
Horwich Town Council Annual Report 2015/2016

The Council's budget for the financial year 2015/2016 has continued to provide considerable financial support for many local organisations who have applied for grants to help to pay for a wide range of activities throughout the year. Horwich Carnival, Horwich Heritage and Horwich Festival of Racing have also continued to receive generous financial assistance from the Town Council. Looking forward Council is very pleased to be able to offer additional support in 2016 for the re-launch of the Horwich Music Festival which will be held at Horwich Community Centre over three days in May catering for a variety of musical tastes & featuring local musical talent.

Horwich Resource Centre and Horwich Heritage Centre continue to thrive with the Council's support, with the Heritage Centre continuing to attract many visitors with its varied programme of exhibitions & events. The Resource Centre celebrates its 25th birthday this year and following improvements for the benefit of all users, Council has decided to change the name of the Centre to Horwich Community Centre to reflect the many new initiatives that have raised it's profile in the wider community. Financed by the Town Council & the Centre's own reserves, work is planned to start on the refurbishment of the Saddlery at the rear of the building during the summer with the aim of creating additional space for full community use. This will be Phase 3, the final & much anticipated part of the re-furbishment of the entire site which originally began 25 years ago!

'Horwich in Bloom' the annual gardening competition run by the Council, was once again a great success, making a valuable contribution to improving the overall street scene in Horwich. In 2016 the Horwich in Bloom Committee, with the advice from members of the former Fruit, Flower & Vegetable Society will re-launch the annual Fruit, Flower & Vegetable Show to be held on the same day as the Horwich in Bloom presentations at the Community Centre.

The Council's website www.horwich.gov.uk remains popular and local organisations make good use of the free publicity for their events available on its 'Horwich Live' page. Council have allocated funds for a refurbishment of the website in 2016 & the quarterly newsletter 'Connections' continues to be well received and is available at various locations in Horwich.

The Lighting of the Civic Christmas Tree Service continued to mark the start of the festive season in the town and was well attended by all ages and once again welcomed the involvement of Horwich Rotary Club and local schools.

Council has consulted throughout the year with the unitary authority, Bolton Council, on a wide range of matters of importance to the Parish such as planning issues. Council's support for the principle of Fairtrade continues, despite the fact that the Fairtrade group in Horwich was disbanded due to a shortage of volunteers.

The annual Remembrance Parade and Service continues to flourish due to the promotional efforts of the Town Council, the support of the Royal British Legion in Horwich with the increasing attendance of many local groups & organisations as well as the general public.

Council provided funding for the commemoration of the Common Graves site project at Ridgmont Cemetery which finally recognised those individuals who had been buried there. A special service of commemoration took place attended by the Town Mayor, the MP, Members of the Council, the Ridgmont Graves Committee as well as many members of the public.

The Town Mayor has had a very busy year, performing a wide variety of civic duties, with the support of the Town Mayoress and assisted by the Deputy Town Mayor, supporting several good causes including the Legacy Rainbow House, Horwich Visiting Service, the Memory Café, the Colostomy Society & Horwich Heritage. The Town Mayor was also asked to open several new businesses which mark the continuing revival of Horwich as an independent shopping destination.

Staff continue to work with Councillors to develop the role of the Council & maintain high standards of professionalism in the Council's activities. The Council took over the employment of all caretaking staff at the Community Centre from 1 April from an outside agency. Staff were transferred under a TUPE agreement & a new caretaker was appointed to complete the hard working & dedicated team at the Community Centre. An additional role of part time street cleaner has been created. This service will address the concerns of local businesses & public concerns about litter & other environmental issues in the town centre.

The External Auditors found no matters for concern for the financial year 2014/2015. The Internal Auditors continue to report that they are satisfied that all financial controls and systems are effective. The annual risk assessment has been undertaken, the internal system for financial control has been reviewed and Council policies continue to be reviewed and updated.

A new Council was elected in May 2015 with the role of Town Councillor remaining voluntary, with Members not receiving either any payment or claiming any expenses. Foundations were already in place for the new

Council to build upon and to continue to contribute to the ongoing success of the community of Horwich.

Councillor K. Denton
Town Mayor
2015/2016

Horwich Town Council can be contacted via:

Carol Hutchinson, Town Clerk, Horwich Town Council Office, Horwich
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Individual Councillors' contact details can be found in the Annual Report, the Council's quarterly newsletter 'Connections' or on the website www.horwich.gov.uk

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS: AS AT 31 MARCH 2015

BALANCE SHEET:	£
In Reserve Account	16,000
Current Assets:	
Debtors	0
Bank Balances	118,464
Cash in hand	0
Total Assets:	118,464
Current Liabilities:	
Creditors & accruals	6,287
Net Current Assets:	99,313
Financed by reserves:	
Capital Account	25,000
General Fund	74,313
Total:	99,313

Total expenditure under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972
£25,216
Limit: £111,261 (Electorate 15,453 x £7.20 per elector)

A full copy of the Council's accounts are available by contacting the Town Clerk.