

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 5 December commencing at 7.15 pm

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

CHAIR TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

FG 7489 Councillor Williamson outlined the procedure from the information provided.

TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

FG 7490 Apologies were accepted from Councillors Bostocksmith, Brady, Chadwick, Denton and Grant.

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

FG 7491 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 7492 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2022:

FG 7493 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 14 November 2022.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE REVIEW SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2022 INCLUDING COUNCIL'S DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2023 – 2024:

FG 7494 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance Review Sub Committee held on 24 November 2022 including the Council's draft budget proposals for 2023 – 2024.

TO UNDERTAKE THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT AND ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY FOR 2022 – 2023:

FG 7495 In response to a query the Town Clerk confirmed that all members of the caretaking staff and the Centre Manager received fire safety and emergency first aid training on a regular basis.

Resolved to undertake the Council's annual risk assessment and annual health and safety policy for 2022- 2023 as presented.

TO UNDERTAKE THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT FOR 2022 – 2023:

FG 7496 Resolved to undertake the Council's annual review of internal audit for 2022 – 2023 as presented.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK AND TO CONSIDER A RESOLUTION THAT HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL FORMALLY AGREES TO REGISTER FOR AND FORMALLY AGREE TO THE CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE:

FG 7497 A report had been circulated to all Members with details of the Civility and Respect Pledge which was a national initiative, led by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) who believe that now is the time to put civility and respect at the top of the agenda and start a culture change for the local council sector. Whilst in a minority it is significant that bullying and harassment can have a serious impact on those involved and that by signing up to the pledge, the Town Council would be demonstrating that it is committed to treating councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect.

Signing up is a simple process which requires councils to register and formally agree to a number of statements, the majority of which the Council has in place or will have in place in 2023, including a model councillor-officer protocol. Once signed up to the pledge council will receive a certificate and listed alongside other councils who have signed up on a national map and can use the Civility and Respect logo to add to the website etc.

Resolved that Horwich Town Council registers for and agrees to the Civility and Respect Pledge, as per the recommendation in the report from the Town Clerk.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 7498 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £34.00 to Pixelcreated and paid in accordance with LGA 1972 s142.

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

- FG 7499
- a. Record of outstanding motions.
 - b. Bolton Council: consultation – have your say on street cleaning.
 - c. TfGM: safer transport network engagement workshops
 - d. Summary of Town Councillors' casework.

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 7500
- a. Town Mayor of Horwich
None.

b. Horwich Ward Councillors

Councillor Wright had attended the Lighting of the Civic Christmas Tree last Friday evening. The event had been well attended and the new Christmas lighting features had been well received but the lack of the usual temporary traffic diversion had caused a serious road safety issue for those attending. It was confirmed by the Town Clerk that this matter would be taken up with Bolton Council.

c. Representatives on Outside Bodies

Councillor Stone informed Members that he had attended a meeting of the Montcliffe and Pilkington Quarry Liaison Group but there was nothing of

interest to report.

TO APPROVE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AS 16 JANUARY 2023:

FG 7501 Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee as 16 January 2023.

The meeting closed at 7.26pm.

Chair.....

Date.....