

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Monday 15 October 2024 commencing at 7.15 pm.

PRESENT Councillors: I. Aldcroft (in the Chair), G. Campbell, S. Chadwick, D. Grant, V. Rigby, S. Rock, 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 4774 Councillor Aldcroft outlined the procedure.

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

TC 4775 Resolved to accept apologies from Councillor Scoble for absence and Councillor McKeon for lateness.

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

TC 4776 Councillor Chadwick declared an interest in agenda item 9 as a volunteer for the Trust.

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 4777 Resolved to move out of committee to allow members of the public to speak.

Neil Brown, a representative from Horwich Festival of Racing attended the meeting to inform members of the disbandment of the group on 22nd October 2024.

The organisation started out in 2002 when the late Barbara Ronson approached Neil Brown from the Horwich Cycling Club, with the idea of racing through Horwich Town Centre. Additional categories were then added making this a multi-sport event which has since grown year by year in popularity with many attending nationally and even globally.

Neil went on to state that preparations took over a year with the help of the committee for each annual event.

Horwich Town Council has always provided financial assistance towards this great event.

Over the years, Horwich Festival of Racing took place within the town centre, with planned weekend road closures for the bike races however, due to rising costs, insurance restrictions and road closure issues, the organisation had to make the difficult decision to find

other alternative venues in order to continue to facilitate the event but felt that these didn't provide a large enough scope to continue to attract enough participants.

The organisation approached like minded groups to ask if they would help support and take on the event in their own format to which has not been successful.

Neil asked whether Horwich Town Council could consider the resurrection of the group at a later date which would include not only financially supporting it but to also absorb the administration work and planning side of the event. They concluded that they would offer their expertise and assistance during this time and also wanted to thank Horwich Town Council for their continued support over the years.

Members thanked Horwich Festival of Racing for their service over the years and making a difference to the town. They were saddened to learn of its disbandment.

It was mentioned that the event could be discussed at a future Town Council meeting and enquiry was made about the costs of the event. Neil informed Members that the overall cost to host the event was within the region of £35k to £40k with it extending to £50k to meet requirements however in the current financial climate, it was envisaged it would cost more to cover the barriers required for the event.

Resolved to move back into committee.

Councillor McKeon joined the meeting at this point.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2024:

TC 4778 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 19 September 2024.

TO RECEIVE A WRITTEN REPORT ON THE FESTIVAL OF HORWICH DEBRIEF:

TC 4779 Resolved to receive a written report of the Festival of Horwich debrief.

TO CONSIDER AND MAKE A DECISION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT ON SUB-COMMITTEES AND COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANIES (CIC):

TC 4780 It was stated that since the volunteers were unable to present their debrief, it could make the decision difficult to determine the future of how the event was managed however members were reminded that a deferral would impact the budget which is prepared in October for discussion at the Finance Review Sub-Committee in November.

Councillor Grant raised concerns that recent events could impact the willingness of current volunteers sitting on the

Events Steering Group, which in turn would have implications for a community group wishing to set up an independent CIC as there would be no support. There was emphasis on the point that steering groups do not approve payments. These are included as an agenda item and approved by Council, with any member having the opportunity to query any payments at any time. It was noted that personality clashes had occurred and in order to move forward, a reconciliation would be necessary.

Councillors Williamson, Bamforth and Walton felt that the Events Group in its current format had made them feel unwelcome, unable to make decisions and that some of the documentation either did not accurately reflect the discussions held during the meetings or some information was not included. It was highlighted that a steering groups' purpose is to present ideas to Council for recommendation and approval.

Councillor Rigby added that Councillor Williamson had not initially been primarily included due to an administration oversight which was rectified.

Some Members agreed that becoming a Town Council Sub-Committee, acknowledging that Councillors would be required to make a large contribution to the workings of it would enable the Festival of Horwich to become embedded into the community as a Town Council event securing its future. It was feared that the alternative of becoming an independent CIC may see it being lost like other community events such as the Horwich Festival of Racing. There were a number of Members who expressed interest in serving on a future Events Sub-Committee.

Councillor Chadwick pointed out that there was already the vehicle for an Events Sub-Committee. Whether there was the intention to hold the event in 2025 due to time constraints was a matter to be discussed should the Events Steering Group become a Sub-Committee.

Resolved to create an Events Sub Committee to maintain financial management of this event. The Sub-Committee requires a minimum of 3 Councillors in order to be quorate and make decisions. The first item on the agenda would be to nominate a Chair and to include the Terms of Reference agreeing the delegated powers, purpose, membership, quorum and reporting.

TO RECEIVE THE LOCAL COUNCILS, INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS AND OTHER SMALLER AUTHORITIES ENGLAND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024, EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT AND NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT:

TC 4781 Resolved to receive the Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and Other Smaller Authorities England Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2024, External Auditor's report and Notice of Conclusion of Audit.

TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FROM RIVINGTON HERITAGE TRUST FOR GRANT FUNDING OF £3,382.00 TOWARDS PROVISION OF MONTHLY VOLUNTEER SESSIONS FROM THE SPORT, SOCIAL AND CULTURE BUDGET FOR 2024-2025:

TC 4782 Some members pointed out that Rivington did not fall within the boundary of Horwich, however were mindful the how area benefitted and frequently attracted local residents.

Resolved to approve the application from Rivington Heritage Trust for financial assistance of £3,382.00 from the Council's Sport, Social and Culture budget 2024-2025.

