

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held remotely due to Covid-19 restrictions on Monday 12 April 2021 commencing at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: M. Brady (in the Chair) I. Aldcroft, M. Baines, J. Bostocksmith, S. Burke, S. Chadwick, A. Coward, S. Denton, D. Grant, S. Rock, C. Rotheram, G. Stone, P. Wright.
C. Hutchinson, Town Clerk.
Councillor R. Silvester, Ward Councillor Horwich North East
Mr Colin Thomson, Mr Trevor William, Bolton Community First Responders
1 member of the public.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:
FG 7259 None.

TO REMIND MEMBERS TO MAKE A DECLARATION CONCERNING ANY MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE MEETING OF WHICH THEY HAVE AN INTEREST:
FG 7260 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 7261 None.

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM BOLTON COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS ON THEIR WORK SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY IN HORWICH:
FG 7262 Resolved to move out of Committee.

Mr Colin Thomson and Mr Trevor William were welcomed to the meeting.

Colin thanked Council for its recent grant award of £300 and for the chance to tell Members about the work of Bolton Community First Responders in more detail. First Responders are volunteers with regular jobs who give up their time freely to support local ambulance services, attending emergency, life threatening and critical calls in the local area. Bolton Community First Responders (BCFR) are a newly registered charity who came together from several smaller groups, including one in Horwich, to cover the whole of the Bolton area and have played an important role during the pandemic, attending incidents involving cardiac arrest, breathing difficulties, fitting, stroke, overdose, anaphylactic shock, choking, collapse, collapse and chest pain and since December 2020 have attended 69 emergency calls.

A local car dealership donated use of a vehicle for six months and it is hoped that This will be extended further. BCFR hope to resume activities in the local community when COVID-19 restrictions are eased, including spreading awareness in local schools, day centres and community centres. BCFR also provides community training and awareness, but this has also been affected by the pandemic and they also work with children to reduce ambulance anxiety. In the past BCFR have attended events such as the Blackrod Scarecrow Festival,

Horwich Parish Primary School's Fair and also worked with Blackrod Community Centre on the installation of an outside defibrillator.

Equipment and uniforms are purchased through fundraising and grant funding from Horwich Town Council will enable this to continue, along with some publicity material to assist with promotion of the work done by BCFR. In response to a query, it was confirmed that First Responders are contacted via 999 through a smartphone app. BCFR are looking for new volunteers and this is done through stringent recruitment processes.

In response to further queries, it was confirmed that although BCFR will attend community and sporting events to promote their work, provision of emergency first aid service is primarily the role of St Johns Ambulance, due to the importance of liability insurance. Colin confirmed that BCFR had attended training sessions with a local junior football club and they would be willing to extend this further. In response to a suggestion from the Town Clerk offering BCFR use of Horwich Community Centre which is run by Horwich Town Council, Colin confirmed that they would be pleased to accept and arrange a future event to raise awareness in the community once restrictions allow.

Resolved to move back into Committee.

Colin and Trevor were thanked for their interesting presentation and Members agreed that Council was pleased to be able to assist such an excellent community service. Colin confirmed that he would email his official contact details to the Town Clerk to pass on to Councillors Burke and Rotheram who had expressed an interest in inviting BCFR to their events.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY ON 8 MARCH 2021:

FG 7263 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held remotely on 8 March 2021.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE HORWICH COMMUNITY CENTRE SUB COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY ON 11 MARCH 2021:

FG 7264 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Civic Awards and Signs Sub Committee held remotely on 11 March 2021.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS ADVISORY GROUP HELD REMOTELY ON 11 MARCH 2021:

FG 7265 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Environmental Improvements Advisory Group held remotely on 11 March 2021.

TO APPOINT THE TOWN MAYOR ELECT FOR 2021 - 2022:

FG 7266 Proposed by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Rotheram to nominate Councillor Sue Denton as Town Mayor Elect for 2021 - 2022. This was put to the vote: 9 votes for, 1 abstention, 3 against.

