

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Monday 10 March 2025 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, J. Scoble, C. Sears, J. Walton S. Williamson, P. Wright.
Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson
Deputy Town Clerk, M. Brady
7 members of the public

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE FIRE AND SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

TC 4904 Councillor Aldcroft outlined the procedure.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTE THE REASONS:

TC 4905 Resolved to accept apologies for absence from Councillor Rock and note 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 4906 Councillors Grant, Rigby and Scoble declared an interest in agenda item 7 and stated that they would not take part in either the discussion or voting and would leave the meeting.

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 4907 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2025:

TC 4908 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 20 February 2025.

TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FROM HORWICH RMI HARRIERS FOR GRANT FUNDING OF £1,242.00 FOR THE COST OF A TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER FOR A ROAD CLOSURE ON LEVER PARK AVENUE/PART SCHOLES BANK ON 19 APRIL 2025 TO ALLOW THE ANNUAL RIVINGTON PIKE FELL RACE TO TAKE PLACE:

TC 4909 Following consideration, it was resolved to approve the application from Horwich RMI Harriers for grant funding of £1,242.00 for the cost of a temporary traffic order for a road closure on Lever Park Avenue/part Scholes Bank on 19 April 2025 to allow the annual Rivington Pike Fell Race to take place.

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM HORWICH AND BLACKROD EVENTS CIC AND CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING OF £5,306.00 FOR COSTS FOR HORWICH ROX ONE-DAY MUSIC EVENT ON 21 JUNE 2025:

TC 4910 Councillors Grant, Rigby and Scoble left the meeting at this point.

Representatives from Horwich and Blackrod Events CIC gave a presentation to accompany the information that had already been circulated to all Members. Horwich Rox would be a one-day live music event held over 12 different venues, with their own public liability insurance, licences and security measures, some of which would be child-friendly and fully accessible. A part road closure of Winter Hey Lane was being proposed for outdoor performances and there would be involvement from local community groups and charities. The event would be free to attend.

Members were invited to ask any questions that they had about the application which were answered by the representatives as follows:

- choice of band to be suited to venue, some of which already have existing relationships with musicians
- confirmed that plans were in place for poor weather conditions
- confirmed that the event will be all inclusive, children with disabilities and autism would be catered for, with bars being encouraged to adapt during the day to cope with additional needs
- in response to a query regarding the fairground incident at the Festival of Horwich it was confirmed that the Council had not been informed by either Bolton Council or GMP of any further action
- clarification regarding sponsorship confirmed that it was the intention of the CIC to run multiple annual events, with sponsorship from large companies, with smaller businesses providing sponsorship per event. Also, an application had been made to Bolton CVS for funding of £2,000 for Horwich Rox.
- In response to a query regarding the cost breakdown, it was confirmed that new information regarding additional venues had come in after the presentation had been prepared

At this point, all members of the public present were requested to leave the Council Chamber to allow Members to fully consider the proposal.

The Town Clerk reminded Members of budgetary issues and advised that there were insufficient funds remaining for the current financial year for the amount requested and total allocation for the new financial year had been reduced to £8,000. In view of this and the possibility that there would be other applications from other groups, the payment of grant funding could be split into two payments of £2,500, from the current budget and from the budget for the new financial year.

The Chair temporarily suspended the meeting at this point.

The meeting resumed at this point.

Following concerns raised about the fairground incident at last year's Festival of Horwich and the involvement of key individuals from the Horwich and Blackrod Events CIC, it was moved and seconded that discussion should be deferred to the next meeting of the Council to allow time for relevant information to be received.

In response to a request a named voted was undertaken as follows:

To approve deferral of this item to the next meeting of the Council:

For: Councillors Bamforth, Burke, Sears, Walton and Williamson.

Against deferral of this item to the next meeting of the Council:

Councillors Aldcroft, Campbell, Chadwick, McKeon and Wright.

With the casting vote from the Chair included, the proposal to defer this item to the next meeting was not approved.

Other Members while recognising the importance of the Festival of Horwich incident were of the view that the proposed Horwich Rox event should be viewed separately from the Festival of Horwich, and judged on its own merits as presented.

It was moved and seconded that the Council approve the application and award grant funding of £5,000 to Horwich and Blackrod Events CIC for the Horwich Rox one-day music event on 21 June 2025, with payment split equally between remaining allocation for 2024 – 2025 and new financial year 2025 – 2026.

A named vote took place as follows:

To approve grant funding of £5,000 to Horwich and Blackrod Events CIC for the Horwich Rox one-day music event on 21 June 2025, with payment split equally between remaining allocation for 2024 – 2025 and new financial year 2025 – 2026:

For: Councillors Aldcroft, Burke, Campbell, Chadwick, McKeon and Wright

Against approval of grant funding of £5,000 to Horwich and Blackrod Events CIC for the Horwich Rox one-day music event on 21 June 2025:

Councillors Bamforth, Sears, Walton and Williamson.

It was therefore resolved to approve grant funding of £5,000 to Horwich and Blackrod Events CIC for the Horwich Rox one-day music event on 21 June 2025, with payment split equally between

remaining allocation for 2024 – 2025 and new financial year 2025 – 2026.

