - g. Summary of Town Councillors' casework.

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 7469
- a. Town Mayor of Horwich  
The Town Mayor informed Members about recent events attended, including the refurbished Horwich Stocks, the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Leigh RAFA, a memorial bowling competition in Heath Charnock., reading the proclamation of the new King and the new Horwich Heritage exhibition 'Cricket in Horwich'.

The Deputy Town Mayor had deputised at the proclamation of the new King in Bolton and also at the first anniversary celebration of the Lunch Club at Horwich Community Centre

b. Horwich Ward Councillors

Councillor Brady:

- flood alleviation work in Old Station Park was going well and on schedule for completion at Christmas, also having been re-designed with more trees retained and railway buffers to be re-instated.
- proposal for closure of Winter Hey Lane for monthly street markets was very unlikely to go ahead due to regulations to get a market licence, and additional costs for a generator, seating, cover, unless there was a considerable financial contribution from local businesses. However, the results on traffic modelling on Winter Hey Lane were expected by the end of October.
- confirmed that an application by the Georgian House hotel for use of the premises as a home for 300 asylum seekers, without any local consultation had been refused, with concerns about the welfare of the refugees whose additional needs could not be supported adequately by the existing infrastructure.

Councillor Wright:

- in response to complaints received from residents on Lancashire Way about dust and mud during construction work, street cleaning had been provided. Rivington Chase Liaison Group had confirmed that an old narrow gauge railway line had been dug up and saved.

Councillor Grant :

- following the Town Council's unsuccessful bid to buy land adjacent to 224 Chorley New Road, it had appeared for sale again. Bolton Estates and the Borough Solicitor had been asked why neither Ward Members or the Town Council had not been made aware of this.
- Bolton's decision on winter gritting had been called in by Councillor Grant and would be discussed at a special meeting of the Place Directorate in November.
- Telford Street no longer being considered for disposal under SAMP until the middle of next year and Councillor Grant stated his intention to query this decision at the next meeting of Bolton Council.
- Bolton to be requested to review the decision regarding the Public Hall as an ACV via a future agenda item at Horwich Town Council
- Issues of Lostock Skip Hire placing skips on their car park and causing difficulties with access for residents on and off Butterwick Fields.

c. Representatives on Outside Bodies

Councillor Rotheram:

