

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Horwich Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Monday 12 August 2024 commencing at 7.15 pm.

PRESENT Councillors: I. Aldcroft (in the Chair), R. Bamforth, S. Burke, G. Campbell, D. Grant, K. McKeon, V. Rigby, J. Scoble, J. Walton, P. Wright
Town Clerk, C. Hutchinson
Chris Matthews, Head of Regional Engagement Corporate Affairs for United Utilities

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE FIRE AND SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

TC 4723 Councillor Aldcroft outlined the procedure.

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTE THE REASONS:

TC 4724 Apologies from Councillors Campbell, Chadwick, Rock, Sears, and Williamson were noted.

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

TC 4725 None.

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM CHRIS MATTHEWS, HEAD OF REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT CORPORATE AFFAIRS WITH UNITED UTILITIES REGARDING THE WORK BEING DONE BY RIVINGTON HERITAGE TRUST AND UNITED UTILITIES:

TC 4726 Chris Matthews was introduced and explained that as well as his role with United Utilities he also chaired Rivington Heritage Trust, the remit of which was to preserve and maintain the grounds and historic structures of Rivington Terraced Gardens, without it becoming a major tourist attraction.

£4m had been awarded from the National Lottery and it was important to continue to fund raise. An annual contract was in place with Groundwork to deliver the maintenance of the Gardens. A diverse funding approach had been adopted which included applying for various smaller grant amounts, additional lottery funding and running a small number of high-profile events such as the Festival of Light in October and the possibility of some smaller scale community events. RHT also relies on the services of volunteers and more are always welcome, meeting on the first Saturday of every month.

The Trust's priorities were listed as follows:

- Being a good neighbour, building and maintaining good relations with neighbouring local authorities
- Stabilise finances which were badly affected by Covid
- Continue with a small number of high-quality events
- Obtain more grant income

- Ensure that visitors enjoy the Gardens safely – new signage had been installed but unfortunately had suffered vandalism
- Working with Lancashire Police on the problem of vandalism and anti-social behaviour
- Publicly accessible defibrillators available at Fica Café and the cafe at Rivington Pike dog kennels and trying to source more
- Damaged walls undergoing repair, subject to budget constraints
- Gate at the entrance to the Street which had been removed during Covid was not being returned

Members then raised various matters as follows:

- Parking issues, possibility of a park and ride scheme. Noted that the recent car parking survey had been carried out by an independent body and it had been recommended that better signage was required to direct visitors to other car parking areas available. Fully supportive of the local bus service and recognised the need to work with local authorities and bus companies to develop this further
- In response to a query regarding the conversion of the field at the side of the Lower Barn into a car park, it was confirmed that there were no current plans to do this as it was more cost effective to promote existing car parking
- Financial pressure on United Utilities, problems with the drainage network is a legacy issue as it combined both rainwater and sewage overflow into rivers and which is no longer acceptable
- Regular monitoring takes place and United Utilities have asked for a £3billion investment to replace overflows and prevent leakage and are currently in discussion with OFWAT
- It is expected that climate change will bring drier summers which will increase demand for water and higher rainfall in winter which will affect reservoir levels and impact on storm overflows
- Although United Utilities is a huge user of energy it is attempting to get usage down and reduce its carbon footprint by investing £23billion since privatisation due to regulatory drivers

Chris was thanked for his attendance and presentation and left the meeting at this point.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT MAY PUT QUESTIONS OR MAKE OBSERVATIONS REGARDING MATTERS IN RELATION TO WHICH THE COUNCIL HAS POWERS OR DUTIES OR WHICH AFFECT THE PARISH. MAXIMUM PERIOD 15 MINUTES

TC 4727 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 18 JULY 2024:

TC 4728 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 18 July 2024 with an amendment to state that Councillor Rigby was present at that meeting.

TO APPROVE THE STATEMENT OF QUARTERLY ACCOUNTS TO THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2024:

TC 4729 Resolved to approve the statement of quarterly accounts to the period ending 30 June 2024.

TO RECEIVE THE QUARTERLY REPORT FROM INTERNAL AUDIT TO THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2024:

TC 4730 Resolved to receive the quarterly report from internal audit to the period ending 30 June 2024.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE EVENTS STEERING GROUP HELD ON 7 JULY 2024 AND THE MASTERPLAN FOR THIS YEAR'S EVENT:

TC 4731 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Events Steering Group held on 7 July 2024 and the Masterplan for this year's event.

