

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 7th September 2015

Present

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

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

Also Present: Mrs S Lewis (**Town Clerk**) and 26 members of the public and member of the Press

65. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Seddon and the reasons for absence approved.

66. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 10th August 2015

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and seconded by Councillor Bury(Snr) 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. 58 Dementia Training

The Town Clerk apologised for recording the wrong Councillor's name, which should have read Councillor Mrs Seddon and not Councillor Mrs Barrow as the seconder to the proposal.

Councillor Laycock stated that he wanted his concerns noted regarding Minute No 48 (August Minutes) detailing Planning application No 94429/15, as previously recorded at the **July meeting** and documented at Minute No 29. The Town Clerk stated that she would note Councillor Laycock's concerns but that the July Minutes had already been approved at the August 10th meeting and no amendment had been requested for a change against this item at that meeting. Therefore the minutes would stand as they were approved.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Councillor Laycock stated his disapproval regarding the item recorded at Minute No.50 (August) stating again that Bolton Council had not followed the outlines given under the Section 106 agreement.

Councillor Laycock also raised concerns about the land associated with planning application 93440/15 which he stated contained additional contamination as he had been to the site in question and discussed it with those present at the site. However the Town Clerk reminded Councillor Laycock that the item under discussion was that of Matters Arising in the minutes from the August meeting and not a planning application which had been fully debated, and which was still within the 6 month rule. The Town Clerk agreed to note the point on contamination which Councillor Laycock had made.

67. **Declarations of Interest:**

Councillor Mrs Cunliffe exercised her right not to speak on any planning applications so as not to lose her right to speak on any applications when submitted to Bolton Planning Committee

Prior to members of the Town Council attending the Town Council Planning Meeting, it was moved and agreed by Council members, that Item 12 and 13 from the September Agenda be heard first due to the items being in the public interest, and when greater numbers of the public were in attendance. These items are recorded at Minutes No.74 and 75

Prior to the next itemised minute the Chairman of the Council adjourned the meeting of the Town Council to request members present to attend the meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee. Following the Town Council Planning Meeting, the Chairman of the Town Council reconvened the meeting of the Town Council.

68. Planning Applications.(Received from the Meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee 7th September 2015).

It was moved by Councillor Bury(Snr) and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and

Resolved

- 1. That the following planning applications , details of which had been previously circulated to members and considered and voted on at the meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 7th September 2015 together with comments made, be duly noted.**
- 2. That prior to Councillor's considering each application at the Planning Committee meeting, members of the public were given the opportunity to speak to the Town Council on any particular planning application as listed.**

94637/15 61, Vicarage Rd Erection of garage at front.

No member of the public spoke in its connection.
Councillors debated the application and whilst voting not to object, commented that they expressed concern on its appearance and the possibility that the building would be overbearing and create a loss of light and privacy to the neighbours and suggested that Bolton Planning check the situation out themselves.

**94733/15 8, Waterhouse Nook Demolition of conservatory
And erection of single storey
Extension.**

No member of the public spoke in connection with the application.
Councillors discussed the application and positioning of the house/ extension against other properties and nearby stream and although approving the application with one abstention, noted that they were raising a concern regarding the possible effects on nearby neighbours.

**94656/15 Hill Lane Outline application for the
Erection of 110 dwellings
(Access details only)**

Several members of the public spoke in connection with the proposed development. Issues raised were the amount of houses, small but busy road, more cars on the road, Inappropriate access on to Dark Lane, green belt. Councillors

listened to the objections and concerns raised by residents present and heard the update given by the Town Clerk received from Bolton Planning Dept. The Town Clerk also reminded council members and the public that the application was for access details only. Having fully debated the situation in regard to the outline planning application (access details only) councillors voted unanimously to object to the planning application on the grounds of both the access to the site and the onward access routes in the surrounding area and it was proposed by Councillor Laycock and seconded by Councillor Bury and

Resolved

- 1. That the information from Bolton Council regarding Hill lane be received and noted**
- 2. That Bolton Council be requested to update their local development plan with any additional areas identified for potential development**

69. 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.

70. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

No correspondence in regard to planning had been received from either Bolton or Other for this meeting.

Site Visit.

Councillor Hollick gave an update regarding a site visit which had been made by Council members to the corner of Hill Lane with Chorley Road in connection with discussing the possibility of having yellow lines inserted to alleviate parking problems. Following the site visit it had been decided that no further action regarding yellow lines need be taken further but that a request be made to Highways, for repairs to be carried out on the road in the vicinity.

Resolved.

- 1. That all information and updates be received and noted**

71. Public Participation

Resolved:

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

A member of the public raised the issue of hedges, edge of roads and overgrown nettles and bushes which had begun to cover pathways,

Another resident raised concerns about cars parked along the pathway alongside the small cottages in the dip at Little Scotland making it impossible to pass without going on to the road, which was dangerous due to the nature of the road in question and speed.

A member of the public raised the issue of the flashing light outside the Primary School, which had been the subject of a previous query and hopefully now resolved as the schools had gone back. The resident also queried the use of 20mph limits and stated that he was going to bring them up at the Two Towns Forum which was due to be held.

A member of the public requested that the Town Council ask Bolton Council to remove the signs in and around the village which related to their being a waste recycling centre present in Blackrod

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk liaise with relevant departments to try and resolve the identified issues.**

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

72. Correspondence

The Town Clerk informed council members that a postcard had been received from the Girl Scout whom the council had elected to sponsor on her visit to Japan.

Resolved.

- 1. That the communication be duly noted.**

1. That the information be received and noted

73. LALC Resolutions and confirmation of elected representative

The Town Clerk advised members that she had not been asked to forward any Resolutions from council members to the LALC for their Annual General Meeting to be held on 7th November 2015.

Additionally, the issue of the LALC representative replacing retired former Councillor Mrs Winward, received clarification. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and voted **in favour and**

Resolved

1. That the update regarding the AGM be noted
2. That members representative at the LALC be noted as Councillor Stephen Laycock.
3. That the Town Clerk will inform the LALC of their named Council member

74. Blackrod Community Centre Update

Councillor Mrs Cunliffe provided members with an update in regard to the Blackrod Community Centre following the meeting of a working group held on 18th August 2015, of which all councillors are members. It was proposed by Councillor Cunliffe and seconded by Councillor Bury (Snr) and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. That the updates be received and Councillor Cunliffe thanked for her work to date.
2. That the Town Council are in favour of the centre being ran by a community group rather than the Town Council itself.
3. That the next step is to see whether the residents of Blackrod are in favour of managing the community centre.
4. That Councillor Cunliffe and the Town Clerk advertise & organise a residents meeting to assess the uptake and feasibility of the project.

75. Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

Councillor Bury(Snr)referred to papers already received by Council members and provided council members with an update in regard to the possibility of a future

development of a neighbourhood development plan. Councillor Bury(Snr) informed members that a meeting had been held with an officer from Bolton, the Town Clerk and himself in regard to a neighbourhood development plan and that a lot of information had been forthcoming. Councillor Bury stated that a local plan was a way of trying to protect the local community in a variety of different ways. Councillor Laycock stated that the project would create a large volume of work and expressed a word of caution. Councillor Bury stated that he was committed to continuing to research the project behind a neighbourhood plan and the work it would entail and that one of the first steps would be to engage with the community itself. It was proposed by Councillor Bury and seconded by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and Councillor Bury(Snr) thanked for his work to date**
- 2. That Councillor Bury (Snr) continue to process a draft strategy, and provide the Town Council with continued updates.**

