

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT Councillors: I. Aldcroft (in the Chair), S. Burke, S. Chadwick, G. Campbell, D. Grant, K. McKeon, S. Rock, J. Scoble, C. Sears, P. Wright, R. Bamforth
Deputy Town Clerk, C. Morris,
Assistant Town Clerk, E. Tonge

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE FIRE AND SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

TC 4827 Councillor Aldcroft outlined the procedure.

TO RECIEVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTE THE REASONS:

TC 4828 Resolved to accept apologies for absence from Councillor Rigby and Councillor Walton and note the reasons.

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

TC 4829 Councillor Chadwick declared an interest in Agenda Item 8 and 9 as he is a non-voting member of the RMI Cricket Club, and stated he would take part in the discussion but would abstain from voting.

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 4830 None.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2024:

TC 4831 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 21 November 2024.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2024:

TC 4832 Some members expressed concern that some items in the minute reference EC 008 regarding the future of the Festival of Horwich could potentially be problematic:

It was agreed to host the event at Station Park rather than the RMI Cricket Club, as this would allow the event to occur during the summer period as opposed to the availability of the Horwich RMI CC, in the late September time when the Cricket season had finished.

Resolved to hold the Festival of Horwich event in July 2026 in Old Station Park, with the council holding smaller non-civic events in 2025.

One member noted their correspondence with Bolton Council that no events were to take place on the grassed area of Old Station Park, as during its design phase it was not intended for community use. As the area is not suitable for anything other than grass-cutting tractors, it would not be suitable for a stage or other equipment necessary for the festival.

It was to be noted that other alternative venues should be sought due to these points, as well safety and insurance issues that could occur from hosting an event at Old Station Park, and that alternative days may be available at the RMI Cricket Club.

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council's Events Committee held on 25 November 2024.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S FINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2024:

TC 4833 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council's Finance Review Committee held on 28 November 2024.

It was requested to move Agenda Item 9 to 8 regarding the loan request to Bolton Council for the Council's purchase of the Horwich RMI CC.

TO CONSIDER A REPORT AND APPROVE A REQUEST TO BOLTON COUNCIL FOR A LOAN SUBJECT TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION OUTCOME:

TC 4834 Resolved to approve a request to Bolton Council for a loan subject to public consultation outcome.

A member queried whether a public consultation was required. It was noted that it would be best practice for the Council to support the public's democratic right to comment on the Council's purchase of the RMI Cricket Club. Engaging with the public would ensure this right was exercised and would enable complete transparency.

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUEST FOR 2025-2026 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON 28 NOVEMBER 2024:

TC 4835 Resolved to approve the Council's Budget and Precept Request for 2025-2026 as recommended by the Finance Review Committee on 28 November 2024.

TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AS PRESENTED:

TC 4836 Resolved to approve the accounts for payment as and amounting to £404.68 as follows:

Payee	Summary	Amount
Sage UK *	Accounts software- December	100.80
K.R Chaisty	Painting of benches outside Public Hall after vandalism	130.00
HR Solutions *	HR retainer – December	173.88

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

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

TC 4837

- a. Thanks to Mr K R Chaisty for repainting of Memorial Benches
- b. Thanks to Councillor Grant for his personal donation towards the Horwich Community Centre Luncheon Club Christmas Dinner
- c. Monitoring form from St Joseph's RC High for grant for hosting a guest speaker
- d. Monitoring form from St Catherine's PCC for grant towards their Holiday Club events

Resolved to note the Town Clerk's report.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

TC 4838

- a. Town Mayor of Horwich
The Town Mayor informed Members that he had attended the following events:
 - The Horwich Armistice Day Parade and Service at Remembrance Park on 11th November and laid a wreath at the memorial
 - Blackrod's Mayor Fundraising event with an Oompah Band at Blackrod Centre on 17th November and raised £1450
 - The Horwich Heritage Exhibition on 23rd November
 - St Catherine's Parish Church Christmas Market on 23rd November
 - Blackrod Christmas Light Switch On held on 26th November.
 - Nativity Performance at Horwich Parish Church for Croft House Nursery on 7th December

- b. Horwich Ward Councillors
Councillor Bamforth –
 - Attended St Leonard's Avenue's Christmas Tree Light Switch On.
 - Attended Horwich Parish School Cake Judging Competition.
 - Attended two meetings with Horwich North Community Alliance.
Moving forward the Community Alliance will be hosting a Community Action Day in the Lever Park Ward on 29th January 2025. A skip has been ordered which will be placed on the car park behind the old Horwich Health Clinic. Multiple agencies and voluntary organisations will be involved. Following on for the next six months, the event will be held in a different Horwich Town Parish. After the Community Action Day, a meeting will be held in the same ward in an attempt to grow the Community Alliance by inviting residents in the community to attend and speak. The Community Alliance is to be resident-run. Funding options are being sought for the ideas put forth and bibs are being made with Horwich Community Alliance logos.

They are also arranging a Christmas Light Switch On event at the Beehive Roundabout, and are looking to involve schools and choirs.

- Received an invite to St Joseph's RC High School for a community event to give an anti-'pack' mentality talk to students in Year 10, and invited to give a talk sharing his personal experiences as a suicide survivor and his recovery.
- Has been liaising with resident Emma Needham regarding her poor social housing conditions, and received an update regarding her move into a new build.

Councillor Sears –

- Asked questions at Bolton Council regarding the junction of Chorley New Road, Horwich, and awaiting a response from Councillor Jiva, though has been in touch with the relevant officers. Has witnessed the plans drawn up for the crossroads, which account for two right-hand lanes, one turning to Winter Hey Lane and one right-hand lane turning into Mason Street. Currently waiting on correspondence from Transport for Greater Manchester to see if they will approve it.
- Re-reported a drain flooding on Highland Road to Bolton Council and United Utilities. United Utilities will assess the road on the 16th December.
- On Saturday 7th December attended the Mayor's Charity Christmas Fair.

Councillor Wright –

- Sat as a temporary stand-in on Bolton Planning Committee and refused application for Aldi.

Councillor Grant –

- Long awaited five-year plan to put double-yellow lines at various junctions has started to go ahead on Horwich roads.

- 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 DECEMBER 2024.

TC 4839 Resolved to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Town Council as 19 December 2024.

The meeting closed at 8:02pm.