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ALLOCATES FUNDING FOR, AND IDENTIFIES A SUITABLE LOCATION FOR A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DEFIBRILLATOR IN HORWICH AND APPROVES FURTHER ACTION AS RECOMMENDED IN THE TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

TC 4732 The Town Clerk's report had been circulated to all Members and following discussion, it was resolved to approve the request that the Town Council allocates funding in the budget for 2025 – 2026 for defibrillator provision at a location to be identified following an audit of current defibrillator locations by Members in their own council ward for collation by the Town Clerk. This information would then be sent to Councillor Grant who had kindly offered to create a location map of all accessible defibrillators. It was agreed that a suitable location would be chosen once funding was confirmed and a map of current defibrillator locations had been made available.

Action:

- **Council to allocate funds for this purpose for 2025 – 2026 during budget setting in November 2024**
- **Members to provide details of defibrillator provision in their respective wards to the Town Clerk to collate and send to Councillor Grant to prepare a location map**
- **Town Clerk to investigate funding for a defibrillator from the British Heart Foundation via the link provided by Councillor Bamforth**

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AS PRESENTED:

TC 4733 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as amounting to £4,415.09:

Payee	Summary	Amount
Sage UK*	Accounts software - August	£100.80

HR Solutions*	HR retainer - August	£173.88
Town Mayor's Charity Account	Mayoral allowance 2024 – 25 (2 nd payment)	£1,000.00
Horwich Community Centre	VAT refund 01.10.23 – 31.12.23	£846.64
	VAT refund 01.01.24 – 31.03.24	£1,013.37
Bolton Council	Town centre summer planting	£1,280.40

(Payments marked * were made by direct debit)

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – (EMAILED TO ALL MEMBERS) – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- TC 4734
- a. Bolton Council: notice of successful nomination from Horwich RMI Cricket Club to list Horwich RMI Cricket Pavilion and Recreation Ground as an Asset of Community Value
 - b. Bolton Council: consultation on the TfGM Bee Network.
 - c. Town Clerk's notes from the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Focus Group Meeting on 11 July 2024 programme.
 - d. Bolton Council: Armed Forces Covenant and Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Support
 - e. Greater Manchester Pension Fund: Local Pension Board Governance Report for Employers.
 - f. Email from a local resident: request that Horwich Town Council looks at information on a new phase of funding for community energy projects that could benefit businesses or residents in Horwich. [Community Energy Fund | local energy north west hub \(localenergynw.org\)](#)
 - g. LALC Annual Conference: programme for Saturday 7 September 2024, 9.00am – 3.30pm, Delta Marriott Hotel, Preston
 - h. Bolton Council: notice of receipt of nomination for an Asset of Community Value – Horwich RMI Club, Ramsbottom Road, Horwich BL6 5NH

The Town Clerk's Report was noted.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

TC 4735 a. Town Mayor

The Town Mayor informed Members that he had attended the following events:

- Alliance Learning where it had been interesting to find out about apprenticeships, also received an offer to help with mayoral fundraising
- Opened Summer Fete at the Jolly Crofters
- University of Bolton graduation ceremonies at the Albert Halls
- Royal British Legion Greater Manchester annual church service in Rochdale
- Looking forward to opening the new Horwich Heritage exhibition and opening the Horwich Rotary Beer festival in September.

b. Horwich Ward Councillors

Councillor Grant

- Bolton Council in final stage of transfer of allotments to Horwich Town Council, some negotiation may be required and awaiting confirmation of being a land or maintenance lease
- Installation of new lighting at top of 'Creative Quarter' almost complete

Councillor Bamforth

- Mainly Armed Forces matters – meetings with businesses to sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant and Defence Employer Recognition Scheme, as detailed as agenda item d. in Town Clerk's Report

Councillor Rigby

- Installation of 3 new community bins, ground stencils advising owners to pick up dog waste

Councillor Wright

- Complaints about bins following changes to collection days for different bin colours

c. Representatives on Outside Bodies as per the approved list
None.

Reports from Representatives were noted.

TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AS
22 AUGUST 2024:

TC 4736 Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Town Council as 22
August 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.02pm

Chair.....

Date.....