76. **Unmarked Public Graves in Blackrod**

Councillor Mrs Cunliffe provided members with information in regard to a study she had carried out on the number of common graves within Blackrod Cemetery. The details which had arisen from this study established that over 100 babies and 48 adults lay in 16 public graves between 1888 and 1960. A booklet has been created detailing all related information to hand and copies are to be kept in Bolton and Blackrod library as well as with the Town Council. Councillor Mrs Cunliffe asked members of the Town Council ways in which these individuals could be remembered and it was proposed by Councillor Cunliffe and seconded by Councillor Laycock and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted and Councillor Cunliffe thanked for the work involved and bringing the matter to the attention of the Town Council**
- 2. That approval be given for some form of plaque or stone to be purchased and erected in memory of the individuals concerned**
- 3. That the Town Clerk and Councillor Mrs Cunliffe look at ways in which this could be best achieved through relevant quotations for the work.**

77. Town Council's External audit for year ending 31st March 2015

The Town Clerk submitted the Notice of Completion of the Town Council's Annual External Audit for the year ending 31st March 2015. There were no matters requiring the issuing of a matter arising report from the Annual auditors. The Town Clerk advised members that the auditors did request that from 2016, precept monies need to be recorded in a different manner.(Noted to all Parish/ Town Councils)It was therefore proposed by Councillor Laycock and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the Annual Return and external auditor's report for the year ending 31st March 2015 be approved and accepted by the Town Council**
- 2. That the Town Clerk be thanked for her role as RFO for the council and for her hard work in preparing the year end accounts with no matters arising.**

78. Condition of the public noticeboards in the village

Councillor Bury (Snr) asked members to consider the state of disrepair of the noticeboards within the village and what alternative arrangements could be made in their regard.*(The Town Clerk reminded members that the replacement and purchase of a new noticeboard for the front of the council building has been agreed previously(Minute 228 12/13) with work to commence at the Town Clerk's convenience. This board will have a glass partition and lockable access and sufficient funds are available).*Members commented that the other two noticeboards were well used by the public and whilst in disrepair couldn't be marshalled by anyone on a regular basis. Additionally the Town Council could not accept or be held responsible for items which appeared on the public boards. It was accepted that the boards were in need of repair or replacement. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Bury(Snr) and seconded by Councillor Bury and

Resolved

- 1. That the update be received**
- 2. That the Town Clerk liaise with Councillor Bury(Snr) with regard to managing the situation relating to the repair or replacement of the existing 2 public noticeboards on-goingly.**

79. Fracking in the local area

Councillor Mrs Cunliffe gave members a report in connection with Fracking and the licence to explore for shale gas including areas of Blackrod, Horwich, Smithills Astley Bridge and Chorley. Councillor Mrs Cunliffe called on members to support the proposal that Blackrod Town Council declare themselves at present to be a Frack Free

Council. Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour with one abstention and

Resolved

1. That the report be received and contents noted
2. That the Town Council voted to declare themselves at present a frack free council
3. That the Town Clerk write to neighbouring councils with a request that they too become a frack free council
4. That the Town Clerk write to the local MP asking him to support us in parliament on the same subject.

80. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues

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

The irregular slabs outside the spa shop
The path from Castlecroft to the A6 which is heavily overgrown
Newlands Drive which requires tarmac repairs
.

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.

81. Finance

It was moved by Councillor Farrington 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 £3790.85 (three thousand seven hundred & ninety pounds 85p) dated 7th September 2015.
2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.

82. **Site Visits**

No site visits were arranged but a call for a reminder to the police in respect of Scot Lane

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

Agenda Item

Lack of public conveniences in the village (public request)

84 **List of Outstanding Correspondence**

Resolved

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

85. **Reports from Ward Councillors**

Councillor Bury

Reported that he had liaising with the PCSO in regard to anti-social behaviour (nuisance rather than criminal)in the Ward but with the school going back this week things should start to calm down.

Meetings had to be adjourned due to demos regarding bedroom tax

And issues regarding fly tipping.

Cllr Bury also advised that Bolton Council had voted to be a frack free council

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed at 5th October 2015 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed.....Chairman

