

## 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 August 2021 commencing at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: M. Brady (in the Chair) I. Aldcroft, J. Bostocksmith, S. Burke, S. Chadwick, A. Coward, S. Denton, D. Grant, S. Rock, G. Stone, P. Wright.  
C. Hutchinson, Town Clerk.

A minute's silence was held in memory of Councillor David Greenhalgh, Leader of Bolton Council, who passed away recently.

### CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 7300 Councillor Brady outlined the procedure from the information provided.

### TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 7301 Apologies were accepted from Councillor Baines.

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

FG 7302 Councillor Stone, as a member of Horwich RMI Harriers, declared a personal interest in agenda item 8.

### 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 7303 None.

### TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 JUNE 2021:

FG 7304 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 14 June 2021.

### TO APPROVE A SUITABLE LOCATION FOR, AND ADDITIONAL COST FOR INSTALLATION OF A DOG WASTE BAG DISPENSER, AS PER THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS ADVISORY GROUP:

FG 7305 Members were informed that, following the recommendation of the Environmental Improvements Advisory Group a dog waste bag dispenser had been purchased. However, clarification was needed as to a proposed location and also for installation as it would require to be fixed to a pole cemented into the ground. It was confirmed that the agreed location was at the corner of the playing field behind Rivington and Blackrod Lower School where a waste bin used to be sited. The Town Clerk agreed to contact Malcolm Russell at Bolton Council to check that this was a suitable location and Councillor Burke agreed to carry out the installation of the dispenser and would be re-imbursed for any costs incurred.

Subject to confirmation by Bolton Council it was resolved to approve the location of a dog waste bag dispenser on the corner of the playing field behind Rivington and Blackrod High School where a waste bin used to be sited and to approve additional cost for installation by Councillor Burke.

**TO ASK FRIENDS OF HORWICH GREEN SPACES TO IDENTIFY SUITABLE LOCATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:**

FG 7306 Members were informed that representatives from the group had already had an initial discussion with Bolton Council about the re-instatement of the flower beds at the Gardens of Remembrance with rose bushes and perennial planting. The initial costs would be met by Bolton Council and ongoing maintenance to be undertaken volunteers from Friends of Horwich Green Spaces.

Other projects were also discussed, including wild flowering Pickups Field, planting of daffodil bulbs along the grassed verge on Scholes Bank and re-instatement of the floral crest on the banking at the Garden of Remembrance, although it was recognised that this would be a longer-term project due to the costs and difficulties presented by the site's location. Members were informed that there was provision in the environmental budget for the purchase of daffodil bulbs for autumn planting and costs for wild flower seeds could also be obtained for sowing next year.

There was a discussion about the difficulties of maintaining the area around the crest on the lawn outside the Public Hall as it had been located in a flat Perspex box which was easily vandalised. Councillor Burke had been looking at alternatives including a raised display and would provide a quote for consideration at the next meeting.

Councillor Chadwick asked if permission could be obtained from Bolton Council to allow him to re-paint traffic bollards on Lee Lane, at the old Queen's Head pub and the Crown Hotel and the Town Clerk confirmed that she would contact them to find out.

Resolved to approve the locations identified for improvement projects by Friends of Horwich Green Spaces and to progress in order of feasibility.

**TO APPROVE FUNDNG UP TO A MAXIMUM OF £1,000 FROM THE SPORT, SOCIAL AND CULTURE BUDGET TO HORWICH RMI HARRIERS TOWARDS THE COST OF A ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE RIVINGTON PIKE FELL RACE ON SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2021, SUBJECT TO RECEIPT OF WRITTEN APPLICATION AND SUPPORTING FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

FG 7307 In response to a query it was confirmed that grant funding had not been requested previously for road closure costs as these were a matter addressed by Bolton Council and the four organisations holding annual on-the-road events. The involvement of Horwich Town Council was limited to informing Bolton Highways of the dates of these events which were then grouped together to fulfil the legal requirement to advertise the road closures, with costs shared between the groups. During the pandemic all planned events had been cancelled exception for the postponed Pike Race with the organisers now having to cover the costs of advertising the road closure.

While all Members were keen to support this event which had a long tradition in Horwich, some raised concerns about giving financial support for this purpose as it could set a precedent for the future. In response to a query, it was confirmed that there was provision of £11k included in the current year's budget under the

Sports, Social and Culture allocation.

Resolved to approve funding up to a maximum of £1,000 from the Sport, Social and Culture budget to Horwich RMI Harriers towards the cost of a road closure for the Rivington Pike Fell Race on Saturday 11 September 2021, subject to receipt of written application and supporting financial information.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 7308 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £10,218.80.

Petty Cash (C. Hutchinson)	£ 40.00
HR Solutions (HR Retainer – August 2021)	£ 178.80
Salaries and wages account	£10,000.00

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

- FG 7309
- a. Grant monitoring/feedback forms: Horwich RMI Harriers and Athletics Club, Horwich Boxing Academy.
  - b. Tuesday Club: letter re. cancellation of VE Day Party in 2020 and repayment of grant award of £00.
  - c. Horwich Heritage: information re. AGM held on 15 June 2021 including Chairman's Report 2021, Secretary's Report 2021, minutes of AGM held on 9 June 2020 and Statement of Accounts 1 June 2020 – 31 May 2021.
  - d. LALC: notice of 77<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on 20 November 2021 at 10.00am via Zoom.
  - e. NALC: Consultation on National Resilience Strategy
  - f. Summary of Town Councillors' casework

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 7310
- a. Town Mayor of Horwich  
The Town Mayor reported that the mayoral reception had taken place. It had been a fairly quiet period for mayoral invitations although accompanied by the Town Mayoress she had attended the Horwich Rotary presidential handover event.
  - b. Horwich Ward Councillors  
Councillor Wright informed members that the white linings at the Crown roundabout had been completed and that the keep clear box had been re-instated. There was also road resurfacing ongoing at various locations.

Councillor Brady informed members about a forthcoming meeting on town centre regeneration, including St John Street car park. Discussion was also taking place regarding outside toilet provision including difficulties with sourcing. Also, that Peel's appeal for the Golf Course site had been upheld

by the Planning Inspector.

- c. Representatives on Outside Bodies  
None.

Reports from Representatives was noted.

TO APPROVE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AS 13 SEPTEMBER 2021:

FG 7311 Resolved to approve the date of the next meeting as 13 September 2021. The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Chair.....

Date.....