

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held remotely on Monday 14 September 2020 commencing at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: M. Brady (in the Chair) I. Aldcroft, M. Baines, J. Bostocksmith, S. Burke, K. Denton, S. Denton, D. Grant, S. Rock, C. Rotheram, G. Stone, P. Wright.
C. Hutchinson, Town Clerk.
Councillor K. McKeon, Ward Councillor Horwich North East
Councillor R. Silvester, Ward Councillor Horwich North East
1 member of the public.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 7158 None.

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

FG 7159 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 7160 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 AUGUST 2020:

FG 7161 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 10 August 2020.

TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL FOR A CHANGE TO THE DATES OF MEETINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM 1 OCTOBER 2020 TO ALLOW MEETINGS TO TAKE PLACE AT HORWICH COMMUNITY CENTRE, SUBJECT TO REGULAR REVIEW AND PUBLIC HEALTH ADVICE:

FG 7162 Members were informed that this matter had been included on the agenda prior to the announcement of new restrictions which had just come into force and although local councils are still permitted to hold meetings as these are exempt from the new six person gathering limit, NALC had advised that councils should continue to meet remotely. Members were of the opinion that due to the unpredictable nature of the current situation regarding Covid-19 it was difficult to make a decision on this matter and that meetings should be continue to be held remotely and reviewed on a regular basis.

It was noted that the Public Hall remained closed and that under present restrictions the size and layout of the Council Chamber did not allow adequate measures for social distancing to be safely implemented.

The Planning Officer had confirmed that a change to the date of Planning Committees meetings would not have any detrimental effect on the timing of making recommendations on the planning process.

Resolved to defer consideration of this proposal until such time as council is confident that in-person meetings can safely take place at Horwich Community Centre and that meetings should continue to be held remotely as per the original list of meeting dates.

TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS FOR THE HORWICH COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS 2020 AWARD AS FOLLOWS:

FG 7163 Councillor Burke declared a personal interest in the nomination for the volunteers from Horwich RMI FC due to his association with this club.

Members were in agreement that it was clear that the pandemic had brought out the best in the community with so many residents coming forward to do so much to help others in Horwich, as well as local businesses adapting to provide takeaways and home deliveries. It was important that the council recognised efforts made by so many in the local community and thanks were expressed to all those who had taken the time to send in their nominations.

Resolved to approve all nominations received for the 'Horwich Community Champions 2020' award as follows, with all to receive a certificate of appreciation and celebrated at a future event when safe to do so:

- a. Maria Hilton
- b. Keith Whittingham
- c. Emily Fish-Wright
- d. Denise Silcock
- e. Donna Karan Powell
- f. Simon Clarkson and Steven Holden
- g. Jane Woolfall and Cheryl Rutherford
- h. Anne Wilkes
- i. Raj and Moumita Patel

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 7164 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £1,098.96.

BBB Printing (2 x replacement ID badges for staff)	£13.96
S. Burke (Re-imburement for postcrete for new bench)	£28.50
C. Hutchinson (Re-imburement for dog waste bags)	£40.25
Namesco Ltd (Renewal of website domain name x 2 yrs)	£149.99
HR Solutions (Retainer for HR services Sept 2020)	£165.60
BT plc (Quarterly phone/broadband provision)	£191.89
Kedel Ltd (1 x recycled plastic bench for Pickups Field)	£231.41
Nationwide Capital Finance (Quarterly rental Xerox copier)	£277.36

Payment to Namesco Ltd was made in accordance with LGA 1972 s142.

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

- FG 7165
- a. Bolton Council: notification of receipt of nomination to list Horwich RMI Bowling Club and Horwich Golf Course as Assets of Community Value.
 - b. GMP: Bolton West Neighbourhood Newsletter
 - c. Horwich Heritage: notice of new exhibition 'Horwich in 1945'
 - d. Bolton Council: Boroughwide Alcohol PSPO Review Consultation
 - e. Bolton and South Lancashire Community Rail Partnership: newsletter September 2020
 - f. Summary of Councillors' casework.

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

In response to a query it was conformed that the Heritage Centre had closed due to new covid restrictions.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 7167
- a. Town Mayor – informed members that the Muscular Dystrophy fundraising concert due to take place in November had been cancelled due to covid restrictions. Councillor Stone was working with the Town Clerk to ensure that his mayoral donations for 2019 – 2020 were being distributed safely and thanked those members who had already provided their suggestions for charities and good cause to benefit from mayoral donations for 2020 – 2021.
 - b. Horwich Ward Councillors – Councillor Wright had recently attended a meeting with representatives from Bolton Wanderers to discuss the parking situation on matchdays. Both Councillor Brady and Councillor Wright had attended the meeting of the Horwich Town Centre Steering Group held on 8 September and Councillor Brady updated members on progress to date.

Councillor Brady also informed members that several complaints had been received about hens escaping from domestic gardens and running loose in the Ainsworth Avenue area of Brazley and the problem had been reported to environmental health. In response to a query regarding the state of the road on Gloucester Avenue Councillor Brady confirmed that this would be addressed by means of the Area Forum.
 - c. Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies (as per the approved list) - Councillor S. Denton reported that The Horwich Angels group had sent out 200 letters to local businesses at the start of lockdown in March and that funding had been received to train 4 volunteers.

Reports from Representatives were noted.

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