It was proposed by Councillor Wright, seconded by Councillor Baines to nominate Councillor Chadwick as Town Mayor Elect for 2021 – 2022.

In response to a comment that it was the tradition at Horwich that the Deputy Town Mayor automatically became the Town Mayor Elect, Members were reminded that there had been some exceptions to this tradition in the recent past and ultimately it was the Council's decision to appoint both the Town Mayor Elect and the Deputy Town Mayor Elect.

Councillor Chadwick stated that although he would be honoured to serve as Town Mayor for 2021 – 2022, he could not guarantee his availability to carry out mayoral duties, as he was currently awaiting confirmation of his next work placement.

The proposal to nominate Councillor Chadwick as Town Mayor Elect for 2021 – 2022 was put to the vote: 3 votes for, 1 abstention, 9 against.

Resolved to appoint Councillor Sue Denton as Town Mayor Elect for 2021 – 2022.

Councillor Denton informed Members that she was delighted to accept the nomination and looked forward to a successful mayoral year.

TO APPOINT THE DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR ELECT FOR 2021 - 2022:

FG 7267 Proposed by Councillor Rotheram, seconded by Councillor Denton to nominate Councillor Ian Aldcroft as Deputy Town Mayor Elect for 2021 – 2022. This was put to the vote: 5 votes for, 8 against.

It was then proposed by Councillor Brady, seconded by Councillor Rock to nominate Councillor Steven Chadwick as Deputy Town Mayor for 2021 – 2022. This was put to the vote: 8 for, 5 against.

Resolved to appoint Councillor Chadwick as Deputy Town Mayor Elect for 2021 – 2022. Councillor Chadwick informed Members that he was delighted to accept the nomination and looked forward to supporting Councillor Denton during her mayoral year.

Councillor Stone was thanked for extending his mayoral service and chairmanship of the Council in 2020 – 2021 for an additional year, due to the COVID-19 crisis, and Council looked forward to future mayoral roles for both Councillor Chadwick and Councillor Aldcroft.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 7268 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £16,655.54.

Communicorp/Local Councils Update (Annual subscription renewal)	£100.00
Leach Briely Accountants (Provision of quarterly payroll, auto enrolment compliance and real time initiative compliance)	£222.00

services)

Nationwide Capital Finance (Quarterly rental charges for Xerox 7200i)	£450.00
LALC (Annual subscription NALC/LALC 2021 incl. Local Council Review)	£1,883.54
Bolton Council (Additional winter gritting in Horwich 2020 - 2021)	£14,000.00

Payment to Bolton Council was made in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, ss 81 – 86.

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

- FG 7269
- a. NALC: Chief Executive's Bulletin; press release on government announcement on remote meetings powers not being extended; letter from MHCLG re regulations on local authority meetings.
 - b. St Mary's RC Primary School: letter of thanks for grant award of £500 towards costs of installation of AstroTurf.
 - c. Summary of Town Councillors' casework.

The Town Clerk's report was noted. In response to a query regarding the item from NALC, the Town Clerk clarified the position on arrangements for council meetings after 7 May 2021, in line with government advice.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 7270
- a. Town Mayor – Councillor Stone reported that he had judged an Easter window display trail over the bank holiday weekend.
 - b. Horwich Ward Councillors – Councillor Wright reported that he had been in contact with Neighbourhood Services regarding issues raised by allotment holders; also resurfacing work was due to take place on Webb Street and Ramsbottom Road. Councillor Brady reported that land at Medway had been sold, buyer unknown; the Neighbourhood Plan group had submitted a letter to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the Golf Course application; Highways and police were looking at additional yellow lines on street corners, via the Area Forum.
 - c. Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies as per the approved list. Councillor Stone informed Members that although the Festival of Racing would not take place, British Masters Race Walking have expressed interest in holding an event in the Horwich area in 2021.

Reports from Representatives were noted.

TO APPROVE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AS 10 MAY 2021:

FG 7271 Resolved to approve the date of the next meeting as 10 May 2021 and that this meeting would be held in person at Horwich Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....