

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Horwich Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Monday 13 January 2025 commencing at 7.15 pm.

PRESENT Councillors: I. Aldcroft (in the Chair), R. Bamforth, J. Walton, P. Wright, C. Sears, D. Grant, S. Williamson, V. Rigby, J. Scoble, S. Chadwick, S. Burke, K. McKeon
Deputy Town Clerk, C. Morris
Assistant Town Clerk, E. Tonge
1 member of the public

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE FIRE AND SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

TC 4850 Councillor Aldcroft outlined the procedure.

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTE THE REASONS:

TC 4851 Resolved to receive apologies and note the reasons from Councillor Campbell.

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

TC 4852 Councillor Chadwick declared an interest Agenda Item 9 as a non-voting member of the RMI Social Club.

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, INCLUDING SPECIFIC PLANNING APPLICATIONS. MAXIMUM PERIOD 15 MINUTES:

TC 4853 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2024:

TC 4854 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 19 December 2024.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2024:

TC 4856 Some members of the Council did not accept the recommendations made within the minutes, namely moving forward with the Horwich Live initiative in conjunction with Creative Network in 2025. This was due to concerns regarding a lack of a confirmed budget with specified costs to the Council, including security, an outdoor stage, and Council liability. Additionally, some members felt that the Horwich Live initiative was not considered a family-friendly event. The Council hoped to provide more family-friendly events within 2025-2026. Another statement put forth was that Creative Network had no expertise in working with a Parish Council.

Members were informed that a music charity event had taken place in Horwich in which money had been raised

through raffles. It was expressed that similar events can be held without the requirement of increased outgoings and that alternative events should be looked into. It was also felt that a 'Horwich Live' was not inclusive of organisations and other local businesses.

Other members took on board what was suggested and said that the event was an agreement in principle to take to Council before pursuing a further breakdown of costs and actions which is why a budget hadn't been presented. These members also stressed that the 'Horwich Live' event was inclusive of community as it would create opportunities for organisations and businesses to sponsor, be included within the programme and music events could be held in other venues such as churches and community centres so that it wasn't just focused on pubs. This would ensure that it was a family and community focused event.

Resolved to refuse the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Events Committee held on 12 December 2024 on the grounds of a lack of budget provided and lack of expertise of the organisation running the event of working with Town/Parish Councils.

TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL FOR THE ILLUMINATION OF RIVINGTON PIKE ON THE EVENING OF 8TH MAY 2025 IN COMMEMORATION OF VE DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A REQUEST TO BOTH CHORLEY AND BLACKROD COUNCILS TO SHARE FINANCIAL SUPPORT WITH HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL BY CONTRIBUTING ONE THIRD EACH (£146.66):

TC 4857

Resolved to consider and accept the proposal for the illumination of Rivington Pike on the evening of the 8th May 2025 in Commemoration of the VE Day 80th Anniversary, with a request to both Chorley and Blackrod Councils to share financial support with Horwich Town Council by contributing one third each (£146.66).

TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ON THE LOCATION OF DEFIBRILLATORS IN BL6 AND TO CONSIDER AND AGREE A PROPOSED PUBLIC ACCESSIBLE LOCATION FOR A DEFIBRILLATOR WITH £2000 ALLOCATED IN THE 2025/26 BUDGET FOR THIS PURPOSE/APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION:

TC 4858

The Council received information on the location of defibrillators in BL6 and discussed possible locations for another within the town centre. One requirement of applying for a defibrillator with the British Heart Foundation was that it had to be placed in a busy location with high footfall, and not within 200 metres of another publicly accessible defibrillator. A suggestion made by a member to place it outside the Public Hall in a redundant telephone box did not comply with this condition, being within close distance of a PAD at Beeley's Bar, so other suggestions were considered.

The Council agreed that they could use both the £2000 allocated in the Council's budget for 2025-6, and the funding

from British Heart Foundation (should the application be successful) to acquire two defibrillators in 2025-6. The locations agreed were as following:

CHILL @ The Cowshed - This defibrillator would be acquired from the £2000 reserve in the Council's budget.

Leisure Centre - This defibrillator would be acquired through the funding from an application to the British Heart Foundation, subject to a successful application.

Resolved to agree on the above locations for two Council-provided external defibrillators and to apply for funding from the British Heart Foundation.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON PUBLIC CONSULTATION REGARDING THE PURCHASING OF THE HORWICH RMI CRICKET GROUND AND PAVILLION AND CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS:

TC 4859

Resolved to set up a working party of six Councillors to manage the consultation process of the purchase of the Horwich RMI Cricket Ground and Pavillion from start to finish. The Councillors put forth were: Councillor Sears, Councillor Williamson, Councillor Scoble, Councillor Grant, Councillor Chadwick and Councillor Walton

The working party were to report back to full Council with recommendations for consideration and approval.

TO CONSIDER AND MAKE A DECISION FROM THE RECOMMENDATIONS OUTLINED IN THE REPORT ON THE HORWICH COAT OF ARMS CREST LOCATED OUTSIDE THE PUBLIC HALL:

TC 4860

It was agreed by the Council that preserving the Coat of Arms for the Town of Horwich was of key importance.

Councillor Burke had been in correspondence with Bolton Council. The quote received also included a 14% additional fee to the contractor for the works.

A further 2 quotes were requested from contractors however unfortunately no quotes were received to make a comparison or to carry out the works.

