

## **Blackrod Town Council**

### **Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016**

#### **Present**

Councillor. Mr Mike Hollick( **Chairman**)

Councillors: Mr A Bury (Snr)  
Mrs A Cunliffe  
Mr S Batchelor  
Mrs I Seddon  
Mr S Laycock  
Mr A Bury  
Mr G Farrington

**Also Present:** Mrs S Lowis (**Town Clerk**) and 4 members of the public.

#### **162. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Barrow and the reasons for absence accepted.

#### **163. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and voted in favour and

#### **Resolved.**

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2015 be received and signed as a true record.**

164. **Declarations of Interest:**

**There were no Declarations of Interest submitted.**

165. **Planning applications**

**Item 6,7 and 8 were removed from the agenda as no planning applications had been received from Bolton Council for consideration.**

166. **Planning Decisions**

**Resolved**

**That the list of planning decisions and conditions made by Bolton Council, copies of which had been previously circulated are received and noted.**

167. **Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.**

**Bolton Council**

**Planning Inquiry**

**Proposed outline Development. Inquiry Date**

The Town Clerk read a letter, previously circulated, regarding the date of the Public Inquiry for the proposed outline development application 94656/15. The Town Council debated that a representative from the Town Council should attend the Inquiry and it was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That Councillor Laycock act as the Council's representative at the forthcoming Public Inquiry**

**Other**

**Planning Dept**

**Update on process aligned to internal (Bolton Council) planning applications**

The Town Clerk updated members that she had made enquiries with Bolton Planning Dept in regard to the query which had been raised as to whether or not the Planning Dept had a different process when dealing with 'internal' planning applications, and confirmed to members that the process is the same as all other planning applications.

**Resolved**

- 1. That the information be received and noted.**

**168. Public Participation**

**Resolved:**

**That the meeting be adjourned for 15 minutes to allow for public participation**

A local resident informed the council, about the condition of the road at Blackhorse Street where two large pot holes were further deteriorating, together with a pot hole at the junction of the A6/ Manchester Road Traffic Lights.

*(The Town Clerk noted these items for reporting)*

A request was made by a resident for the street signage to be given a clean up as they are becoming hard to read and very grubby.

*(The Town Clerk noted these concerns for reporting purposes)*

Another resident referred to the former Nightingale Farm (Former Waste Disposal Area) and asked if it was possible for the area to be refurbished and made available for additional parking spaces within the village.

*(This item will appear on the Agenda for the next meeting)*

**Members of the public were thanked for their contributions by the Chairman on all matters.**

**169. Correspondence**

**Bolton Council**

**Chief Executive Dept**

**Neighbourhood Management Report**

The Town Clerk read a letter, previously circulated, regarding Area Forums and a proposal to reduce the frequency of meetings from twice to once per year. Council members discussed this proposal and outlined the following:-

That these meetings had already been reduced from 6 to 2

That minutes from these meetings (if only one) would have to be sent out with a speedier response time otherwise it would rely on minutes being agreed 12 months down the line.

That the forums act as two way communication channels between forum members/ associations/ access to officers/ liaison with other town councils.

Would create a loss of resource within the community.

That these forums relate to local issues and accommodate responses whenever possible at the time of the meeting. One per year would not be seen as a responsive nature.

**Resolved**

- 1. That the letter and contents be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk fed back the comments raised by the Town Council in regard to the proposal.**

**170. Waste Bins in the village.(Deferred from previous meeting)**

The Town Clerk advised members of the item which had been previously deferred to allow a response time from Bolton Council regarding current location of waste bins in the village. Members were reminded by the Town Clerk of the price for new bins and for that of the relocation of bins. Debate took place regarding possible locations/ relocations/ purchase of bins and it was proposed by Councillor Bury and seconded by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and

**Resolved.**

- 1. The contents of the item be received**
- 2. That Councillors bring back to the next meeting a list of waste bins and possible new locations for additional discussion and agreement.**

**171. Financial Estimates 2016/2017**

The Town Clerk referred to a set of documents, previously circulated, containing the financial estimates for the forthcoming year April 2016 to March 2017. Members carefully considered the estimates and examined and questioned thoroughly the proposals for increase/ decrease where applicable, that would allow the Town Council to meet its financial obligations and carry out works to promote community cohesion. It was proposed by Councillor Bury(Snr) and seconded by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and all voted in favour and

**Resolved**

- 1. That the estimates as circulated and discussed be received, noted and agreed**
- 2. That the precept request of £54608 be made to Bolton Council.**
- 3. That the Town Clerk be thanked for the work in preparing the 15/16 estimates in such thorough detail.**

**172. Broken Signage in the village**

Councillor Farrington raised the subject of broken signage throughout the village, including the parking notice outside the post office and at other locations. Absence of the signage was also leading to further abuse of parking regulations within

the village. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and

Resolved

1. That the information be received and noted
2. That the Town Clerk report the issue to Bolton Council for investigation and repair/ replacement.

**173. Date of the Annual Parish Meeting.**

The Town Clerk in keeping with appropriate procedures asked Council Members to consider the date of the next Annual Parish Assembly.

Resolved

1. That the date of the next Annual Parish Assembly be held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.30pm
2. That the Town Clerk make the appropriate arrangements.

