

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held remotely on Monday 9 November 2020 commencing at 7.33 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: M. Brady (in the Chair) I. Aldcroft, M. Baines, S. Burke, A. Coward, D. Grant, S. Rock, C. Rotheram, G. Stone, P. Wright.
C. Morris, Deputy Town Clerk.

Councillor K. McKeon, Ward Councillor Horwich North East
Councillor R. Silvester, Ward Councillor Horwich North East
Dr Stephanie Dermott, Community Rail Development Officer
Paul Salveson, Chair of Bolton and South Lancs. County Rail Partnership
3 members of the public.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

FG 7196 Resolved to accept apologies from Councillor Chadwick.

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

FG 7197 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 7198 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2020:

FG 7199 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 12 October 2020.

TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A FORMAL EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL FROM THE BOLTON AND SOUTH LANCASHIRE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP FOR A BOLTON TO RIVINGTON BUS LINK SUNDAY/BANK HOLIDAY SERVICE COMMENCING 4 APRIL 2021 AND ALSO TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THIS PURPOSE UP TO A MAXIMUM OF £1,500 IN THE 2021-2022 BUDGET, ON RECEIPT OF FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING CONCESSIONS AND TICKETING OPTIONS:

FG 7200 Resolved to move out of Committee to allow a member of the public to speak.

Dr Stephanie Dermott introduced herself as Community Rail Developer from Bolton and South Lancashire Community Rail Partnership (BSLCRP). Dr Dermott informed members of the background to BSLCRP in which it had become established in June 2019. It had a strong emphasis on promoting social inclusion and community cohesion and recently became a company which aimed to promote the rail network for the benefit of residents and visitors.

The proposal was:

- to obtain a bus link from Horwich Parkway to Horwich and Rivington using the operator, Rotala/Diamond.
- This would be an extension on their existing 575 service which would be every 30 minutes between 9.0am – 5.00pm, every Sunday/Bank Holiday Monday from 4th April to 26th September 2021.
- The service would depart from Bolton to Horwich Old Lords Estate (Green Ln) as the normal 575 route then continuing via Darley St, Lever park Ave, Rivington Ln, Horrobin Ln, New Rd, Roscoe Lowe Brow, Rivington Ln, Bolton Rd, Scholes Bank, Lever Park Ave, Fearnhead Ave to Green Ln then back to Bolton via normal 575 route.

BSLCRP were very keen as a rail partnership to encourage people and to be able to provide this service from a larger catchment area . The idea was to open up the leisure attractions of Rivington to public transport users and also attract others from outside the area through use of the railway into Bolton Station and subsequently use the bus service up to Rivington. In addition, it was hoped that the proposal would ease some of the traffic congestion, overcrowding parking in the area at peak times and lower emissions.

Paul Salveson, Chair of BSLCRP, informed members that an estimated one million people visit Rivington each year and felt this proposal would be beneficial for the area.

The costings for the project would include 30 services at £350 per day which in total would be £10,500. The project would also require a marketing budget of £1,000 to include posters, wrap of a bus rear and social media promotion. The total cost of the project is £11,500. BSLCRP were making an application to the Community Rail Network to cover some of the costs required. Mr Salveson asked if Horwich Town Council were also able to provide any financial support of around £1500 which would help start the project.

It was hoped that once this project started, if it was successful then it would be integrated into the 575-service route which the costs would then be absorbed and would not require funding.

Mr Salveson informed members that he would be contacting Chorley Council to ask if they would be interested in the initiative. It was also explained to members that he had not yet spoken with the bus company to discuss ticketing options and concessionary prices but stated they were not asking for funds towards the bus service but for the promotional aspect of the proposal.

Resolved to move back into committee.