One of the reasons for the increased costing was due to the UV Screen and enamel paint.

Members discussed that the crest should be raised off the floor and be on an incline, much like a display box to ensure that it was not subject to further vandalism, and to prevent anything from being put on top of it. It was agreed from the figures provided in the report for the work necessary to be done to the Crest that the Council would be receiving value for money.

Resolved to go through with the recommendations made in the report to have the crest refitted in a vertical position to the agreed location at a base height of 1 metre. The Deputy Town Clerk would chase up a new quote with Darren Garner for the works to commence as soon as possible.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR CHADWICK ON ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL FEATURES OF SMITHILLS ESTATE:

TC 4861 Council received a report from Councillor Chadwick on his correspondence with the Woodland Trust, who were planning to do conservation on the area of Two Lads site in Rivington, Horwich.

At present, the Two Lads are decimate in its current form. Councillor Chadwick was informed that the plan is to rebuild with the design being a small circle and 2 smaller cairns as per historical drawings. It had been subject to vandalism but probably from members of the public climbing on the rocks.

Councillor Chadwick raised how Two Lads forms part of the Horwich identity, and that the new structure which was in the works to be built would not be recognisable to current residents in Horwich if it was based on the site's historical formation. A temporary fence had been placed around the site for health and safety purposes and to minimise vandalism. However, due to the area falling within the SSSI, this was unable to be made permanent. There was a suggestion made to cement the stones together to ensure health and safety concerns are met

A consultation would be beneficial before any work was carried out, so that members of public can give their input on the design, and to include this on social media too. It was stated that Horwich Heritage should also be consulted. The Officer said that these suggestions would be considered and taken on board.

The Council may also be involved with this process in the future.

At the present time, the Woodland Trust do not have the funds for the rebuilding works to commence.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AS PRESENTED:

TC 4862 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as amounting to £ 2816.65:

Payee	Summary	Amount
Councillor S. Chadwick	Re-imbursement for paint	£54.50
Sage UK *	Accounts software - Jan	£100.80
SLCC	ILCA training for Assistant Town Clerk	£144.00
HR Solutions *	HR Retainer - Jan	£173.88

Leach Briely Accountants	Completion of payroll, auto enrolment & real time initiative compliance services 01.09.24 – 30.11.24	£278.40
LGA 1972 s144 Illumidex	Call out & storm damage repair to lighting display junction Lee/Winter Hey Lane	£360.00
Franking Sense	Copy count for Ricoh & Xerox copiers 30.07.24 – 31.10.24	£455.07
	Transfer to Town Mayor's Charity Account	£1250.00

Payments marked * were made by direct debit, ** authorised out of committee and *** in accordance with LGA 1972 s137.

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

TC 4863

- a. Northstone: Invitation to an Art Exhibition at Horwich RMI Cricket Club on Thursday 23rd January, 3pm, showcasing artwork created by local residents, community groups and children from local schools.
- b. Town Mayor: Invitation to '150 Years of Local Government in Horwich and "Meet the Mayor" event' with refreshments on 13th February, 6pm, at the Public Hall, Lee Lane.
- c. Community Ownership Fund Update: COF closed for applications with no further application windows on the current programme.

Resolved to note the Town Clerk's report.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES (EMAILED TO ALL MEMBERS)- FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

TC 4864

- a. The Town Mayor of Horwich
 - 16th December- Sat in on Christmas dinner at Horwich Evangelical Church and spoke to attendees, and then attended a Christmas Dinner at The Crown with the Healing Rooms group led by Sara Halewood
 - 17th December – Attended the Tuesday Lunch Club Christmas Dinner at Horwich Community Centre with consort Janet Aldcroft
- b. Horwich Ward Councillors
 - Councillor Grant –
 - 27th January- Bolton Council officers are set to meet with Councillors regarding the Town Centre Regeneration
 - The 3 appeals by Mansell's Finishes and the land owner have all been refused by the planning inspector, the business has been permitted 6 months to cease operations, this case has been back and forth in the planning system for 3.5 years
 - Horwich South & Blackrod Ward Councillors have funded additional repairs to the finger post which was damaged before Christmas. Whilst the insurance covers most of the

work there was already a sign missing prior to this which isn't funded. The additional cost is £820+vat Horwich Heritage are applying to Horwich for a Grant with Ward Members is making up the shortfall

Councillor Williamson –

- Has been dealing with fly tipping
- Has also been corresponding with Bolton council for the funding for schools that are being updated, and enquiring about when the local primaries can apply
- Has been conducting casework to help with housing issues and various other issues

Councillor Bamforth –

- Has been conducting casework (covering a broad range of topics)
- Preparing a child safety motion to be brought to Bolton Council
- A DWP van has been brought onto St John's Street
- Has continued involvement with the Community Alliance which will be hosting a Community Action Day in the Lever Park Ward on the 29th January 2025.

Councillor Sears –

- Now a member of the Corporate Parenting Board at Bolton Council, and the first meeting is this month
- Has conducted casework surrounding bins/fly tipping etc

Councillor Wright-

- The one-way sign leading into Marsh Street from Crown Lane was damaged, this has now been repaired.

Councillor Rigby-

- None.

c. Representatives on Outside Bodies as per the approved list.
None.

TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AS 23 JANUARY 2025:

TC 4865

Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting as 23 January 2025.

The meeting closed at 8.04pm

Chair Date.....

