

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 5th October 2015

Present

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

Councillors: Mr A Bury (Snr)
Mrs A Cunliffe
Mrs P Barrow
Mr G Farrington

Also Present: Mrs S Lowis (**Town Clerk**) Ward Councillor Pickup and 7 members of the public

86. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Seddon, Councillor Bury, Councillor Laycock and Councillor Batchelor and the reasons for absence approved.

The Town Clerk advised members that attendance at meetings is monitored and reported on and reasons for absence are limited.

87. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 7th September 2015

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

Resolved.

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 10th August 2015 be received and signed as a true record with the following amendment and notes.**

Minute No. 75 Neighbourhood Plan

The Town Clerk advised members that the minute should also include that Councillor Bury (snr) will also bring a question in draft form that would go out to the public for consideration by members.

88. Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Farrington declared an interest in Agenda Item 17 (Finance)

89. *(Prior to the next agenda items the Town Clerk asked members to remove Agenda Item Numbers 6,7 and 8 from their agenda due to late notification from Bolton that no planning applications were to be heard for Blackrod this time. The Chair of the council confirmed removal of these items.*

90. 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.

91. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

Bolton Council

Planning Dept

Crows Nest Farm

The Town Clerk read a letter from Bolton Planning Dept informing members that the changes to windows at Crows Nest Farm were considered to be non-material and therefore not expedient to pursue enforcement action.

Resolved.

1. That the update be received and noted

Highways Dept

Grimeford Lane

The Town Clerk read a letter, previously circulated, regarding the closure of Grimeford Lane for resurfacing works.

Resolved

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

Streetcare

Replacement/ repaired signs

The Town Clerk informed members that the repairs and maintenance request made to Bolton Re Signage had now been completed and a note of thanks sent to the appropriate department.

Resolved.

1. **That the improvements to signage be noted**
2. **That the Town Clerk report that other areas require the same attention including the signage at the junction of Scot Lane, which requires correction.**

Development & Regeneration

Bolton Council Supplementary Planning Document for consultation (email and Document sent to members 8/9/15)

The Town Clerk reminded members of the contents of the document including the infrastructure and scale of contributions that Bolton Council will seek in response to the Section 106 agreements resulting from legislative change. A short discussion took place regarding certain comments within the document but it was

Resolved

1. **That the information be received and noted**
2. **No comments would be sent from the Town Council in response to the document.**

92. Public Participation

Resolved:

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

A member of the public advised members of an issue regarding 347, Manchester Road, where a large traffic sign had been erected outside of the house. The member of the public stated that he had brought the matter to the council's attention on behalf of the residents of the property, to see if the Town Council could assist in having the signage relocated. Members were informed that Ward Councillor Bury was already looking in to this issue. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Barrow and seconded by Councillor Farrington and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information and photograph be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk advise the Ward Councillor that the issue had been brought to the attention of the Town Council**
- 3. That the Town Clerk liaise with the Ward Councillor and relevant departments to try and resolve the identified issue.**

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

93. Correspondence

Blackrod Art Group

Calendar Request

The Town Clerk informed members that the local Art Group had invited the Town Council to promote their services through an advert space within the calendar. Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be duly noted.**
- 2. That the Town Council take out a 4” x 4” advert within the calendar, which is worded to support the work of the Art Group and giving best wishes for the New Year to the Community, preferably on the first month if possible.**
- 3. That the Town Clerk action the proposal and alter any wording to fit the month offered.**

GM Police

Scot Lane Speeding Update

The Town Clerk gave members an update received in relation to several concerns raised by the Town Council regarding speeding on Scot lane in Blackrod. The update informed members that their concerns had been sent on to the Neighbourhood Roads Policing Manager, based in Eccles, requesting intervention in this area.

Resolved.

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

Editor. Living in BL

Item relating to donation Offer. Public Graves

The Town Clerk updated members that she had received an offer of a financial donation from a member of the public, in regard to any commitment that the Town Council makes towards the commemoration of the Public Graves situation in Blackrod Cemetery.

