

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Horwich Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall on Thursday, 12 May 2016, commencing at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors: J. Bullock, Town Mayor (in the Chair)
 M. Brady, S. Chadwick, K. Denton, P. Holmes, J. Kellett, K. McKeon,
 C. Root, K. Schofield, P. Wright.
 Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson
 Town Mayoress of Horwich Mrs Dorothy Bullock
 Retiring Town Mayoress of Horwich, Mrs Sue Denton
 Chris Green M.P
 Mayor of Bolton
 Town Mayor and Consort of Blackrod
 Town Mayor and Mayoress of Westhoughton
 The Mayor's Clergy Reverend M. Behrend
 Honorary Freeman of Horwich, Bob and Barbara Ronson
 Bolton Ward Councillors: S. Pickup, R. Silvester
 Approximately 15 invited guests
 2 members of the press

TO APPOINT THE TOWN MAYOR FOR 2016/2017:

AM 218 The outgoing Town Mayor Councillor Ken Denton informed the meeting that both he and the outgoing Town Mayoress Mrs Sue Denton had very much enjoyed their mayoral year and raised a total of £2,700 for their six charities Legacy Rainbow House, Horwich Visiting Service, Horwich Memory Café, Bolton West Stroke Association, Horwich Heritage and the Colostomy Society. He thanked the Town Council staff for their hard work, assistance and guidance throughout the year and presented gifts to all of them.

It was proposed by Councillor Kellett to appoint Councillor Bullock as Town Mayor for 2016/2017 and praised his hard work and support during his year as Deputy Mayor and was confident that he and his wife Dorothy would be a superb Mayor and Mayoress, with the full support of their family including their children and grandchildren and wished them every success for the year ahead.

It gave Councillor Root great pleasure to second the motion and looked forward to the year ahead. It was noted that Councillor Root had stepped in to second the nomination in place of Councillor Rock as Leader of the Opposition, but who unfortunately was in hospital and unable to attend.

It was resolved to appoint Councillor Bullock as Town Mayor for 2016/2017.

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

AM 219 Councillor Bullock signed the declaration that was then witnessed by the Town Clerk.

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE THE EVACUATION PROCEDURE IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE:

AM 220 Councillor Bullock referred to the copies of the instructions for fire evacuation procedure including the requirement for visitors to sign the attendance register if they had not already done so.

OPENING PRAYERS CONDUCTED BY REVEREND MICHAEL BEHREND

AM 221 Opening prayers were offered by Reverend Michael Behrend

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

AM 222 Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Allen, Jarvis and Rock as presented.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

AM 223 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 14 MAY 2015:

AM 224 Resolved to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 14 May 2015.

TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2015/2016:

AM 225 Copies had been circulated to all Members.
Resolved to approve the Annual Report for the year 2015/2016.

PRESENTATIONS TO RETIRING TOWN MAYOR AND MAYORESS:

AM 226 The Town Mayor presented the Retiring Town Mayor Ken Denton with an engraved medallion and the Retiring Town Mayoress Mrs Sue Denton with an engraved pendant

APPOINTMENT OF TOWN MAYORESS FOR 2016/2017:

AM 227 The Town Mayor was pleased to appoint Mrs Dorothy Bullock as Town Mayoress for 2016-2017. A flower bouquet was presented to the Retiring Town Mayoress Mrs Sue Denton.

TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS

AM 228

A welcome was extended to visiting Mayoralty from Bolton, Blackrod and Westhoughton, local M.P. Chris Green, Bob and Barbara Ronson Freeman of Horwich, Borough Councillors and all invited guests.

The Town Mayor thanked the Councillors who had elected him and was very grateful to have been chosen for the honour of representing the Council and the people of Horwich. Councillors most of whom were strangers not much more than a year ago had become valued colleagues and hopefully friends. It was hoped that political differences would continue to be put to one side in order to work for the people of Horwich.

The Town Mayor thanked the retiring Town Mayor and Mayoress not only for their untiring work throughout the year but also for their generous support and he hoped that he would be able to continue to look to them for advice if needed in the coming year.

Finally the Town Mayor mentioned the help and advice that Councillors receive from the Town Clerk. He believed that his year as Deputy would have been much more difficult without her and had every confidence that he could look forward to the same support during the coming year.

It was noted that the ceremonial role of Town Mayor was very much one of trying to help the local community and those local groups who provide the glue that holds communities together. Horwich was fortunate to have lots of local groups promoting just about every conceivable interest from first aid to music, sport to art, uniformed groups like the scouts and guides and caring groups helping the elderly and vulnerable, along with school and church groups forming part of an endless list.

The Town Mayor reported that during his year as Deputy he had been privileged to meet lots of people who give up their time unstintingly for the benefit of others and he was sure that he would meet many more during the coming year. It was an inspiration to meet them and without them Horwich would not be the great place to live in that it is. Horwich is an old town with the problems that creates, but it is set in stunning countryside, has great communications and a thriving local centre which should be cherished and that as Town Mayor he would endeavour to do just that.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR FOR 2016/2017:

AM 229 As Councillor Rock was unable to attend the meeting due to ill health it was proposed by Councillor Root, seconded by Councillor McKeon and resolved to defer the appointment of Deputy Town Mayor to a time when Councillor Rock was present.

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

AM 230 Deferred.

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

AM 231 Resolved to approve and adopt the Town Council’s Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

TO APPOINT THE FOLLOWING STANDING COMMITTEES ON WHICH ALL MEMBERS WILL SERVE:

- AM 232 a. Finance and General Purposes Committee
- b. Planning Committee

Resolved to appoint all Members to serve on the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Planning Committees.

TO AGREE TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON ADVISORY BODIES, OUTSIDE BODIES AND SUB COMMITTEES AT THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE ON 13 JUNE, 2016:

AM 233 Resolved to agree to appoint Members to serve on these Sub Committees at the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to be held on 13 June, 2016.

TO APPROVE THE DATES FOR MEETINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEES FOR 2016/2017:

AM 234 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 2016/2017.

Councillor Bullock thanked everyone for attending and hoped to see everyone at the Reception at the Rivington and declared the meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

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Chairperson

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Date

