

## 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 9 October 2023 commencing at 7.15 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: D. Grant (in the Chair) I. Aldcroft, R. Bamforth, S. Burke, G. Campbell, S. Chadwick, K. McKeon, V. Rigby, S. Rock, C. Rotheram, J. Scoble, J. Walton, S. Williamson, P. Wright  
C. Morris, Deputy Town Clerk  
Rachel Noble, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust, Deputy Director of Strategy

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 7601 Councillor Grant outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

FG 7602 Apologies were accepted from Councillor McKeon for lateness.

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

FG 7603 Councillor Chadwick and Councillor Grant declared an interest in the confidential item.

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 7604 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2023:

FG 7605 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 11 September 2023.

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM BOLTON NHS FOUNDATION TRUST: CLINICAL STRATEGY AND TO INVITE COUNCILLORS TO ASK QUESTIONS IN RELATION TO THIS:

FG 7606 Notes regarding the above had been previously circulated to Members, however, the electronic presentation was unable to be shown due to constraints in the Council Chamber. This would be emailed and circulated to all Members in the week.

Resolved to move out of Committee in order to receive a presentation by Rachel Noble from Bolton NHS Foundation Trust.

Rachel Noble introduced themselves as the Deputy Director of Strategy at Bolton NHS Foundation Trust. Rachel wanted to discuss about clinical strategy and ongoing work.

Bolton FT is in the process of developing its new clinical strategy and is an important step forward for the future of the foundation trust from a clinical perspective to continue to meet the needs of the people of Bolton. There has not been a clinical strategy refresh for a number of years, with its last publication in

2013. The piece of work has been delayed but is now at its final stages which requires engagement with Councils, patient groups and residents across Bolton to engage in the priorities that are important for the town.

The work has been ongoing for 12 months which has involved all of the clinical teams at the hospital. It has been drawn up from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which describes the current health, demographics and needs and prevalence rates of disease across the borough and is a direct response from those trends and ensuring that the services are resilient for the future.

This clinical strategy will cover the period 2024 – 2029 which covers the next 5 years. Through the design process, there are 3 key priorities which has been largely influenced by the information they have on the population. The priorities are improving the health of the public as there has been an increase on the waiting lists, optimising peoples experience and innovating and collaborating for the future.

Currently in a period of engagement and not proposing any changes to their services. Over the next 5-10 years, there is going to be an increase in population, the complexity of the people that are served from the increase of the prevalence of the long-term conditions and more acute needs. The NHS can't continue to expand the size of the hospitals and the community services alongside an expansion of staff as the budget is so challenged to be able to grow and grow. It is felt that the right way to address the future is to look at the needs of the population and better organise the services around that.

The presentation can be circulated to members after the meeting.

Resolved to move back into Committee.

Councillor Chadwick mentioned about optimising patient experience and budget restraints alongside better organised services however the health hub is currently being built so what would that mean for the present buildings when the Doctors move into the new facilities and what does the future look like such as Jones Street Clinic as this is integral to the town and a closure of this facility would be a mistake.

There are no plans to change any of the current provisions or take anything away since there is more demand of services and to enhance these. The NHS will be looking at pockets of deprivation to ensure that services are within reach of them so that people aren't visiting services in poorer health or at acute stages and seeking to get to the front end of the diagnostic pathway rather than later stages.

Councillor Chadwick informed Rachel that the public health team were based at the Horwich Public Hall and at Jones Street Clinic. The understanding was that the services are to migrate to the Health Hub and what would happen with the premises.

Rachel informed Councillor Chadwick that Public Health sits with the Council and would take that back to clarify on any changes that may occur.

Councillor Rotheram stated that the population will increase around 30% at the end of the decade. The health centre should have been delivered in 2016. Has the NHS taken into account the growth in population within Horwich and to put special provisions in place to mitigate this and bring services forward?

Rachel explained that this is where the NHS has to work in really close partnership with the Council and the locality team which is the arm of the Greater Manchester integrated system. NHS are aware that Bolton as a whole is going to increase significantly. What the NHS can't do from a Foundation Trust perspective is pinpoint where there may be the primary care need. There is however consideration where the NHS may put community health centres. The Trust is not looking at the infrastructure around community health centres as part of this strategy but are aware they need to respond differently to that growth in population. One of the things that is trying to be done through the first priority around improving health is look broadly at GP surgeries and health centres where there are late-stage cancer patients and seek to put those services in place but are constrained always by those commissioning decisions. The NHS FT are working very closely with the Council and locality team to think about future planning and please to state that part of the exercise has modelled the population growth but what they haven't done is bring it down to an individual level and was unaware that Horwich would be expected to increase by such a large amount and would take this information away and look into more detail around potential future pressure points.