TO APPROVE THE COSTS OF ADDITIONAL WINTER GRITTING BY BOLTON COUNCIL FROM 1 DECEMBER 2024 TO 28 FEBRUARY 2025 AT A COST OF £12,000 PLUS VAT:

TC 4783 Resolved to approve the costs of additional winter gritting by Bolton Council from 1 December 2024 to 28 February 2025 at a cost of £12,000 + VAT.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AS PRESENTED:

TC 4784 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as and amounting to £3,847.48.00 as follows:

Payee	Summary	Amount
Sage UK*	Accounts	100.80
Zonkey Solutions	Transfer of website domain to new host	172.80
HR Solutions*	HR retainer – October	173.88
Alliance Learning**	½ day fire warden training x 4 staff	480.00
Rivington and Adlington Brass Band	FOH	75.00
Jonny Haig	Festival of Horwich	50.00
Siobhan Victorias Dance School	FOH entertainment	50.00
Harry Wright	FOH entertainment	50.00
Hand Made Signing Choir	FOH entertainment	75.00
Holly Walsh	FOH entertainment	75.00
Keef	FOH entertainment	75.00
Horwich All Starz Dance	FOH entertainment	75.00
Instant Species	FOH entertainment	100.00
Kim Taylor Dodd	FOH compere	100.00
Deadbeats	FOH entertainment	120.00
Liam Martin as Ed Sheeran	FOH entertainment	150.00
Emma Coyle	FOH map illustration	300.00
Rivington Man and Van	Collection/delivery of equipment	700.00
Transfer to Town Mayors Charity Account		1000.00

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

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

TC 4785

- a. Post Office: Branch closure New Chapel Lane post office
- b. Bolton Council: notice of successful nomination of Horwich Community Centre as an Asset of Community Value
- c. Bolton Council: notice of successful nomination of Horwich RMI Social Club as an Asset of Community Value.
- d. Horwich Festival of Racing Notice: closure of organisation on 18th October 2024.

Resolved to note the Town Clerks report.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

TC 4786

a. **Town Mayor of Horwich**

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

- 2 talking table meetings. One held at Brewed Coffee that has been established and a new event has been added at the Crown pub aiming at those aged 18-30.
- Opened the Horwich Healing Rooms event at the Crown which is a small team of Christians from across the area who offer prayer for healing.
- Attended a Namibia shared lunch at St Catherines Church in which the Mayoress won a Namibian style dress in the raffle.
- Judged and ate lots of cake in support of the Macmillan Coffee morning at St Catherines Care Home.
- Visited Bolton Gin Company as part of their continuing support in providing the Mayoral Gin which contributes a donation to the Mayoral charities for every bottle sold.
- Invited to be the Trafalgar Day, Bolton Sea Cadets Dinner as their guests of Honour.

b. Horwich Ward Councillors

Councillor Bamforth –

- Resurfacing of Austins Lane has been approved and awaiting the asphalt delivery. Works to commence in November.
- Will be meeting with Officers to discuss tree planting at Green Lane/Pickups Field. This will include which trees will help with the drainage as well as looking into additional drainage options. At the current time, the tree planting has been located to run along the fence line however this could cause damage to the fence once the trees become established so a different location will be discussed.
- Assisted in the decision making of the Sea Cadets dinner with proposing the Horwich Town Mayor to be guest of honour.

- Attending meetings with organisations in relation to the Champion Armed Forces.
- Will be looking at reviewing how veterans are housed, more so due to the current Prime Minister's pledge on veterans. The housing department, Place for People and Bolton at Home are going to try and facilitate how this can be done effectively as well as prioritising the needs of other vulnerable people.
- Various meetings with Places for People, it appears they have not stood up to their quota in regards to fitting fences up on Craven Court and Gloucester Court.
- Regular meetings with Aspinall Court and Greenbank. Informed members that they do a good breakfast on a Friday morning.
- **Councillor Wright –**
- White lines painted on Mason Street and Corranstone Close.
- Thanked Councillor Sears for her letter regarding the junction at the side of Aldi which has now been painted.

Councillor Williamson –

- Working behind the scenes on risk events programme and how to take education forward working with Sandra Bruce, Deputy Director of Children's Services. Looking at reviewing Early Help stage at Bolton because it does not quite fit the purpose anymore. There are 16 Early Help case workers that cover the Bolton area so looking at how this will be involved in schools around Horwich and Blackrod area.
- Candy and Vape shop may be shut down.
- Will be doing a documentary with ITV on the Vape scandal and illegal import and how to change the legislation going forward.

Councillor Sears –

- Addressing bin concerns.
- Attended St Mary's Primary School to discuss road safety for pupils.

Councillor Rigby –

- None

Councillor Grant –

- Arranged a meeting for members of Horwich and Blackrod Town Councils to meet with officers on teams regarding green bins. There will be another teams meeting for Westhoughton Town council in which the link will be sent to the Town Clerk to circulate to Horwich members. Members were to be made aware in advance of the press however unfortunately that had not occurred. As seen online, it is massively unwelcome. If its rejected, then £1 million will need to be found in savings

- Double yellow lines that Councillor McKeon and Councillor Silvester requested have been approved, with a collaborative effort between the wards to limit the costs.
 - Addressing bin concerns included assisted collection
 - Long standing issue down Station Road with Mansell Finishes has gone to an appeal and was going to be a written report. However as a result of residents' efforts, the Inspectorate will be presented with audio recordings of noise which would could not be placed in a written format and there will be a hearing due at the end of November.
- c. Representatives on Outside Bodies as per the approved list.
None.

IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS ABOUT TO BE TRANSACTED, IT IS ADVISABLE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC SHOULD BE TEMPORARILY EXCLUDED AND IF PRESENT SHOULD BE ASKED TO LEAVE.