Members agreed for the Town Clerk to collate a list of contacts for BSLCRP to contact to gauge interest and possible funding of the proposal. Whilst some members were supportive of the initiative as it would open access for the elderly and disabled to visit Rivington and possibly create more footfall to the town centre, they did not feel it would reduce the number of cars used to travel to Rivington. However other members expressed concerns on how many Horwich residents this initiative would benefit, how it would be measured on the number of residents using this public transport to Rivington and if the initiative was to bring people from other areas of Bolton then other councils should make a contribution to the costs. A suggestion of creating a park and ride on a Sunday

would be beneficial to Horwich. Members felt that if they did not support the proposal in principle then the funds would not be allocated and earmarked for it to be a possibility in the new financial year.

Resolved to approve a formal expression of support for the proposal from the Bolton and South Lancashire Community Rail Partnership for a Bolton to Rivington Bus Link Sunday/Bank Holiday service commencing 4 April 2021. It was also approved to ring fence money in the budget for 2021/22 to financially support the proposal in principle, subject to confirmation of additional funding from other organisations and further information regarding concessions and ticketing options.

TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF ONE MEMBER TO SERVE ON THE FOLLOWING SUB COMMITTEES, ADVISORY GROUPS AND OUTSIDE BODIES:

FG 7201 Resolved to appoint one member to serve on each of the following advisory groups and outside bodies:

- a. Staffing Sub Committee – Councillor Stone
- b. Grants to Voluntary Groups Sub Committee – Councillor Aldcroft
- c. Horwich Community Centre Sub Committee – Councillor Rotheram
- d. Finance Review Sub Committee – Councillor S. Denton
- e. Appeals Sub Committee – Councillor Aldcroft
- f. Sports Advisory Group – Councillor Chadwick
- g. Horwich Loco Works Liaison Group – Councillor Burke

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM COUNCILLOR CHADWICK THAT HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL WRITE TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO REQUEST A GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF HORWICH:

FG 7202 Councillor Chadwick was absent from the meeting. Resolved to defer the agenda item until the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 7 December 2020.

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM COUNCILLOR CHADWICK THAT HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL WRITE TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO REQUEST A BOUNDARY REVIEW OF THE HORWICH PARISH BOUNDARY:

FG 7203 Councillor Chadwick was absent from the meeting. Resolved to defer the agenda item until the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 7 December 2020.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SCHEDULE ATTACHED:

FG 7204 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment amounting to £ 5,645.60.

HR Solutions – direct debit (Retainer – October 2020)	£165.60
Transfer to Mayoral Account	£5,000.00

LGA 1972 s144

CDS Events

(Lighting hire 8 & 11 November 2020
for illumination of Rivington Pike with
Poppies plus searchlights)

£480.00

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

- FG 7205
- a. LALC: Online Finance Workshop – 3 December 2020 7pm – 9pm
 - b. Churches Together in Horwich: 'Under the Pike' November 2020 newsletter.
 - c. NALC: Coronavirus Update
 - d. LALC: Accounts to year ending 31 March 2020

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- FG 7206
- a. Town Mayor – informed members of laying a wreath at the Loco Works on 7th November 2020 and attended the Cenotaph at 2.30pm on 8th November 2020 for the Remembrance Sunday Service.

b. Horwich Ward Councillors – Councillor Wright reported that the white markings on the pelican crossing were being repainted and graffiti would be being removed.

Councillor Brady had attended a meeting with Armstrong's to discuss concerns of Councillors and residents. She reported that it was a very positive meeting as Armstrong's were interested in the concerns expressed. On Monday 9 November, Councillor Brady was due to a SAMP meeting at Bolton Council which had now been deferred until the next meeting in December. Councillor Brady also informed members that there had been an underspend in the resurfacing budget which meant more roads could be improved.

c. Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies as per the approved list. Councillor Rotheram – Chair of Royal British Legion, wanted to express his gratitude to the Town Clerk in helping arrange Remembrance Sunday due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Pike had been illuminated on the Remembrance Sunday although the weather was really foggy but members were informed that it would be lit again on Armistice Day.

Reports from Representatives were noted.

TO APPROVE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AS 7 December 2020:

- FG 7207
- Resolved to approve the date of the next meeting as 7 December 2020. The meeting closed at 8.18pm.

Chair.....

Date.....