

## 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 Thursday 20 April 2023 commencing at 7.15 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: D. Grant (in the Chair) I. Aldcroft, M. Baines, J. Bostocksmith, M. Brady, S. Burke, S. Chadwick, S. Denton, S. Rock, C. Rotheram, G. Stone, P. Wright.  
C. Hutchinson, Town Clerk.  
2 members of the public

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 7543 Councillor Grant outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

FG 7544 None received.

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

FG 7545 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 7546 Resolved to move out of committee to allow a member of the public to speak.

Members were informed that a resident of Singleton Avenue had raised concerns about variation of approved plans for the Pickups Field housing development. It was noted that this was a matter that should be referred to Bolton planning.

Resolved to return back into committee.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 MARCH 2023:

FG 7547 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13 March 2023.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE STAFFING SUB-COMMITTEE ON 21 MARCH 2023:

FG 7548 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Staffing Sub-Committee held on 21 March 2023.

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE TOWN MAYOR FOR THE USE OF THE TOWN CREST FOR A COMMEMORATIVE GIN TO RAISE DONATIONS FOR MAYORAL CHARITIES:

FG 7549 Councillor Chadwick informed members of a proposal for a local distillery to produce a special limited edition commemorative gin, with a proportion of sales donated to mayoral charities. The intention was that the label design would include the image of the town's crest and the gin would be widely available locally and online.

There was some concern expressed about the association of the Town Council with alcohol by use of the crest, but the majority view was that there were adequate safeguards in place, it was a limited edition which would raise the profile of the Town Council, the same as the three-day family friendly Platinum Jubilee event in 2022, where alcohol was on sale.

Resolved to approve the use of the town crest for a commemorative gin to raise donations for mayoral charities.

**TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS FOR THE HORWICH YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

FG 7550 The criteria for the award was that it was open to young people up to the age of twenty-five, who either live, study or and work in Horwich, who have brought real credit to Horwich through exceptional academic, sporting, or cultural achievement or rendered great charitable or voluntary service to the community.

Resolved to allocate the Young Citizen Award jointly to Ebony Nelson and Ethan Sharrocks as both were worthy winners of the Council's new initiative.

**TO APPOINT THE TOWN MAYOR ELECT OF HORWICH FOR 2023 - 2024:**

FG 7551 Proposed by Councillor Rotheram, seconded by Councillor Denton and resolved to appoint Councillor David Grant as Town Mayor of Horwich for 2023 – 2024, subject to re-election.

**TO APPOIINT THE DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR OF HORWICH FOR 2023 – 2024:**

FG 7552 Proposed by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Rotheram and resolved to appoint Councillor Ian Aldcroft as Deputy Town Mayor of Horwich for 2023 – 2024, subject to re-election.

**TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:**

FG 7553 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £11,012.68

JRB Enterprises Ltd	
Dog waste dispenser bags refills x 1600	£75.18
HR Solutions	
Monthly HR retainer	£173.88
Leach Briely	
Completion of payroll to 28.02.23	£246.00
Signs of the Times	
Civic plaque for former Black Bull Inn	£537.00
Thomas Fattorini	
Past mayoral medals for outgoing mayoralty	£1,089.14
Bolton Council	
Spring planting of town centre flower troughs	£1,212.00

LALC	
Renewal of annual membership fees 2023 – 24	£1,821.52
HM Revenue and Customs	
PAYE Tax month 12	£2,657.96
Horwich Festival of Racing	
Grant funding for events in 2023	£3,200.00

Payments to Signs of the Times and Bolton Council were made in accordance with LGA 1972 s144 and to Horwich Festival of Racing in accordance with LGA 1972 s137.

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

- FG 7554
- a. The Bridge Church – monitoring/feedback form for grant award of £500 in November 2022.
  - b. South East Lancashire Community Rail Partnership: monitoring/feedback form for grant award of £1,000 in June 2022.
  - c. United Utilities, Chorley Council, Lancashire County Council: responses to letters from Horwich Town Council requesting support for South East Lancashire Rail Partnership’s continuation of the 575A bus service.
  - d. Councils record of outstanding motions – Updated march 2023

The Town Clerk’s report was noted.

#### REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 7555
- a. Town Mayor of Horwich  
Three oak trees had been planted in Ridgmont to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, 150 years of local government in Horwich and the Coronation of King Charles III. Associated signage had been ordered and would be installed in time for the official unveiling on Saturday 29 April by the Town Mayoress, the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester and other distinguished guests. The Town Mayor had also attended the Horwich Foodshare open day on Good Friday and had been very pleased to start the Annual Easter Saturday Rivington Pike Fell Race and present the prizes.

- b. Horwich Ward Councillors

Councillor Brady reported that 24 – 25 local businesses had signed up to the town centre loyalty scheme which the Council had previously resolved to support with initial costs of £350 for promotional material for the “Hello Horwich” scheme which was hoped to give a new identity to Horwich town centre. Also that the main contractors had now left Station Park, new surface was going on the play area prior to installation of the new play equipment, the footprint of the MUGA had been extended, grass and wildflower seeds had been sown and the hydraulic gates had been tested. Issues with the drainage on Green Lane footpath had now been addressed.

Councillor Grant reported that BSL signs were to be installed on the new fence around the play area.

- c. Representatives on Outside Bodies  
None.

TO APPROVE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AS 17 APRIL 2023:

FG 7556      Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee as 12 June 2023

Councillor Grant thanked everybody for their attendance and contribution to Council and the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk for their professionalism over the last four years.

The meeting closed at 7.46pm

Chair.....

Date.....