

**HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Horwich Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Monday 10 June 2024 commencing at 7.15 pm.

**PRESENT** Councillors: I. Aldcroft (in the Chair), R. Bamforth, S. Burke, G. Campbell, S. Chadwick, D. Grant, K. McKeon, V. Rigby, S. Rock, J. Scoble, C. Sears, J. Walton, S. Williamson, P. Wright  
Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson  
Aldi Project Team: Bryn Richards, Dan Brown, Iain Miller, Tom Andrews  
7 members of the public

**CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE FIRE AND SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:**

TC 4683 The Town Mayor outlined the procedure.

**TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTE THE REASONS:**

TC 4684 An apology for lateness from Councillor Sears was noted.

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

TC 4685 Councillor Chadwick declared an interest as an associate member of Horwich RMI for agenda item 13. .

**TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM ALDI'S PROJECT TEAM REGARDING PLANNING APPLICATION 13158/22 FOR A NEW FOOD STORE AT THE JUNCTION OF DE HAVILLAND WAY AND CHORLEY NEW ROAD:**

TC 4686 Representatives from the Aldi Project Team introduced themselves to the meeting and presented an overview of Aldi's presence in the borough of Bolton, with 1,000 employees at the Cutacre distribution site, 300 at seven existing stores and an expected 40 vacancies at the proposed new store, all from the local area. There are no zero hours contracts and Aldi employees are the best paid in the food retail sector. It was confirmed that the existing Aldi store in Horwich would remain. Aldi policy is to encourage sustainability at all of its stores by the use of green energy, solar panels on new stores and provision of EV charging points.

The intention was an investment of £10m in Horwich, recognising that there was an additional catchment area of over 1,700 new homes being built over the next few years, with committed highway improvement schemes taken into account and expected to be completed in 2025. It was recognised as important to maintain a good relationship with the local community and the example of the Knutsford store was used as having similar access issues to Horwich.

Traffic congestion hotspots had been recognised and reference was made to the NPPF. Access mitigation measures would include the use of passive junction design with slip road entry from the roundabout with the removal of right turns to alleviate queuing and delays and

signalisation at the exit/ramp. There would also be a cycle infrastructure incorporated into the development. It had been estimated that the new store would create 20% new trips on weekdays and 30% at weekend and the impact of increased traffic at the Beehive roundabout would be managed by signalisation. Mitigation included travel plans for staff, cycle parking and EV charging points. The results of an air quality assessment had advised that the impact would be negligible.

Members were then given the opportunity to comment and ask questions and the following points were raised:

- In response to a query, it was confirmed that the third lane at the Beehive roundabout would be retained
- Concerns that use of the left lane which is already congested at peak times will cause further gridlock
- Confirmed that employment law allows the employment of local people and is not classed as discriminatory
- It was explained that the new traffic light systems would communicate with each other to mitigate congestion through a metering system
- Confirmation was requested regarding Bolton Council's claim that funds were in place for highway improvements, as ward councillors had not been given this information
- A view was expressed that it was important that highways are challenged on the science and not on anecdotal evidence

Councillor Sears joined the meeting at this point.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT MAY PUT QUESTIONS OR MAKE OBSERVATIONS REGARDING MATTERS IN RELATION TO WHICH THE COUNCIL HAS POWERS OR DUTIES OR WHICH AFFECT THE PARISH. MAXIMUM PERIOD 15 MINUTES**

TC 4687 Several members of the public were present and made several comments about the Aldi planning application:

- There had been inadequate neighbourhood consultation
- Concern about the traffic modelling
- Accuracy of the site plan was questioned
- Concern about congestion on De Havilland Way and negative effect on surrounding road infrastructure with traffic already backed up at traffic lights at peak times

All the points raised were noted by the Aldi project team who were thanked for their attendance and presentation and members of the public were thanked for their attendance and comments.

**TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 23 MAY 2024:**

TC 4688 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 23 May 2024

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE EVENTS STEERING GROUP HELD ON 12 MAY 2024:

TC 4689 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Events Steering Group held on 12 May 2024.

TO APPROVE THE QUARTERLY LIST OF EXPENDITURE OVER £500 TO 31 MARCH 2024 FOR PUBLICATION ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TRANSPARENCY CODE:

TC 4690 Resolved to approve the quarterly list of expenditure over £500 to 31 March 2024 as presented for publication on the Council's website.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AS PRESENTED:

TC 4691 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as amounting to £2,577.28:

Payee	Summary	Amount
Sage UK*	Accounts software - June	£92.40
HR Solutions*	HR retainer - June	£173.88
Image-Tech Sign Services	Update to honours board	£120.00
Nationwide Capital Finance	Quarterly rental Ricoh copier/printer	£441.00
Town Mayor's Charity Account	1 <sup>st</sup> instalment of mayoral allowance 2024 - 2025	£1,750.00

Payments marked \* were made by direct debit.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – (EMAILED TO ALL MEMBERS) – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- TC 4692
- a. Old Rivingtonians Sports Club Girls u14s Football Club: feedback on grant award of £500 in November 2023.
  - b. Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities: response to request for a principal area boundary review and community governance review
  - c. Horwich Festival of Racing: 2024 programme update
  - d. Email from a member of the public about locating an accessible defibrillator in Horwich town centre.
  - e. Emails from members of the public on various matters
  - f. Bolton Council: invitation to representatives from town councils to participate in a focus group with the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge on 11 July 2024.

The Town Clerk's Report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

TC 4693 Due to time constraints this was deferred to the next available meeting, However, Councillor Rigby gave a brief update on Green Lane play park which had been repainted and that she was chasing missing equipment and this was noted.

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

