

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Horwich Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Thursday 9 May 2024, commencing at 7.15 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors I. Aldcroft, Town Mayor (in the Chair)
 Councillors R. Bamforth, S. Burke, G. Campbell, S. Chadwick,
 D. Grant, K. McKeon, V. Rigby, C. Sears, J. Scoble, J. Walton,
 S. Williamson, P. Wright
 Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson
 Town Mayoress, Mrs Janet Aldcroft
 Retiring Town Mayoress, Dr. Kathryn Grant
 Deputy Town Mayor's Consort, Mr Harry Bromley
 13 members of the public.

TO APPOINT THE TOWN MAYOR FOR 2024/2025:

AM 336 It was proposed by Councillor Rigby to appoint Councillor Ian Aldcroft as Town Mayor for 2024/2025. Councillor Williamson was pleased to second the motion. It was resolved to appoint Councillor Ian Aldcroft as Town Mayor for 2024/2025.

As outgoing Town Mayor Councillor Grant stated that it had been an honour and a privilege representing the Council and the town at over the past year. He also thanked the retiring Deputy Town Mayor and Mayoress for their support along with the many councillor colleagues and the people of Horwich and of course the retiring Town Mayoress for all her support. Gifts were presented to both the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk in recognition of their work during the mayoral year.

UNDERTAKING BY THE TOWN MAYOR TO OBSERVE THE CODE OF CONDUCT THAT IS EXPECTED OF MEMBERS OF THE HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL:

AM 337 Councillor Aldcroft signed the declaration to undertake to observe the Code of Conduct that is expected of Members of Horwich Town Council, and which was witnessed by the Town Clerk, as Proper Officer of the Council.

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE THE FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

AM 338 Councillor Aldcroft outlined the fire evacuation procedure.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

AM 339 An apology for absence was noted from Councillor Rock.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

AM 340 None.

TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2023/2024:

AM 341 Resolved to approve the Annual Report for the year 2023/2024.

PRESENTATIONS TO RETIRING TOWN MAYOR AND MAYORESS:

AM 342 Presentations were made by the Town Mayor to the retiring Town

Mayor and Town Mayoress.

APPOINTMENT OF THE TOWN MAYORESS/CONSORT FOR 2024/2025:

AM 343 The Town Mayor was pleased to announce Mrs Janet Aldcroft as Town Mayoress for 2024-2025.

TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS:

AM 344 Councillor Aldcroft stated that he was honoured to be the newly elected Town Mayor of Horwich. He thanked the retiring Town Mayor Councillor David Grant and the Town Mayoress Dr Kathryn Grant for their dedicated service and commitment to the community over the past year, in particular their work with the charity Rockit which has had such a positive impact and which will continue as one of the mayoral charities for 2024 – 2025. Rockit is an excellent organisation that develops creative opportunities for young people aged 11 – 18 with a passion for music, building valuable skills and promoting positive well-being and confidence in those who take part.

The Town Mayor has also chosen to support Horwich Cleanup Brigade, a local group run entirely by volunteers who are passionate about keeping Horwich tidy, generously giving up their free time to clear up litter left by others. A third charity selection will be announced soon as the aim is to assist a range of worthy causes in the local community.

The Town Mayor will strive to uphold the duties and responsibilities of this office with dignity and impartiality, encouraging various groups to unite and ensure everybody's voice is heard. In his role as Chair of the Council, he will endeavour to ensure its business proceeds efficiently, with transparency and with proper regard for councillors' roles and the public interest. By working together and respecting Horwich's traditions, going forward progress can be made for the future of the community.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR FOR 2024/2025:

AM 345 It was proposed by Councillor Williamson to appoint Councillor Victoria Rigby as Deputy Town Mayor for 2024/2025. Councillor Grant was pleased to second the motion. It was resolved to appoint Councillor Rigby as Deputy Town Mayor for 2024/2025.

UNDERTAKING BY DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR TO OBSERVE THE CODE OF CONDUCT THAT IS EXPECTED OF MEMBERS OF HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL:

AM 346 Councillor Rigby signed the declaration to undertake to observe the Code of Conduct that is expected of Members of Horwich Town Clerk, and which was witnessed by the Town Clerk as Proper Officer of the Council

APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY TOWN MAYORESS/CONSORT FOR 2024/2025:

AM 347 The Deputy Town Mayor was pleased to announce Mr Harry Bromley as Deputy Town Mayor's Consort for 2024/2025.

TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE TOWN COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:

AM 348 Resolved to approve and adopt the Town Council's Standing

Orders and Financial Regulations as presented.

TO AGREE TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON ADVISORY BODIES,
OUTSIDE BODIES AND SUB COMMITTEES AT THE MEETING OF THE TOWN
COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 13 MAY 2024:

AM 349 Resolved to agree to appoint Members to serve on these Sub
Committees at the meeting of the Town Council to be held on 13
May 2024.

TO APPROVE THE DATES FOR MEETINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR
2024/2025:

AM 350 A list of dates had been circulated to all Members. It was resolved
to approve the dates for the meetings of the Town Council and
Standing Committees for 2024/2025.

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for attending and confirmed that
the Mayor’s Reception would take place at the Bridge Hotel,
following the Civic Service at Holy Trinity Parish Church on 25 May
2024.

The meeting closed at 7.31pm.

Chairperson..... Date.....