

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 6 December 2021 commencing at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: M. Brady (in the Chair) I. Aldcroft, S. Chadwick, S. Rock, C. Rotheram, G. Stone, P. Wright.
C. Hutchinson, Town Clerk.

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 7353 Councillor Brady outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 7354 Apologies were accepted from Councillors Baines, Burke, Coward, Denton and Grant. An apology for lateness was accepted from Councillor Wright.

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

FG 7355 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 7356 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2021:

FG 7357 In response to a comment regarding FG 7343 it was pointed out that these minutes were a summary and did not guarantee the accuracy of the content of what had been said during public participation.

Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 8 November 2021.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE REVIEW SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 NOVEMBER 2021 INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2022 - 2023:

FG 7358 In response to a query it was confirmed that the present meeting was quorate with six members present. In response to a query regarding allocation for twinning activity with Crowborough it was confirmed that as in previous years, any group or organisation wanting to do this could apply for grant funding to do so and also that the costs for new Christmas lighting and a new flagpole had been included in the regeneration budget, as stated in the accompanying notes.

Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance Review Sub Committee held on 23 November 2021 including recommendations for the draft budget for 2022 - 2023.

TO UNDERTAKE AND APPROVE THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT AND ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY FOR 2021 - 2022:

FG 7359 In response to a query about issues about the hall floor in the Community Centre it was confirmed that this matter was being addressed by the Centre Sub Committee

Resolved to undertake and approve the Council's annual risk assessment and annual health and safety policy for 2021 – 2022.

TO UNDERTAKE AND APPROVE THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT FOR 2021 – 2022:

FG 7360 Resolved to undertake and approve the Council's annual review of internal audit for 2021 – 2022.

TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE 'FESTIVAL OF HORWICH' ADVISORY GROUP FOR 2022, AS PER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE REVIEW SUB COMMITTEE:

FG 7361 Due to the number of absentees, it was resolved to defer the appointment of Members to serve on the Festival of Horwich Advisory Group for 2022 to the meeting of the Town Council on 16 December.

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE A SELECTION OF STREET NAMES FOR CONSIDERATION BY BOLTON COUNCIL DEPARTMENT OF PLACE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT THE FORMER HORWICH LOCO WORKS:

FG 7362 All Members had received copies of an email trail between various Councillors and Bolton Council Department of Place on this matter and a list of suggested names.

Councillor Wright arrived at this point.

Following a lengthy discussion Members were in agreement that it was important that Bolton Council should take on board Horwich Town Council's recommendations regarding naming of new streets, as previous policy had not taken into account neither the history or industrial heritage of Horwich. There were two different proposals for consideration, firstly, that the names should be those of the fallen from two World Wars which appeared on the Loco Works War Memorial, and a second that the names chosen should represent the industrial heritage of Horwich, in particular its railway history.

It was proposed that suggestions for new street names should be taken from the Loco Works War Memorial, with the method for selection to be decided, however this motion was not carried due to a lack of support.

The second proposal was voted on and it was resolved to submit suggestions for new street naming to Bolton Council which reflected the railway heritage of Horwich to include:

- Railway Road, Mechanics Way, Institute Way, Matilda Way, Gresley Way (although acknowledged that there was already a Gresley Avenue in Horwich), Whittle Way, Roe Way
- Festubert Way to commemorate those Loco Works employees who lost their lives during the battle of Festubert during the First World War
- Ronson Way to recognise the contribution to the local community made by Bob and Barbara Ronson, former Councillors Mayors and Freeman of Horwich

- Queen Elizabeth Way as a fitting tribute for next year's Platinum Jubilee
- individual Councillors offered to contact Horwich Heritage and ask for suggestions for additional names which reflected the railway history of Horwich.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 7363 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £8,036.87

Namesco Ltd	£158.38
Franking Sense	£310.49
HW Installations	£618.00
Bolton Council	£6,950.00

Payment to Namesco Ltd was made in accordance with LGA 1972 s142 and to HW Installations and Bolton Council in accordance with LGA 1072 s137.

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

- FG 7364
- Colin Myers: thanks to Council for civic medal award and presentation by the Town Mayor.
 - SE Lancs Community Rail Partnership: Community Rail News
 - NALC: open letter from the Chair
 - UNISON North West Region: notice to employer of an official industrial action ballot
 - Summary of Town Councillors' casework.

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 7365
- Town Mayor of Horwich
None. .
 - Horwich Ward Councillors
None.
 - Representatives on Outside Bodies
Councillor Stone reported that he had recently attended the LALC AGM via Zoom.

IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS ABOUT TO BE TRANSCATED IT IS ADVISABLE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC SHOULD BE TEMPORARILY EXCLUDED AND IF PRESENT SHOULD BE ASKED TO LEAVE.