

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Monday 10 February 2025 commencing at 7.15 pm.

PRESENT Councillors: I. Aldcroft (in the Chair), G. Campbell, S. Chadwick, D. Grant, V. Rigby, J. Scoble, S. Rock, P. Wright, C. Sears, S. Williamson, R. Bamforth, J. Walton,
Deputy Town Clerk, C. Morris
1 Member of Public

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE FIRE AND SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

TC 4877 Councillor Aldcroft outlined the procedure.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

TC 4878 Resolved to accept apologies for absence from Councillors McKeon and Burke and to accept the reasons.

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

TC 4879 None.

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 4880 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2025:

TC 4881 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 23 January 2025.

TO APPROVE THE STATEMENT OF QUARTERLY ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD TO 31 DECEMBER 2024:

TC 4882 Resolved to approve the statement of quarterly accounts for the period to 31 December 2024

TO APPROVE THE QUARTERLY REPORT FROM INTERNAL AUDIT TO THE PERIOD 31 DECEMBER 2024:

TC 4883 Resolved to approve the quarterly report from internal audit to the period 31 December 2024

TO APPROVE THE COSTS OF ADDITIONAL WINTER GRITTING BY BOLTON COUNCIL FOR THE HILLIER PARTS OF BROWNLOW ROAD/NEW CHAPEL LANE FROM 1 DECEMBER 2025 TO 28 FEBRUARY 2026 AT A COST OF £12,000 PLUS VAT:

TC 4884 Councillor Bamforth informed members that Bolton Council had stated that there may be additional funding to integrate these areas as part of Bolton Council's gritting route however wanted to ensure that this item was approved in principle in case this didn't arise.

Resolved to approved the costs of additional winter gritting by Bolton Council for the hillier parts of Brownlow Road/New Chapel Lane from 1 December 2025 to 28 February 2026 at a cost of £12,000 plus VAT.

TO CONSIDER THE HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS COMMITTEE TAKING RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ORGANISATION OF THE REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE FOR 2025:

TC 4885 Members agreed that this event was a Civic event and wanted to ensure that any items discussed regarding this would specifically focus on this parade alone and felt that if it fell under the Events Committee then it may get intertwined with other unassociated annual events.

The Events Committee had already had discussions regarding the parade and work alongside the veterans. Horwich Town Council has always been responsible for covering the cost of the band, sound system, insurance and traffic management for the parade, all other protocol had been covered under the organisation of the Horwich RBL.

Councillor Bamforth had informed members that brief discussions with veterans had taken place along with a meeting with RBL Area Manager and Regional Manager. There is the outlook of restarting a Horwich and Blackrod branch of the RBL. If the Council was in agreement, the veterans would set up the format for Standard Operating Procedures for the parade to then be approved as a template.

Councillor Grant confirmed that the RBL already has a set standard for Civic events when it comes to marching parades and was happy to forward. Remembrance Sunday is a Civic event for the veterans and the fallen and that there was a set order with flags and positions.

An amendment to the agenda item was requested to change to 'To consider that the Horwich Town Council Events Committee creates a Civic Events Sub-Committee to take responsibility of the organisation of the Remembrance Sunday Parade for 2025.'

Resolved to consider an amendment to the agenda item and that the Horwich Town Council Events Committee creates a Civic Events Sub-Committee to take responsibility of the organisation of the Remembrance Sunday Parade 2025.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AS PRESENTED:

TC 4886 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as presented and amounting to £21,444.48 as follows:

Payee	Summary	Amount
C. Hutchinson	Petty cash	30.00
Sage UK	Accounts Software – Feb	100.80
Nationwide Capital Finance	Quarterly rental for Xerox 13/02/25 – 12/05/25	79.80
HR Solutions	HR retainer – Feb	173.88

Zonkey Solutions LTD	Website hosting and maintenance	720.00
Bolton Council	Provision of play and youth activities 01.04.24 – 31.03.25	5,940.00
Bolton Stone Restoration	Masonry repair work to Centre inc. labour, plant, materials	14,400

(*payment made by direct debit, ** online payments/authorised out of committee)

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

TC 4887

- a. Bolton Council: notice of successful nomination of Horwich Library, Jones Street as an Asset of Community Value.
- b. Horwich Heritage: Invitation to a commemoration service for the Winter Hill Air Disaster on 27th February 2025 at the TV Station at 11am.
- c. Rivington and Blackrod High School: Consultation with stakeholders and interested parties response – Blackrod Town Council Letter.
- d. Town Mayor: Invitation to 'The Mayor of Horwich's Spring Charity Ball', Saturday 15th March 2025 at 7pm, Ridgmont, in aid of the Mayors chosen charities – tickets £55.
- e. British Heart Foundation: Application for a funded defibrillator package.
- f. Play and Youth Bolton: 2024 reporting period on funded provision for young people & the community – Play sessions, Skate park sessions and outreach sessions.

Resolved to note the Town Clerks report.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

TC 4888

a. **Town Mayor of Horwich**

The Town Mayor informed Members that he had attended the following events:

- Art Exhibition inspired by Horwich and the local areas at the RMI Cricket Club. Artwork was created by local residents, community groups and schools
- Mayors supporting Ukraine. A presentation delivered by Reverend Bernard Cocker, CEO and founder of the International Aid Trust at Bolton Town Hall.

b. **Horwich Ward Councillors**

Councillor Bamforth

- None

Councillor Wright

- Ward Councillors attended a residents meeting within the Horwich North Ward, regarding concerns about the amount of HMO'S within Horwich.

- Road and pavement resurfacing work has started by Bellway Homes, on the link road leading from Chorley New road to the roundabout (Rivington Chase Development). Estimated to take approximately 6 weeks to complete.

Councillor Williamson

- Bin issues and parking problems – have been addressed and resolved.

Councillor Sears

- None

Councillor Rigby

- Meeting with officers and other councillors to discuss Horwich Town Centre regeneration proposals
- Meeting with residents to discuss the increasing number of HMOs in the area
- General casework

Councillor Grant

- A meeting took place of Councillors and officers to progress the town centre regeneration
- Scheme has been whittled down to two projects for public consultation pedestrianisation and a one-way system on Winter hey lane.
- Improvements on old station park continue such as Pump Park
- Been working with residents regarding a number of HMO's that have been bought/leased by Serco for migrants in a small area in Horwich investigations with officers is ongoing.
- 10th Feb a meeting is to be held which should see the lease to Old Rivingtonians finalised

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

The Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 Sec (2)

It is advisable in the public interest that the press and public should be temporarily excluded and if present should be asked to leave due to the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.