

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Civic Awards and Civic Signs Sub Committee of the Horwich Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Monday 12 August 2019 commencing at 6.45 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors: S. Rock (in the chair), M. Baines, S. Chadwick, P. Wright.
Town Clerk: C. Hutchinson

TO APPOINT THE CHAIR OF THE CIVIC AWARDS AND CIVIC SIGNS SUB COMMITTEE FOR 2019 – 2020:

CAS 47 Resolved to appoint Councillor Rock as Chair of the Civic Awards and Civic Signs Sub Committee for 2019 – 2020.

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS

CAS 48 An apology for lateness was accepted from Councillor Wright.

TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ABOUT ANY ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

CAS 49 None.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR CHADWICK TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR THE INSTALLATION OF BROWN TOURIST SIGNS AT THE PARISH BOUNDARY AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSALS:

CAS 50 Councillor Chadwick informed members that this request had been prompted by the previous Council's initiative of replacing the worn boundary signs in 2016 with new pictorial boundary signs. Following changes in legislation on boundary signage, advice was sought from Bolton Council on the use of the term 'historic Lancashire town' with an initial response from the then Director of Place that this would not be approved and the new signs were ordered with the words 'Historic Railway Town', based on this advice. However following pressure from various sources this decision was revoked but the signs had already been manufactured. Councillor Chadwick proposed the installation of a brown tourist sign at all six existing boundary signs and an example of the design and wording was shown to all members. The Clerk had been in contact with Bolton Highways who had advised that the cost per sign may cost from £8,000 to £20,000 to design and install and that there is a limit on the number of words allowed for a single destination, generally no longer than three words.

Resolved to contact to Bolton Council again with a request for costs for the installation of six brown tourist signs underneath the existing pictorial boundary signs to read 'Horwich – Historic Lancashire Town' and consider allocation of funds in the regeneration budget for 2020 – 2021 for this purpose.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR CHADWICK FOR CONSIDERATION OF AN EXTENSION TO THE EXISTING ANNUAL CIVIC PLAQUE INITIATIVE AND TO AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO THE

**PROPOSALS:
CAS 51**

Councillor Chadwick proposed the expansion of the current scheme to the installation of an additional civic plaque each year with an emphasis on the famous people who have lived in Horwich who were involved in the railway and aircraft industry such as Sir Herbert Nigel Gresley CBE and Sir AV Roe OBE. The Clerk informed members that currently the Council approves the installation of one new civic plaque each year, choosing from suggestions made by the public. The signs acknowledge that a building has either historical significance or an association with prominent citizens, for example the Ridgway family or Andrew Peake, prominent 19th century industrialists and benefactors. There are a total of 17 plaques in various locations and a new civic trail information leaflet, as approved by the previous Council is now in production. Each plaque costs £412 plus VAT plus installation.

Resolved to extend the current initiative to include the installation of two civic plaques per year commencing in April 2020 and to approve adequate budget funding for 2020 – 2021 for this purpose.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM COUNCILLOR CHADWICK FOR ADDITIONAL COUNCIL NOTICEBOARDS IN HORWICH AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSALS:

CAS 52

Councillor Chadwick informed members that feedback received from residents indicated that they would like to see more physical noticeboards and suggested consideration of one noticeboard per ward.

The Clerk informed members that there are noticeboards located outside the Community Centre on Beaumont Road which are shortly due to be replaced and that the noticeboard outside the Public Hall has just been repaired and repainted by Horwich Heritage at no cost to the Council and is now back in use again. Research has been done into the cost of pole mounted noticeboards and these average around £600 plus VAT plus installation and planning permission if required. Other issues to consider include the cost of any repairs in the event of vandalism and responsibility for updating the information in the noticeboards. Various locations were suggested, including Station Park and outside Sainsburys on Lee Lane but there were concerns about possible vandalism and no clear agreement was reached.

Resolved to approve Councillor Rock's proposal that he would enquire if Brazley Residents would allow use of the noticeboard on Ainsworth Avenue and also approve an allocation of funding in the budget for 2020 – 2021 of £2,500 for the costs of additional noticeboards once suitable locations had been decided.

The meeting closed at 7.26 pm.

Chairperson..... *S. (M)* Date..... *9/9/19*