

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Monday 9 September 2024 commencing at 7.15 pm.

PRESENT Councillors: I. Aldcroft (in the Chair), S. Burke, S. Chadwick, D. Grant, V. Rigby, J. Scoble, C. Sears, S. Williamson, P. Wright, R. Bamforth, J. Walton, K. McKeon
Deputy Town Clerk, C. Morris.
5 Members of the public.

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE FIRE AND SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

TC 4747 Councillor Aldcroft outlined the procedure.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

TC 4748 Resolved to accept apologies from Councillors Cambell and Rock for illness.

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

TC 4749 Councillor Chadwick declared an interest in agenda item 9 as they are a member and agenda item 11 as they are an associate member of the club.

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 4750 Councillor Chadwick attended the meeting at this point.

Resolved to move out of committee to allow members of the public to speak.

Representatives from Horwich RMI Cricket Club wanted to express their concerns and potential impact upon the Cricket club. There is the possibility that the main club's licence may be suspended meaning they would not be able to trade. This indirectly impacts the RMI C.C as they are unable to obtain their own separate licence due to not having a lease with the main club. The potential licence suspension would impact on the RMI C.C events.

This matter will be brought to the next licencing committee at the next pub watch. The licencing officer is fully aware of the situation.

Resolved to move back into committee.

Members were concerned that the Horwich RMI Cricket Clubs trade could be impacted by the potential suspension of the licence. It was agreed that the Borough Councillors would make representation at the Licencing Committee and request a temporary licence for the Horwich RMI Cricket Club.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 22 AUGUST 2024:

TC 4751 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 22 August 2024.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE HORWICH COMMUNITY CENTRE SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 7 AUGUST 2024:

TC 4752 Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Horwich Community Centre Sub Committee held on 7 August 2024.

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EVENTS STEERING GROUP HELD ON 18 AUGUST 2024:

TC 4753 Resolved to note the minutes of the meeting of the Events Steering Group held on 18 August 2024.

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EVENTS STEERING GROUP HELD ON 25 AUGUST 2024:

TC 4754 Resolved to note the minutes of the meeting of the Events Steering Group held on 25 August 2024.

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM HORWICH HERITAGE FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF £1,500 FROM THE COUNCIL'S LARGER GRANT AWARD SCHEME BUDGET FOR 2024-2025:

TC 4755 Resolved to consider a request from Horwich Heritage for Financial Assistance of £1,500 from the Council's larger grant award scheme budget 2024-2025.

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE ESTIMATES FROM ILLUMIDEX UK LTD FOR NEW FESTOON BELT, OTHER EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATION COSTS FOR THE TOWN COUNCILS TOWN CENTRE CHRISTMAS LIGHTING SCHEME INCLUDING A CONTRIBUTION OF £2098 + VAT FROM THE AREA WORKING FUND IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH HEALTH AND SAFETY:

TC 4756 When the Christmas lights were previously installed in Horwich, the commando sockets, lighting column fastening clips and installation were paid for by the area forum budget. The Town Council had enquired at Bolton Council regarding the replacement of these however, it was advised that these were the assets of Horwich Town Council. After Ward Councillors contacting Bolton Council, it has been agreed that the costs of the commando sockets, lighting column fastening clips and installation are covered by the Area Working Fund. The additional costs of the festoon belt and other requirements will be paid for by Horwich Town Council.

Resolved to approve the estimates from Illumidex UK Ltd for new festoon belt, other equipment and installation costs for the Town Councils Tow Centre Christmas Lighting Scheme including a contribution of £2098 + VAT from the area working fund in order to comply with health and safety.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP FUND WORKING GROUP HELD ON 21 AUGUST 2024, CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE FURTHER ACTION:

TC 4757 Members were made aware that at the current time, there were no alternative funding streams available and uncertainty on the provision of COF.

The Council could borrow from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), however Council would require a borrowing approval from the Ministry of Housing including public consultation and demonstrating how the Council would be able to make repayments. Members had concerns at the time constraints of this process. The only practical option is to request borrowing the full amount from Bolton Council, subject to required criteria being met and on financial terms acceptable to Horwich Town Council.

The Horwich RMI Cricket Club has been listed as an asset of Community Value which if in the event it was listed for sale, the community can then enact the Community Right to Bid, which gives them a moratorium period of six months to determine if they can raise the finance to purchase the asset.

Members were divided on whether the repayment plan should be over 1 or 2 years. It was agreed that the Clerks would contact the Borough Solicitor, Borough Accountant and LALC to look into a number of different budget options and enquire regarding public consultation to bring to the meeting in October.

