

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held remotely on Monday 10 August 2020 commencing at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: M. Brady (in the Chair) I. Aldcroft, M. Baines, J. Bostocksmith, S. Burke, S. Chadwick, D. Grant (temporarily in the Chair) C. Rotheram, G. Stone, P. Wright.
C. Hutchinson, Town Clerk.
Martin Offiah and Mark Wheeler, Connected Kerb
Councillor R. Silvester, Ward Councillor Horwich North East
1 member of the public.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 7143 Resolved to accept apologies from Councillor K. Denton and Councillor S. Denton, Councillor Coward and Councillor Rock. An apology for lateness was accepted from Councillor Brady.

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

FG 7144 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 7145 None.

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM MARTIN OFFIAH AND MARTIN AYRES FROM CONNECTED KERB REGARDING ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS IN HORWICH AND TO APPROVE DELEGATION OF THIS MATTER TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY GROUP FOR FURTHER ACTION:

FG 7146 Mr Offiah and Mr Wheeler gave a comprehensive overview on the challenge of the provision of adequate electric vehicle charging infrastructure, outlining how their smart cities platform integrates both power and data at the kerbside to support electric vehicles with a vision to create smart, sustainable and future-proofed streets. Following this they took members' questions on various issues including voltage requirements, durability, sustainability, connectivity, costs and funding opportunities.

Councillor Brady joined the meeting at this point and took the Chair.

Resolved to approve delegation of future provision of electric vehicle charging points in Horwich to the Environmental Advisory Group for further investigation and to contact Bolton Council, GM and TfGM to emphasise the council's interest in any future regional EV charging structure initiative.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 MARCH 2020:

FG 7147 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 9 March 2020.

TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION THAT ALL DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION IS IN PLACE AND THAT A LINK HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO THE WEBSITE FOR ACCREDITATION FOR THE LOCAL COUNCILS REVIEW FOUNDATION LEVEL AWARD:

FG 7148 Resolved to approve the resolution that all documentation and information is in place and that a link has been provided to the website for accreditation for the Local Councils Review Foundation Level Award.

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM COUNCILLOR CHADWICK THAT HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL SUBMITS AN APPLICATION TO BOLTON COUNCIL FOR NOMINATION OF HORWICH GOLF CLUB AS AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE:

FG 7149 It was noted that nomination of the Golf Club site as an ACV was an important material planning consideration for any new application and would strengthen the local residents' campaign against development of the site.

Resolved to approve the request from Councillor Chadwick that Horwich Town Council submits an application to Bolton Council for nomination of Horwich Golf Club as an Asset of Community Value.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR GRANT ON THE USE OF THE FORMER TOWN COUNCIL CREST ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND CONSIDER FURTHER ACTION ON THIS MATTER:

FG 7150 Councillor Grant informed members that the current coat of arms was registered and granted to the council in 1975 as the successor parish to Horwich UDC and that the description of its image is protected. A simplified or modern version of the current Horwich Town Council coat of arms is being used by a local group on social media and this could be viewed as misrepresentation and it was disappointing that permission had not been sought prior to use.

The Town Clerk informed members that she had contacted the College of Arms and was awaiting a response on further advice on what constitutes inappropriate use of the council's current and former coat of arms and if there was any action that could be taken to prevent it.

There was agreement that any group or organisation wishing to use the image of the coat of arms ought to ask permission from the council to do so. It was suggested that the group in question should be requested to cease using the image of the former town crest but it was not clear how this could be enforced.

It was resolved to await advice from the College of Arms before taking any further action on this matter

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE AN INITIATIVE 'HORWICH HEROES' TO RECOGNISE THE EFFORTS OF MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

FG 7151 There was unanimous support for this proposal although it was thought that an alternative name such as 'champions' or 'community champions' would be more fitting. It was agreed that members should contact the Town Clerk with any other alternatives as soon as possible and that members of the public would be asked to nominate suitable candidates and these would be

considered by council. Certificates of appreciation would be prepared and

presented to recipients by the Town Mayor at a presentation event at Horwich Community Centre at a time and date to be arranged, subject to current Covid-19 restrictions.

Resolved to approve an initiative to recognise the efforts of members of the local community during the Covid-19 pandemic as agreed.

TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL THAT HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL COLLECTIVELY DECIDES ON THE ALLOCATION OF THE TOWN MAYOR'S CHARITY FUNDS FOR 2020 – 2021:

FG 7152 Members were informed that under normal circumstances the choice of good causes and charities which benefit from the Mayor's charity would be made by the Mayor. Due to Covid-19 regulations, Councillor Stone will continue to serve as Town Mayor until May 2021 and since he has already allocated donations for his 2019 - 2020 term he has asked that each member of the council nominates a good cause or charity of their choice, preferably with a local connection to benefit from the mayor's charity allowance for 2020 – 2021. Members were being asked to contact the Town Clerk with suggestions which would be brought back to council for approval. It was suggested that allocation of mayoral funds for 2020 – 2021 could include good causes highlighted under the initiative to recognise community efforts during the pandemic.

Resolved to approve the proposal that Horwich Town Council collectively decides on the allocation of the Town Mayor's charity funds for 2020 – 2021.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 7153 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £3,922.55.

Came and Company Local Council Insurance	£3,922.55
(Local Council insurance policy – 01/09/20 to 31/08/2021)	

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

FG 7154 a. LALC: NALC policy consultation -briefing on the Devolution White Paper.
b. Summary of councillors' casework including a report from Councillor Chadwick that the damaged kerb at the top of Winter Hey Lane was scheduled for repaired by Street care

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

FG 7155 None.

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