Councillors Grant, Rigby and Scoble rejoined the meeting at this point and some members of the public also returned.

The Representatives from Horwich and Blackrod Events CIC were thanked for their presentation.

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM COUNCILLOR CHADWICK FOR COUNCIL TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION FOR THE BRIDGE HOTEL BOWLING GREEN SITE TO BE LISTED AS AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE:

TC 4911 Councillor Chadwick informed Members of ongoing complaints regarding building works on the former Conservative Club and the Bridge Inn Bowling Green which was a former Asset of Community Value and the need to protect this space. A successful ACV would be a material planning consideration for any future development.

Resolved to approve the request for Council to submit a nomination for the Bridge Hotel Bowling Green site to be listed as an Asset of Community Value, Councillor Chadwick to provide the relevant information to the Town Clerk.

TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF A REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR THE NEW CIVIC YEAR 2025 -2026:

TC 4912 Resolved to approve the recommendations of a report from the Town Clerk proposing amendments to Council meeting dates for 2025 – 2026 to include the second Monday meeting in May being moved to the first Thursday immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Council and the second Monday meeting in August to be cancelled and held on the second Monday in July instead so there are two meetings in July and only one in August.

TO APPOINT THE TOWN MAYOR ELECT OF HORWICH FOR 2025 – 2026:

TC 4913 Proposed by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Wright and resolved to appoint Councillor Rigby as Town Mayor Elect of Horwich for 2025 – 2026.

TO APPOINT THE DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR ELECT OF HORWICH FOR 2025 – 2026:

TC 4914 Proposed by Councillor Chadwick, seconded by Councillor Grant and resolved to appoint Councillor Kevin McKeon as Deputy Town Mayor Elect of Horwich for 2025 – 2026.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AS PRESENTED:

TC 4915 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as presented and amounting to £482.28 as follows:

Payee	Summary	Amount
Alliance Learning	Fire marshal training for staff	81.60
Sage UK	Accounts Software – March	100.80

Alliance Learning	Emergency first aid training for staff	126.00
HR Solutions	HR retainer – March	173.88

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

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

TC 4916

- a. British Heart Foundation Community Defibrillator Funding Programme: information re. Council's unsuccessful application for a funded defibrillator package
- b. North West Air Ambulance Service: request for mayoral support for fundraising.

Resolved to note the Town Clerks report.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

TC 4917

a. Town Mayor of Horwich

The Town Mayor had attended the following events:

- 150 Years of Local Government in Horwich and Meet the Mayor event held in the Council Chamber on 13 February. Members of the public and former Mayors attended to view an exhibition of photographs and documents, curated by the Town Clerk
- Horwich Heritage's new exhibition 'Our Ancient Past' on 22 February
- Westhoughton Mayor's Ball on 22 February
- Remembrance Service for Winter Hill Air Disaster on 27 February
- Mayor of Bolton's Charity Ball on 28 February
- The Mayor's Chain has returned minus dents and looking extremely shiny after a long overdue refurbishment by Fattorini & Sons, the original manufacturers

b. Town Councillors

Councillor Chadwick:

- Changes to bin collection caused issues for flats above the shops at the top of Winter Hey Lane, have managed to get Bolton Council to agree to revert back to the old collection points so private bins are emptied from the rear of the properties, just as the commercial bins are.
- Supporting residents experiencing issues with a HMO conversion on St Anne's Road.
- Rivington Grill/Black Bull - Bolton Council advise consent given for the new door in the side of the building, however decking will need to be removed before the end of March 2025 otherwise Borough Council will take enforcement action, they will check in April.

- Complaints received regarding building works on Bridge Inn Bowling Green (former ACV) and the former Conservative Club, reached out to Bridge Inn who advised works on Conservative Club unrelated to works on Bowling Green. Issues forwarded to Borough Councillors, Bolton Council Planning Control, Building Control and the Health & Safety Executive.
- All bollards now painted between Scholes Bank and Bowling Green Pub, in addition, graffiti removed from Wallsuches Conservation Area near Ridgmont. On Sunday 27th April my volunteer group will finish the barriers outside Horwich Parish, all welcome, many thanks to Horwich Town Council for supplying the paint.
- Woodland Trust have been in contact wishing to consult with Town Councillors on their plans for Two Lads cairn following my previous representations. Currently trying to arrange a meeting either at Horwich Community Centre or Smithills.

c. Bolton Ward Councillors

Councillor Wright

- 24 February, Ward Councillors for Horwich South and Blackrod were invited to Bolton Arena to discuss how they can assist Bolton Arena in any way. One of the issues discussed was the 25-year lease that is up next year

27 February, Ward Councillors from the Horwich South and Blackrod Ward held a meeting at Blackrod Community Centre with BSAC, to discuss the establishment of the Two Towns Community Alliance Project. This project is to be community lead with the aim to fund local community initiatives.

d. Representatives on Outside Bodies as per the approved list.

None.

These were noted.

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.