Following discussion amongst members it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and seconded by Councillor Bury (Snr) and

Resolved

- 1. That the letter be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Council would not seek financial donations from external sources towards work on the project at this moment in time.**
- 3. That the Town Clerk write to the member of the public giving thanks for the offer and updating on the work to date, with a view to a future dedication being given and with it an invitation to the service for those who may find themselves personally involved.**

94. Waste Bin Half Acre Lane

In the absence of Councillor Laycock, the Town Clerk updated members on his request that a waste bin be placed on Half Acre Lane- at the exit from the playing fields, due to the issue with dog fouling on the playing fields and surrounding areas which is picked up then dumped on Half Acre Lane. The Town Clerk also read a letter from a group of young people in regard to rubbish and the lack of bins in Blackrod. The Young residents informed the Town Council that they would organise a 'jumble sale' in order to raise funds to purchase more bins. The Town Clerk reminded members that they had been previously informed by Bolton Council that there were no more bins available at this moment in time and that any bins purchased independently could not be placed on a collection route due to all current services being full.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and seconded by Councillor Mrs Barrow and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the letter from the young residents be received, noted and responded to with thanks for their efforts and concerns.**
- 2. That a request be made to Bolton Council regarding the possibility or bin relocation should the need arise.**
- 3. That the Town Clerk obtain a quote for a new bin should a space for collection be found.**
- 4. That a request be made to Bolton for updating existing dog fouling signs be made**
- 5. That a request be made to Bolton for signage to be placed on lampposts and other facilities in regard to dog fouling**

95. Blackrod Church School. Road Safety

The Town Clerk read a letter, previously circulated, regarding a request from Blackrod Church School for assistance with the issue surrounding chaotic and dangerous access to the school site during peak drop off and collection times. It was reported that Ward Councillor Bury had also been approached regarding this problem. Members discussed the issues raised including inappropriate parking by many parents dropping off their children at school, speeding vehicles down Vicarage Road West, lack of staffing present such as crossing patrol or school staff and the placement of speed bumps in this area. (N.b currently Vicarage Road West does not reach Government Criteria for speed bumps) The Town Clerk advised members that other local schools employed their own staff to assist with the situation regarding road crossing. Councillor Mrs Cunliffe reminded members that the Ward Councillors had purchased specialised visibility jackets for the school children in the village to make the children more visible to cars. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and seconded by Councillor Farrington and

Resolved.

- 1. That the letter from the school be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Town Council write to Bolton to see if there is any possibility of a speed restriction sign being placed on Vicarage Road West**
- 3. That the Town Clerk contact the school/ School Governor with a view to asking a local community officer of speed awareness officer to come to the school to speak to both parents and children regarding speeding and inappropriate parking as well as giving consideration to having an appropriate member of staff on duty at the identified peak times.**

96. Blackrod Community Group Update

In the absence of the Chairman of Blackrod Community Group, Mrs Beryl Monaghan, the Town Clerk read out an update which had been received, which included date of the next meeting: progress with the WW1 book being published: Benches being purchased through joint ventures with the Scarecrow Committee and Town Council: Future Local Heritage Group being considered.

Resolved.

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

97. **Training Opportunities**

The Town Clerk reminded members that they should always seek to update themselves on training opportunities as they arose as part of their Governance. The Town Clerk also requested that members give their agreement to the Town Clerk arranging any future local training opportunities, especially involving joined up training opportunities with other local councils and the sharing of costs, as thought appropriate by the Town Clerk, without the need for an agenda item each time. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the request be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk liaise with appropriate parties and other local councils to seek training opportunities when applicable**
- 3. That members give approval to the Town Clerk to consider and purchase any training proposals and shared costs when applicable.**

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

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

Newlands Road road breaking up along side of pavement
Fly Tipping along the A6

Additional discussion also took place about the parking places alongside St Katharine's Church, their access via the road and/or pavement.

The Town Clerk informed members that identified pathways in Blackrod have been cut back but would be revisited.

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.

Resolved.

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

99. Finance

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and seconded by Councillor Bury (Snr) and all voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £3797.91 (three thousand seven hundred & ninety seven pounds 91p) dated 5th October 2015.**
- 2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.**

100. Site Visits

No site visits were detailed.

101. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items

Other Matters

Dog warden Patrol requested in Cemetery area between 5-7pm

The Town Clerk confirmed that Bolton Council do not have a lighting policy but information can be found on their web site.

Agenda Item October

Lack of public conveniences in the village (public request)

102

List of Outstanding Correspondence

Resolved

- 1. That the list of outstanding correspondence be received and noted**

103. Reports from Ward Councillors

Councillor Pickup

Reported that resurfacing on pavements on Hill Lane would be completed soon.
Train Service through Blackrod returning at weekends but still closed during the evening.

Councillor Mrs Cunliffe

Reported that
The Farnworth tunnel is not yet finished.
Fracking is a big issue with licences being granted
Attended a briefing on budgets/ generating income
Met with John white regarding plaques at both the front and rear of the cemetery
(relating to Public Graves)

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed at 2nd November 2015 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed.....Chairman