

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 February 2023 commencing at 7.15 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: D. Grant (in the Chair) M. Baines, J. Bostocksmith, S. Burke, S. Chadwick, S. Denton, S. Rock, C. Rotheram, G. Stone, P. Wright.
C. Hutchinson, Town Clerk.
2 members of the public

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 7513 Councillor Grant outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

FG 7514 Apologies were accepted from Councillors Aldcroft and Williamson. Apologies for lateness were accepted from Councillors Denton and Rotheram.

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

FG 7515 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 7516 Resolved to move out of Committee to allow a member of the public to speak.

Members were informed about the recent 'It'smental' event attended by a large number of mental health support organisations, many based locally, with next year's event scheduled for 1 March 2024.

Resolved to move back into Committee.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2023:

FG 7517 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 16 January 2023.

TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION THAT COUNCIL RECOGNISES ITS DUTIES IN RELATION TO BIO-DIVERSITY AND CRIME AND DISORDER AND HAS PUT IN PLACE ALL EVIDENCE REQUIRED FOR SUBMISSION TO NALC'S LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME:

FG 7518 A report on this matter had been circulated to all Members.

Resolved that Council recognises its duties in relation to bio-diversity and crime and disorder and has put in place all evidence required for submission to NALC's Local Council Award Scheme accreditation panel.

Action: Town Clerk to submit all evidence required to NALC's Local Council Award Scheme accreditation panel.

TO APPROVE THE STATEMENT OF QUARTERLY ACCOUNTS TO THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022:

FG 7519 In response to a query regarding the building maintenance budget it was confirmed that repairs to address the problem of damp in the Saddlery were expected to take place before the end of February.

Resolved to approve the statement of quarterly accounts to the period ending 31 December 2022.

TO APPROVE THE QUARTERLY REPORT FROM INTERNAL AUDIT TO THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022:

FG 7520 Resolved to approve the quarterly report from internal audit to the period ending 31 December 2022.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR CHADWICK ON COSTS, LOCATION, SIGNAGE, PLANTING MAINTENANCE AND TO APPROVE A RECOMMENDATION FOR THE PLANTING OF THREE TREES AND ASSOCIATED SIGNAGE TO COMMEMORATE THE PLATINUM JUBILEE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II, THE CORONATION OF HM KING CHARLES III AND 150 YEARS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN HORWICH:

FG 7521 Councillor Chadwick provided Members with a verbal report on this matter, detailing location, approximate cost, tree type and size. It was noted that confirmation would be required from Bolton Council as the landowner and also a guarantee given by the Town Council for future liability. The trees would have to be planted by end March/early April, otherwise would have to be postponed until September. Approximate cost for signage similar to Tin Mission and Garden of Remembrance signs was £480, although exact cost of trees was unknown as was dependant on type and maturity.

Resolved to approve the planting of three trees and associate signage to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, the Coronation of King Charles III and 150 years of local government in Horwich up to a maximum budget of £3,000 from the Platinum Jubilee/Festival of Horwich budget for 2022 – 2023.

Action: Councillor Chadwick to email all relevant information to the Town Clerk in order to obtain written approval from Bolton Council to enable progress of this project.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM NALC ENCOURAGING LOCAL COUNCILS TO START PREPARATIONS FOR EVENTS FOR THE CORONATION AND APPOINT MEMBERS TO A WORKING PARTY TO ACTION THIS AND REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL AT A LATER DATE WITH PROPOSALS AND COSTS FOR APPROVAL:

FG 7522 A summary of the report had been circulated to all Members. In response to a query it was confirmed that there was no external funding available from NALC for this purpose. It was agreed that it would be challenging to hold something similar to last year's Platinum Jubilee three-day event and that something more low-key would be less problematic. The option of a one-day 'Festival of Horwich' event on Saturday 16 September had been suggested, with the Events Steering Group initially inviting ideas from members of the public and local businesses in order to take this forward.

Resolved that the Events Steering Group discuss ideas for small scale activities

for the Coronation weekend and invite members of the local community to put ideas forward for the 'Festival of Horwich' event in September.

Action: Events Steering Group to meet and move forward with this, reporting Back to Council where appropriate.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 7523 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £ 778.04

C. Hutchinson – Petty Cash	£30.00
JRB Enterprises Ltd (Economy poop scoop bags x 2000)	£42.56
HR Solutions (Monthly HR retainer)	£189.48
Leach Briely Accountants (Completion of internal audit to 31 December 2022)	£516.00

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

- FG 7524
- a. Record of outstanding motions
 - b. SHAPE Lancashire Community Interest Company: feedback/monitoring form for grant award of £460 in June 2022 to provide activities for older people in sheltered accommodation
 - c. Department for Transport: response to letter from Horwich Town Council expressing concerns about the Levelling Up Fund bid to conduct works at the Beehive Roundabout and De Havilland Way.
 - d. Groundwork UK: receipt of End of Grant Report for the Horwich Neighbourhood Plan.
 - e. St Mary's RC Primary: feedback/monitoring form on update for grant award of £1,500 for wall mural.
 - f. LALC: invitation to nominate the outgoing Chairman/Mayor for ballot for Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 9 May 2023.
 - g. Councillor Stone: notes from LALC Annual Executive Committee Meeting on 21 January 2023.

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 7525
- a. Town Mayor of Horwich
It had been a quiet start to the new year with the only attendance at the new Horwich Heritage exhibition 'History of Horwich in Maps'
 - b. Horwich Ward Councillors
Councillor Wright reported that he had contacted Paul Whittingham with regard to trees that had been cut down at the Loco Works.

Councillor Grant reported that Bolton Council had started a feasibility study

on widening Station Road. Also, an amendment to Bolton Council’s budget was being brought forward to include additional £1 million to be distributed equally between all wards, with the two Horwich wards receiving £50k each, to be spent following consultation with the Town Council. This will allow the Town Council to put projects forward as long as it provides matched funding.

c. Representatives on Outside Bodies

Councillor Stone’s notes from LALC’s Annual Executive Committee Meeting on 21 January 2023 had been circulated to all Members.

Councillor Denton reported that she had been contacted by the Horwich Angels to establish if she was still the Council’s representative and was advised to inform them about May elections.

TO APPROVE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AS 13 MARCH 2023:

FG 7526 Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee as 13 March 2023.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....