Councillor Williamson explained that from a personal perspective regarding services and locality that they have to travel to other areas but some individuals can't drive to these areas and echoed what the other Councillors has asked regarding services being returned to Horwich.

Rachel explained that there was a new government initiative called Core 20 plus 5 which is a national NHS approach to support the reduction of health inequalities at both national and system level. It is meant to address the top 20% of the population who are deprived however over 45% of the Bolton population meets the criteria of the Core 20. What the NHS FT did was look at groups that find it challenging to access services and getting rid of the 'hard to reach' individuals however again this is unobtainable with constraints.

There are some targeted groups for children and young people and adults looking at specific disease and illness. The NHS are taking a different approach to what they consider deprivation within an area.

#### TO REVIEW THE GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY GROUPS POLICY:

FG 7607 Resolved to review the Grants to Voluntary Groups Policy. To be reviewed October 2025.

#### TO APPROVE THE COSTS OF THE ADDITIONAL WINTER GRITTING IN HORWICH (PART BROWNLOW ROAD AND NEW CHAPEL LANE) BY BOLTON COUNCIL FOR A THREE-MONTH PERIOD (1 DECEMBER 2023 – 29 FEBRUARY 2024) AT £12,000:

FG 7608 A Member recalled the cost being at £1000 per week and wondered whether the costs still had to be paid regardless of whether the roads were gritted. Another

Member asked whether the Town Council could look into other contractors to have a comparison of costs.

Resolved to approve the costs of additional winter gritting in Horwich (part Brownlow Road and New Chapel Lane) by Bolton Council for a three-month period (1 December 2023 – 29 February 2024) at £12,000 and to raise queries at Bolton Council regarding the costs breakdown and whether Horwich Council pays irrespective of whether gritting is carried out.

**Action: Deputy Town Clerk to check previous minutes and raise queries With Bolton Council regarding the costings of winter gritting on the additional routes. Deputy Clerk to research other winter gritting contractors to have a cost comparison.**

TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL FOR THE ILLUMINATION OF RIVINGTON PIKE WITH A RED POPPY ON THE EVENINGS OF SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> AND SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> WITH A REQUEST TO BOTH CHORLEY AND BLACKROD COUNCILS TO SHARE FINANCIAL SUPPORT WITH HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL FOR THIS EVENT BY CONTRIBUTING ONE THIRD EACH (£312.00) OR £468.00 SUBJECT OF AGREEMENT AT BLACKROD TOWN COUNCIL:

FG 7609 Members were informed that Blackrod Town Council and Chorley Council had resolved to contribute towards to the costs of the illumination.

A Member had stated that the past few years have been difficult to see the illumination of the poppy with the stem on the Pike and asked if the Town Clerk could request whether the projection could be amended to just the poppy flower graphic.

Resolved to consider a proposal for the illumination of Rivington Pike with a red poppy on the evenings of Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November with a request to both Chorley and Blackrod Councils to share financial support with Horwich Town Council for this event by contributing one third each £312.00 and to enquire at CDS regarding the projection.

TO THANK THE HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS STEERING GROUP INCLUDING VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRIBUTORS ON THE DAY FOR MAKING THE EVENT AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS:

FG 7610: Members thanked all those that made Festival of Horwich happen and a great success. There were over 7000 people in attendance and nearly £2000 raised for the Mayoral charities.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED

FG 7611 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £16,118.37

C. Hutchinson	£60.00
(Petty cash for purchase of poppy wreaths)	

LGA 1972 s142

C. Hutchinson	£62.79
(Re-imburement – renewal of authenticated SMTP	

Access for website from Namesco Ltd for 2 years	
Leach Briely Accountants Completion of payroll 31.08.23 auto enrolment And real time initiative compliance services)	£164.00
Horwich Heritage (Grant funding for 2023 – 2024)	£1,500.00
Transfer to Town Mayor's Charity Account	£1000.00
Transfer to Salaries & Wages account	£5,000.00
<u>LGA 1972 s137 – Festival of Horwich</u>	
Horwich Community Choir (Entertainment)	£75.00
Rambling Rob Young (Entertainment)	£75.00
Brewed Coffee (Provision of food for stewards)	£102.00
Cllr R Bamforth (Re-imburement – refreshments for stewards)	£108.70
Only on a Wednesday (Entertainment)	£150.00
Mark Daniel & Company (Balance for a walkaround magic and balloons)	£200.00
JMA Transport Ltd (Delivery/return of equipment for 69 <sup>th</sup> Field Regiment artillery display)	£200.00
Kojo (Entertainment)	£275.00
Comply at Work (Event risk assessment)	£350.00
CDS Events (Sound/lighting system, power distribution hire)	£1,385.00
<u>LGA 1972 s144</u>	
Illumidex (Permission from Bolton Highways to install new Christmas lighting equipment)	£197.00
<u>LGA 1972 s142</u>	

