

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the ANNUAL ASSEMBLY of the Parish of Horwich held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Monday, 14, May, 2012 commencing at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors: P. Baxendale, Town Mayor (in the Chair), K.J.Helsby, J. J. Lavin, L. McCartin, K. McGeehan, K. Ramamurthy, C. A. Root, L. Rock, S. Rock and K Thomson.
Ms C Hutchinson, Assistant Town Clerk
1 Member of the public.

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE

AA 074 The Chairperson outlined the procedure.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

AA 075 Apologies were accepted from Councillor Downes due to illness, Councillor Kellett who was representing the Council at another function and from Councillor Flanigan due to work commitments. An apology for lateness was accepted from Councillor Thomson.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON 16 May 2011.

AA 076

Moved by Councillor McCartin
Seconded by Councillor Helsby and
Resolved to approve the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 16 May, 2011.

ANNUAL REPORT

AA 077

A written report had been circulated. The main points were as follows:

The Council's offices have now found a permanent base at Horwich Resource Centre.

Horwich Resource Centre and Horwich Heritage Centre continue to thrive with the Council's support. The Management Committee of the Centre has recently funded the redecoration of both the interior and the exterior of the Resource Centre, along with the installation of a new boiler in the Heritage Centre.

The Council's budget for the financial year 2011/2012 continues to provide considerable financial support for Horwich Carnival and the Carnival Races as well as Horwich Heritage.

In addition many local organizations have applied for small grants to help pay for a wide range of activities throughout the year, including a separate grant budget specifically to fund projects to benefit children and young people. The Council's current budget also has provision within it to continue to provide this essential financial help. The introduction of grant awards evenings have proved to be a great success giving local organizations an opportunity to meet each

other and share knowledge and experience.

The Council has also continued to provide the town center CCTV scheme, along with the Christmas lighting scheme. 'Horwich in Bloom' the annual gardening competition run by the Council, was a great success and the Town Mayor was pleased to serve on the committee charged with its organization.

6,000 copies of a new town guide were published in summer 2011 and it is extremely popular with both residents and visitors to the town. The website www.horwich.gov.uk remains popular and Council authorized a complete refurbishment of the site. Local organizations make good use of the free publicity for their events available on its 'Horwich Live' page.

The quarterly newsletter, circulated widely throughout the town, attracts much interest. Horwich Remembrance Sunday parades continue to benefit from record attendances and the Council can take some of the credit for this because of its promotional efforts and general support. Civic medals have been awarded to Mrs Lesley Allon and Mrs Shirley Holt for their long and outstanding service to the young people of Horwich.

Council has consulted throughout the year with the unitary authority, Bolton Council, on a wide range of matters of importance to the parish including the future of the Horwich Loco Works site and the Town Centre Action Plan and Lottery funding was secured in partnership for activities for children and young people at Horwich Leisure Centre. Council has received regular updates from the police about their efforts to ensure the safety and well being of Horwich residents.

The Council's involvement with Fairtrade continued during the year, with some very successful promotional activities taking place. The Council's determination to encourage civic pride in the town carries on with the installation of another civic plaque, contributing greatly to the ambition of creating a heritage trail through the parish.

The External Auditors had found no matters for concern for the financial year 2010/2011 and the Internal Auditors continued to report that they were satisfied that all financial controls and systems were effective. The annual risk assessment had been undertaken and the internal system for financial control had been reviewed.

The Town Mayor has had a busy year performing a wide variety of civic duties, assisted by the Deputy Town Mayor who has given every support.

The staff have adapted well to changes over the past year. Linda Challender, the Town Clerk has recently retired after a long career with the council and members have sent their best wishes for a happy retirement. The Assistant Town Clerk, Carol Hutchinson will take

over the responsibilities of the running of the Town Council, until more permanent arrangements are confirmed, working with Councillors to develop the work of the Council.

Moved by Councillor McCartin

Seconded by Councillor Helsby and

Resolved that the Annual Report be approved.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

AA 078

Copies of the financial statement for 2011/2012 were provided for everyone present.

Moved by Councillor Helsby

Seconded by Councillor McCartin and

Resolved to approve the Financial Statement.

ATTENDANCE RECORD

AA 079

Copies of the record of attendance of Councillors at meetings during the previous year were provided. Corrections were noted and it was confirmed that the attendance record would be amended accordingly.

ISSUES RAISED BY HORWICH ELECTORS

AA 080

None.

Having thanked everyone for attending the meeting, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 7.15pm.

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Chairperson

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Date