

## HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Monday 13 January 2020 commencing at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: M. Brady (in the Chair), I. Aldcroft, M. Baines, J. Bostocksmith, S. Burke, S. Chadwick, A. Coward, K. Denton, S. Denton, D. Grant, C. Rotheram, S. Rock, G. Stone, P. Wright.  
C. Morris, Deputy Town Clerk.  
3 Members of public

### CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 7101 Councillor Brady outlined the procedure from the information provided.

### TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 7102 None.

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

FG 7103 None.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT MAY PUT QUESTIONS OR MAKE OBSERVATIONS REGARDING MATTERS IN RELATION TO WHICH THE TOWN COUNCIL HAS POWERS OR DUTIES OR WHICH AFFECT THE PARISH. MAXIMUM PERIOD 15 MINUTES:

FG 7104 Resolved to move out of committee to allow members of the public to speak.

Neil Brown- Secretary of Horwich Cycling Club, informed Members that he was in the progress of setting up a safety campaign for cyclists. The campaign was created since concerns were growing due to the number of incidents involved between cyclists and cars within the Horwich Cycling Club and the seriousness of the injuries sustained. Mr Brown requested statistics from Bolton Council but these were only accidents which had been reported and police had attended. In order to strengthen the campaign, Mr Brown has created a form which can be found in 'The Green Machine', on Lee Lane which is to be filled in if an incident has occurred which can then be logged to form a database to strengthen the campaign. Mr Brown expressed his concerns that accidents are possibly impacting people's decision as to not want to take up cycling. Mr Brown stated he had contacted Chris Green MP to ask for his support and also asked Members for the council's support in his campaign so that it could have a wider impact outside of the Horwich area.

Resolved to move back into committee.

Councillor Brady informed Mr Brown that there was a similar approach being done by the 'Active Travel Forum' in Bolton and asked for his contact details so that he could be sent the details for their next meeting so that he could attend.

Resolved to request agenda item to consider the council to endorse the safety campaign for cyclists.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2019:

FG 7105 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 9 December 2019.

TO APPROVE A REQUEST FROM HORWICH FESTIVAL OF RACING FOR GRANT FUNDING OF £3,500 FOR 2020 EVENTS, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET FOR 2020-2021:

FG 7106 Members expressed how successful the event is and how it brings tourism to Horwich with some of the unique events in its programme. One Member queried the amount requested and suggested that the event organisers need to improve on promoting the event.

Resolved to approve a request from Horwich Festival of Racing for grant funding of £3,500 for 2020 events, subject to approval of the Town Council budget for 2020-2021.

TO NOMINATE TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO REPRESENT THE TOWN COUNCIL ON THE HORWICH HERITAGE VE DAY CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE 2020:

FG 7107 Stuart Whittle, the Chairman of Horwich Heritage requested that the Town Council nominates two Members as representatives on a committee to organise VE Day events this year.

Resolved to nominate Councillor Coward and Councillor Grant as representatives for on a committee for VE Day events this year. The representatives were informed of the time and date for the committee meeting.

TO RECONSIDER THE DECISION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF TWO FLAGPOLES AT THE PUBLIC HALL IN VIEW OF BOLTON COUNCIL'S COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE USE OF APPROVED CONTRACTORS AND REQUEST THAT THE WARD COUNCILLORS ADDRESS THE WDER ISSUE OF HOW THE TOWN COUNCIL CAN DEMONSTRATE GOOD VALUE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WHEN CONSTRAINED BY UNITARY AUTHORITY POLICY:

FG 7108 Following response from Corporate Property Services in relation to the proposal of the installation of the two flag poles at the Public Hall, the Council were informed that as the land is a CPS asset, it would require the installation to be completed using CPS approved contractors only. Members decided to request justification of the costs as Members felt the costs quoted were not best value for public money and to query why Horwich Town Council must only use CPS approved contractors instead of the council acquiring their own contractors and suppliers.

Resolved to defer the decision for the installation of two flagpoles at the Public Hall and have requested the relevant Ward Councillor to put this forward in writing to ask Bolton Council to justify the costs of using approved contractors only.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ROTHERAM ON A PROPOSAL TO CREATE A PERMANENT HORWICH LOCO WORKS HERITAGE STATEMENT ALONG THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE NEW SPINE ROAD – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

FG 7109 Resolved to receive a report from Councillor Rotheram on a proposal to create a permanent Horwich Loco Works heritage statement along the entire length of the new spine road. Councillor Rotheram informed Members that there would be a meeting with the Leader of Bolton Council to be held on 15 January 2020.

TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL TO CHALLENGE THE DECISION NOTICE FOR NOMINATION OF AN ACV – PICKUPS FIELD BY MEANS OF AN APPLICATION TO THE HIGH COURT FOR A JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY'S DECISION:

FG 7110 Members discussed whether this would be good use of public money due to the costs that would be involved if the council was to challenge the decision. There was also no provision in the current budget to contribute towards the costs. Councillor Brady also informed Members that a decision has to be challenged within 6 weeks of the response date which had now expired and discussions were already in motion at Bolton Council regarding encroachment of the boundary.  
Councillor Chadwick suggested that the Environmental Sub-Committee become involved in the proposals of listing assets of community value. After consideration, Councillor Chadwick decided to withdraw the proposal.

Resolved to withdraw the proposal to challenge the decision notice for nomination of the ACV and for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to continue creating a list of proposed assets of community value.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 7111 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £7,230.00 as follows:

Petty Cash	£30.00
Nationwide Capital Finance (Quarterly rental Xerox 7200i 13/01/20 – 12/04/20)	£450.00
Town Mayor's Allowance	£1750.00
Horwich Town Council (Salaries and wages account)	£5000.00

TOWN CLERKS REPORT (EMAILED TO MEMBERS) – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

FG 7112 a. Parish and Town Training, Lancashire: list of training workshops for 2020  
b. Summary of councillors' casework.

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

FG 7113 Town Mayor's Report

It was reported that the Town Mayor had been kept very busy with mayoral duties in the run up to Christmas as detailed in the emailed update which included the attendance to the Bolton Music Service Winter Concert and a performance “It’s A Party” showcased by many talented youngsters. The Deputy Town Mayor had also accepted several invitations on his behalf such as St Elizabeth’s Christmas Fayre and Rivington View.

Horwich Ward Councillors

Councillor Wright informed Members that he had attended the Horwich Town Centre Stakeholders workshop on 11<sup>th</sup> December and the Loco Works Erecting Shed event on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in which over 200 members of the public were also in attendance.

Councillor Wright updated Members on Urban Quarry which was circulated to all Councillors.

Councillor Brady reported to Members that Bolton Council were in the process of setting their budget for next year but currently unsure of the Greater Manchester levy

Reports from Representatives

As detailed in the emailed update, Councillor Rotheram had attended a meeting of the Rivington and Brinscall Advisory Group where the main item had been an increase in fly tipping and increase in rubbish, particularly McDonalds packaging which led to McDonalds being contacted to encourage their staff to attend litter picking events.

Councillor S. Denton is a representative on Horwich Angels and was intrigued to know what it is they do so has asked to shadow next time they meet with business owners. As they are a voluntary group, Councillor S. Denton has suggested they apply for a Horwich Town Council grant.

The reports were noted.

TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AS 10 FEBRUARY 2020:

FG 7114 Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee as 10 February 2020.

The meeting closed at 8.34 pm.

Chair..... Date.....