

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Horwich Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Thursday 8 May 2025, commencing at 7.15 pm.

A one-minute silence for VE Day 80 Commemoration was held before the start of the meeting.

PRESENT: Councillors V. Rigby, Town Mayor (in the Chair)
Councillors I. Aldcroft, G. Campbell, S. Chadwick, D. Grant,
K. McKeon, S. Rock, C. Sears, J. Scoble, J. Walton, P. Wright
Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson
Deputy Town Clerk, M. Brady
Town Mayor's Consort, Mr Harry Bromley
Retiring Town Mayoress, Mrs Janet Aldcroft
Deputy Town Mayoress, Mrs Irene McKeon
Honorary Freeman of Horwich, Mrs Sue Denton
15 members of the public.

TO APPOINT THE TOWN MAYOR FOR 2025/2026:

AM 351 It was proposed by Councillor Grant to appoint Councillor Rigby as Town Mayor for 2025/2026. Councillor McKeon was pleased to second the motion. It was resolved to appoint Councillor Rigby as Town Mayor for 2025/2026.

Councillor Aldcroft and the retiring Town Mayoress, Mrs Janet Aldcroft presented gifts to both the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk in recognition of their support during the mayoral year.

UNDERTAKING BY THE TOWN MAYOR TO OBSERVE THE CODE OF CONDUCT THAT IS EXPECTED OF MEMBERS OF THE HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL:

AM 352 Councillor Rigby signed the declaration to undertake to observe the Code of Conduct that is expected of Members of Horwich Town Council, and which was witnessed by the Town Clerk, as Proper Officer of the Council.

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE THE FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

AM 353 Councillor Rigby outlined the fire evacuation procedure.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

AM 354 Apologies for absence were noted from Councillors Bamforth, Burke and Williamson.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

AM 355 Resolved to move out of Committee to allow a member of the public to speak.

A member of the public expressed concern about possible breaches of planning permission at the former Horwich Clinic, Jones Street.

Resolved to move back into Committee.

TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2024/2025:

AM 356 Resolved to approve the Annual Report for the year 2024/2025.

PRESENTATIONS TO RETIRING TOWN MAYOR AND MAYORESS:

AM 357 Presentations were made by the Town Mayor to the retiring Town Mayor and Town Mayoress.

APPOINTMENT OF THE TOWN MAYORESS/CONSORT FOR 2025/2026:

AM 358 The Town Mayor was pleased to appoint Mr Harry Bromley as Town Mayor's Consort for 2025-2026.

TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS:

AM 359 Councillor Rigby stated that she was honoured to be the newly elected Town Mayor of our wonderful town and would serve Horwich with pride. She thanked the retiring Town Mayor Councillor Ian Aldcroft and the Town Mayoress Mrs Janet Aldcroft for their dedicated service and the lasting mark they have made on the community over the past year and hoped to build on their achievements. She also thanked the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk, whose continuing support keeps the Town Council functioning.

The Town Mayor has chosen to champion three different causes - Horwich Foodshare, Fortalice and Teenage Cancer as her chosen charities and is very much looking forward to fundraising during the coming year.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR FOR 2025/2026:

AM 360 It was proposed by Councillor Chadwick to appoint Councillor McKeon as Deputy Town Mayor for 2025/2026. Councillor Sears was pleased to second the motion. It was resolved to appoint Councillor McKeon as Deputy Town Mayor for 2025/2026.

UNDERTAKING BY DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR TO OBSERVE THE CODE OF CONDUCT THAT IS EXPECTED OF MEMBERS OF HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL:

AM 361 Councillor McKeon signed the declaration to undertake to observe the Code of Conduct that is expected of Members of Horwich Town Council, and which was witnessed by the Town Clerk as Proper Officer of the Council

APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY TOWN MAYORESS FOR 2025/2026:

AM 362 The Deputy Town Mayor was pleased to announce that the Deputy Town Mayoress for 2025/2026 would be Mrs Irene McKeon.

TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE TOWN COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:

AM 363 Resolved to approve and adopt the Town Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations as presented.

TO PRESENT THE AWARD OF HONORARY FREEMAN OF HORWICH TO MRS SUSAN DENTON:

AM 364 The Town Mayor informed the meeting that by way of background, the Local Government Act of 2009 extended the ability to town and

parish councils to grant the status of Freeman to “persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of Council rendered eminent service”. Although purely an honour, carrying no special privileges it is the highest honour that the Town Council can bestow and reflects the eminence on the person on whom it is conferred and recognises the significant and valued services given to our town over many years and Council had resolved that this award should be made to Mrs Susan Denton in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Council and the community.

Over many years Sue has selflessly devoted her time and energy to a variety of charitable causes as well as serving as a Member of the Town Council, working alongside her husband Ken who sadly passed away in 2020. Sue has continued to do this with remarkable commitment, until very recently. Her involvement with local charities has been varied, including Horwich Angels, Inner Wheel, Horwich Carnival and the Royal British Legion as well as running the weekly Tuesday Lunch Club at Horwich Community Centre for elderly and vulnerable residents.

Sue has also served Horwich in a civic capacity as an elected Councillor for two terms as well as the honour of serving as Town Mayor twice, showing an outstanding dedication to the community, and raising funds for numerous local charities. Sue’s commitment to the community, through her charity work and her service to Horwich Town Council is truly exceptional and her generosity of spirit has touched the lives of many people and her legacy of service will continue to inspire.

The Town Mayor presented the award of Honorary freeman of Horwich to Mrs Susan Denton.

TO AGREE TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON ADVISORY BODIES, OUTSIDE BODIES AND SUB COMMITTEES AT THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 8 MAY 2025, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL:

AM 365 Resolved to agree to appoint Members to serve on Advisory Bodies, Outside Bodies and Sub Committees at the meeting of the Town Council to be held on 8 May 2025 immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Council..

TO APPROVE THE DATES FOR MEETINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR 2025/2026:

AM 366 A list of dates had been circulated to all Members. It was resolved to approve the dates for the meetings of the Town Council and Standing Committees for 2025/2026.

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm.

Chairperson..... Date.....