Zonkey Solutions Ltd (Balance for WCAG 2.1 AA compliant website build/annual hosting & maintenance ready to go live)	£1497.00
<u>LGA 1972 s137</u> CC Concert Band (Entertainment at Festival of Horwich)	£75.00
Councillor C Rotheram (Re-imburement for costs incurred for FOH)	£3,220.32

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

- FG 7612
- a. Bolton Transport Strategy: Horwich Town Council minutes – 16 August 2023
  - b. Digital Government North Event: Notes from the event attended by the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk – 14 September 2023
  - c. Horwich Town Council Monitoring and Feedback Form for Grants to Voluntary Groups and Organisations – Horwich Ride Festival

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 7613
- a. Town Mayor of Horwich
    - Councillor Grant, Town Mayor of Horwich attended the Festival of Horwich which was a great success. Hopefully it can be built on going forward.
    - Attended a number of Macmillan coffee mornings.

b. Horwich Ward Councillors

Councillor Grant – Continue to work on casework. Councillor Williamson and Councillor Walton had attended meetings to ask about a bench being installed on the Meadows. Funding has been agreed for this to be installed from the area forum so that there is somewhere to sit at the little play park.

It will be likely to be on a future agenda regarding becoming a pilot area for taking over management of allotments from Bolton Council which is in line with the Town Council Action Plan.

Councillor Burke has enquired at Bolton Council to use the storage at the side of the Public Hall for a ride on lawn mower to be stored when not in use from Green Lane Fields. There has been some obstruction which is currently being resolved. Councillors Grant will be looking at the deeds for the Horwich Public Hall to observe whether there is a community element clause.

Councillor Rotheram – Has a meeting organised with Bolton at Home to discuss the procedures in regards to the expulsion of difficult neighbours and the current system.

Councillor Rotheram attended the Rivington and Brinscall Local Advisory Group regarding the bad weather and levels of crime.

Councillor Rigby – Met with Jon Gorton, Bolton Council to discuss Horwich Leisure Centre regarding the flood lights on the astroturf that had stopped working due to a fire melting the tarmac and cables. There is ongoing discussion on whether Bolton Council or the Leisure Trust will be responsible for replacement of these lights.

There will be increased signage highlighting disabled bays in the car park. The Centre is having weekly discussions with Caddick Construction on how to utilise spaces. When the Health Centre will be built, it is of the proviso that off-site parking for their vehicles which will maximise space.

Flooding from Lever Park School playing field is affecting Bond Close. Still attempting to contact the Head Teacher to resolve the issue.

Councillor Bamforth – Discussed matters with Bolton Council regarding the Remembrance Gardens and Green Lane fields. There was also a quick site visit to Siemens Street to discuss issues with bins. It was agreed that letters would be sent to all the residents informing them of how to apply for assisted bin collection however other neighbours did offer to help those that required assistance. There is funding available to gate off back street areas since it also came to light that the area is prevalent for drug dealing in which gates would help reduce this occurring.

It is an extremely busy time of year for anything armed forces related. Councillor Bamforth attended Liverpool to visit the Lancashire Artillery Gunners on a deployment exercise where they went to Altcar Training Camp which was interesting and would be revisiting again alongside the Bolton Mayor, officers from PR, Mayors from Greater Manchester and other Armed Forces Champions to visit the Reserve North West Reserve Forces and Cadets Association to have a talk and brief of the site.

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October, Councillors have been invited to go and inspect the 1471 Air Training Cadets whilst on parade. There are 100 cadets to date in the ATC.

Councillor Wright – Casework

c. Representatives on Outside Bodies

None

IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS ABOUT TO BE TRANSACTED, IT IS ADVISABLE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC SHOULD BE TEMPORARILY EXCLUDED, AND IF PRESENT SHOULD BE ASKED TO LEAVE.