**174. Mayor Elect for 2016/2017**

Councillors considered nominations for the position of Mayor Elect for the year 2016/2017. It was moved by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Bury and unanimously voted in favour and

Resolved

1. That Councillor Mrs Cunliffe be duly nominated as Mayor Elect for 2016/2017

**175. Deputy Mayor Elect for 2016/2017**

Councillors considered nominations for the position of Deputy mayor Elect for 2016/2017. It was moved by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Bury and unanimously voted in favour and

Resolved

1. That Councillor Mrs Seddon be duly nominated as Deputy Mayor Elect for 2016/2017

**176. Annual Meeting 2016**

In keeping with appropriate Council procedures, Councillors considered the date for the Annual Meeting 2016 and it was

### **Resolved**

- 1. That the date of the Annual Meeting be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 at 7.15pm**
- 2. That the Town Clerk make all the appropriate arrangements**

#### **177. Blackrod Community Group Update**

In the absence of the Chairman of the Blackrod Community Group, Councillor Bury gave members an update.

That the group plan to bring in guest speakers and get a viewpoint of what other groups can offer to the village

Local history group has been established

Roll of honour with 72 names on purchased with a link to it of stones from the artwork created by the village children

Additionally, That in completing the WW1 book research 24/26 additional names had been found. It is hoped that these names will be engraved on the existing cenotaph or an additional piece to stand beside the cenotaph following guidance given from the War Commission. (*The Town Clerk confirmed that the Cenotaph forms part of the Assets of the Town Council*) It was therefore proposed by Councillor Bury and seconded by Councillor Bury(Snr) and voted in favour with 1 abstention and

### **Resolved**

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That the Community Group liaise with the Town Clerk regarding the process involving the Cenotaph ongoingly.**

#### **178. Blackrod Community Centre (Project Group) Update**

Councillor Mrs Cunliffe gave an update in regard to the Blackrod Community Centre which now had a Project Group in place, which included Officers that had now been duly elected on this group (Chair/ Deputy Chair/ Treasurer/ Secretary) and that the football pitches had now been included in the offer of Lease, with football team representation being in favour.

That the group had met with Principal Officers from Bolton Council and a £40,000.00 Empowerment fund bid was to be undertaken. Councillor Cunliffe reiterated that there was to be a peppercorn rent agreed for 6 months once the process of proceeding with the project had been fully agreed. It was reinforced that this group did not form part of the Blackrod Town Council but would become a stand alone group like that of the Blackrod Community Group.

### **Resolved**

- 1. That the information and update be received.**

**179. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues**

**Council members detailed areas of concern which included previously identified issues as well as new areas including-**

The state of the A6 bypass which required urgent cleaning  
Fly Tipping issues mounting.  
Signage that required cleaning  
Pot holes at the Manchester Road/ A6 junction which were causing issues

*The Town Clerk reminded council members that reports to the relevant departments could be given direct by Council members and residents alike and that councillors did not have to wait to report any issues through a council meeting. The Town Clerk also informed members that she receives notifications of issues that are reported through a number index system which can be referred to.*

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the information be received and reported.**

**180. Finance**

It was moved by Councillor Laycock and seconded by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and all voted in favour and

**Resolved**

- 1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £5138.74 (five thousand one hundred & thirty eight pounds 74p) dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016.**
- 2. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign a transfer from the Deposit Account to the Main Account amounting to £5000.00 (Five thousand only) dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016**
- 3. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign a transfer from the No.2. Account to the Main Account amounting to £4000.00 (four thousand only) and dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016**
- 4. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.**

**181. Site Visits**

No site visits were detailed.

**182. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items**

## **Other Matters**

Councillor Cunliffe informed members that the current Head of Rivington & Blackrod High School was to retire

The Town Clerk gave out two dates regarding events being held by Bolton Mayor

The Town Clerk advised members as to the cost of perennial flowers for the Floral Meadows areas but as we were now in February, leaving decision making a little late, that the subject of floral attributes for the village be diaried to reconsider around August 2016.

Councillor Laycock requested an update regarding the web page, which the Town Clerk gave which included that council members had met with the newly appointed Web Manager where ideas and requests had been given, which were now being worked through. (Councillor Laycock had been unable to attend this meeting in January).

## **Agenda Items:**

### **Waste Disposal Unit & Parking spaces**

Councillor laycock requested that the Neighbourhood Plan be put on the next Agenda.

#### **Update:**

*(The Town Clerk has looked in to this matter and refers to the Minutes of September 2015 No 75, where Councillor Bury Snr had been proposd to move forward on the project with a view to preparing a draft strategy that would be discussed at a future Council Meeting, together with progress reports on-goingly as advised by Councillor Bury(Snr) Additionally at Minute No 87 in October an amendment was included to the above which involved the preparation of a question that would be put to the local community at a future date.*

*The current Newsletter Issue 6 (Winter 2015/2016) also includes a small article on the Neighbourhood Plan and the involvement of the public. With the above in mind and giving consideration to the 6 month rule on debate the Town Clerk will include the topic of the Neighbourhood Plan as an Agenda item at a date after the March meeting to be agreed with the appointed Councillor for the project.*

### **183. List of Outstanding Correspondence**

#### **Resolved**

1. That the list of outstanding correspondence be received and noted.
2. That the reduction in outstanding pertinent matters be also noted.

184. **Reports from Ward Councillors**

**Ward Councillor Bury commented on:**

The flashing speed sign on Crown Lane

**Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe commented:-**

Library Books -in connection with elderly people who cannot get out of the house for books.

That no current updates had been received regarding crime rates in Blackrod but that she had checked and received notification that between 15<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January there had been no domestic burglaries or burglaries of other premises and that no vehicle thefts had been reported other than one attempted robbery of a motor vehicle which had failed.

**The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7pm.**

**The Town Clerk requested that any items for consideration for the agenda should be with her no later than Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February.**

**The meeting closed at 9.10pm**

**Signed.....Chairman**