Resolved to receive an update from the meeting of the Community Ownership Fund working group held on 21 August 2024, consider the recommendations and approve further action.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL OF HORWICH AND CONSIDER A RECOMMENDATION TO REVIEW THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE EVENTS STEERING GROUP AND TO DESIGNATE IT AS A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL:

TC 4758 Resolved to defer this item.

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT SPONSORSHIP POLICY:

TC 4759 Resolved to approve the Council's draft Sponsorship Policy.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AS PRESENTED:

TC 4760 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as and amounting to £12,026.00 as follows:

Payee	Summary	Amount
Sage UK*	Accounts	£100.80
HR Solutions*	HR consultant	£173.88
Leach Briely	Internal Audit	£540.00
Gallagher Insurance	Annual insurance for Council	£5,917.89
Rivington and Adlington Brass Band	FOH	£75.00
Sing Space Choir	Festival of Horwich	£75.00
Bethany Clewes Company	Stilt walker - FOH	£175.00
J A Brown**	Gazebo hire	£490.00
Deadbeats	Band - FOH	£600.00
S & A Medical	Medical Staff	£825.00
Amazon**	Ink pads	£17.56
Etsy**	2 x wooden stamps	£27.00
Amazon**	Wristbands	£35.97
Amazon**	3 X A board signs	£123.00
Amazon**	Gift cards for cake comp	£150.00
Event insurance**	Cancellation and adverse weather	£420.00
Craftprint	FOH leaflets	£250.00
JM Entertainment**	Inflatables, generator & accommodation - FOH	£1818.00
Amazon**	Cable ties	£58.90
Salaries	Transfer from IA to salaries and wages account	£10,000
Etsy**	Stamps for hands - FOH	£76.00
M & S**	Food for dignitaries	£77.00

(*payment made by direct debit, ** online payments/authorised out of committee)

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

TC 5761

- a. Bolton Council Corporate Peer Challenge 9 – 12 July 2024 presentation.
- b. UNISON: Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 – notice to employer of an official industrial action ballot.

Resolved to note the Town Clerks report.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

TC 5762

- a. Town Mayor of Horwich
The Town Mayor informed Members that he had attended the following events:
 - recently attended St Elizabeths event to celebrate their new accessible doorway.

- Talking Tables at Brewed Coffee which ironically, their coffee machine was out of order.
- Festival of Horwich – had a one-man sleigh ride down the muddy embankment on his way to observe the entertainment. The Town Mayor wanted to thank those involved and expressed how much of a great day out it was despite the unfortunate weather forecast.

b. Horwich Ward Councillors

Councillor Bamforth –

- Vikings have been given a 3-month temporary lease up at Ridgemont Park to carry out battle engagements and have received an invitation to watch. They had expressed an interest in being involved along with the Lancashire Vikings at the next Festival of Horwich.
- There have been a number of complaints concerning bins which are being followed up.
- Issues had arisen regarding contractors for resurfacing the pavement at Austin Lane. Waiting for clearance for this to go ahead.
- Attended various meetings with the Armed Forces and have a recruitment drive at the Albert Halls.
- Applying next month for the gold award for the covenant, this should increase benefits for the recruitment.

Councillor Wright –

- Liaised with Cllr Silvester to address bin complaints.
- Continuing with constituent case work.

Councillor Williamson –

- Addressing bin concerns
- Has continued to push the vape ban with upcoming legislation and working to ensure advertisement of vapes with candy/sweets are removed from the high street.

Councillor Sears –

- Addressing bin concerns.
- Has raised concerns over overgrown paths. Some have been maintained and will continue to chase to resolve this.
- Will be arranging a meeting with Bolton at Home to address issues.

Councillor Rigby –

- Has been focused on the Festival of Horwich

Councillor Grant –

- Addressing bin concerns included assisted collection
- Pleased with the support of the Horwich South and Blackrod Ward Councillors in ensuring that St Joseph received funding from the community fund to transform an old pond area into a wellbeing garden for students with SEND needs. (Cllr Williamson was not involved)
- Christmas lights – Commando sockets

- Festival of Horwich – had the arduous task of looking after the other Town Mayors and dignitaries who were all enthusiastic about the event despite the weather. They were all complimentary on how the Town Council does things. Cllr Grant was able to beat the Mayor of Bolton at darts.
- Continuing with constituency case work
- The Horwich Leisure Centre has put in a request for additional funding towards the car park. Cllr Grant will be discussing this with Paul Whittington at the next Place meeting.

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

TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
AS 19 SEPTEMBER 2024:

TC 5763 Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Town
Council as 19 September 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Chairperson..... Date.....