

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 March 2023 commencing at 7.15 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, C. Morris, Deputy Town Clerk.
Councillor Kevin McKeon, Horwich North East Ward
5 members of the public

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 7527 Councillor Grant outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

FG 7528 Apologies were accepted from Councillor Wright.

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

FG 7529 Councillor Chadwick 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 7530 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2023:

FG 7531 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13 February 2023.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE HORWICH COMMUNITY CENTRE SUB-COMMITTEE ON 28 JANUARY 2023:

FG 7532 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Horwich Community Centre Sub-Committee on 28 January 2023.

TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FORM FOR LARGER GRANTS OVER £500 FOR HORWICH FESTIVAL OF RACING REQUEST FOR £3,200 TO COVER THE COSTS OF 1,000 MEDALS GIVEN TO ALL PARTICIPANTS TO COMMEMORATE THE DELAYED 20TH ANNIVERSARY:

FG 7533 Members felt that the amount applied for medals seemed excessive. Councillor Stone offered to contact the Festival of Racing to discuss alternatives. Resolved to defer the agenda item.

Action: Councillor Stone to contact Neil Brown on behalf of the Town Council to offer advice and alternatives to the current quote included in the application.

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE TOWN CLERK TO CANCEL 15 MAY 2023 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES AND CHANGE THE DATE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL AND TOWN MAYOR'S INAUGURATION FROM 11 MAY 2023 TO 15 MAY 2023 DUE TO LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2023:

FG 7534 Due to the elections taking place, the Meeting of the Council date could be no earlier than 15 May 2023. Resolved to consider a request from the Town Clerk to cancel 15 May 2023 Finance and General Purposes and change the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council and the Town Mayor's Inauguration from 11 May 2023 to 15 May 2023 due to local council elections 2023.

Councillor Bostocksmith entered the meeting at this point.

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM COUNCILLOR CHADWICK TO WRITE TO TRANSPORT FOR GREATER MANCHESTER IN SUPPORT OF THE 575A RIVINGTON RAMBLER BUS SERVICE, REQUESTING IT BECOMES A PERMANENT ROUTE IN THE "BEE NETWORK". ADDITIONALLY, TO WRITE TO CHORLEY COUNCIL, LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND UNITED UTILITIES HIGHLIGHTING THE BENEFIT OF THE BUS SERVICE TO RIVINGTON AND REQUESTING THEY ALSO SUPPORT IT:

FG 7535 Councillor Chadwick provided Members with a verbal reading of the 2 letters drafted to send to the above Councils and organisations.

Councillor Brady entered the meeting at this point.

Resolved to consider a request from Councillor Chadwick to write to Transport for Greater Manchester in support of the 575A Rivington Rambler Bus Service, requesting it becomes a permanent route in the "Bee Network". Additionally, to write to Chorley Council, Lancashire County Council and United Utilities highlighting the benefit of the bus service to Rivington and requesting they also support it.

Action: Councillor Chadwick to email all information to the Town Clerk in order to send the letters to the relevant Councils and organisations.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED INCLUDING SUPPLEMENTARY ACCOUNTS:

FG 7536 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £11502.63

Information Commissioners Office	£35.00
LGA 1972 s142 Pixelcreated (website updates to 28.02.23)	£48.00
HR Solutions (Monthly HR retainer)	£173.88
Nationwide Capital Finance (Quarterly rental Xerox C450) (Quarterly rental Ricoh IM C2000)	£187.36 £351.00
Horwich Community Centre (VAT refund to 31.12.2022)	£624.25

LGA 1972 s144
Bolton Council
(Installation/removal of Christmas lights inc. electricity) £7,920.00

HM Revenue and Customs
(PAYE Tax month 11) £2,163.14

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

- FG 7537 a. Telford Street – Draft Framework V1
b. Councils record of outstanding motions – Updated march 2023

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 7538 a. Town Mayor of Horwich
Councillor Chadwick had contacted the Rotary Club to enquire whether there would be a commemoration held for the Winter Hill disaster. As there had been nothing planned, Councillor Chadwick approached Horwich Heritage. A moving service was held near the crash site at the Winter Hill TV mast to commemorate the 65th year of the disaster.
On 11th March, Councillor Chadwick opened up the new exhibition 'Heroes & Heirlooms'

Councillor Grant, Deputy Town Mayor of Horwich attended the Mayors Charity Ball, World Prayer Day at St Catherines Church and at Bolton Town Hall to acknowledge the first anniversary of Russia's war against Ukraine.

b. Horwich Ward Councillors

Councillor Brady informed members that the drainage works on Green Lane had now been completed and were awaiting resurfacing. The flood alleviation works were nearing completion on Station Park with the contractors awaiting to carry out the installation of the MUGA and children's play area. Work was to start in March on the Leisure Centre site for the Horwich Health Hub.

Councillor Grant stated he was working on case work and had nothing to report.

c. Representatives on Outside Bodies

Councillor Rotheram had attended the Rivington and Brinscall Advisory Group who were keen to invite Professor Paul Salveson to look at what the group could do.

Rivington, Chorley and Bolton Council were introducing an abatement order to stop the public from starting fires at Rivington.

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.