

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 25th April 2016 (instead of 2nd May 2016B/H)

Present

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

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

Also Present: Mrs S Lowis (**Town Clerk**) and 10 members of the public

231. Apologies for Absence

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

232. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 4th April 2016

It was moved by Councillor Mr Laycock and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 4th April 2016 be received and signed as a true and accurate record with the following amendments;
Minute 223 (3) should include giving feedback on a monthly basis**

Minute 227 should state that the site visit to Rydal Close as detailed was for a time of 6.45pm

233. Declarations of Interest:

No declarations of interest were noted.

234. Planning applications (Received from the Meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 25th April 2016

It was moved by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and agreed by all 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 Meeting held on 25th April 2016, 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.**

96137/16	17, Meadow Way	erection of 2 storey Ext to side and canopies To front and rear
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Councillors considered the planning application, noting it was of the same design as surrounding properties and voted to make no comment.

96159/16	Yates Farm	erection of agricultural Building for livestock And storage.
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Councillors considered the application and voted in favour as having no objections to the application

96244/16	10, Grimeford Lane	outline app for the Erection of 3 residential dwellings with garages (access layout and scale Details only)
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Councillors discussed at length the proposal and concluded that they had no objection in principle to the planning application providing that the proposals meet the requirements of the green belt legislation and that their one concern regarding the sight lines in and from the development and the turning area was approved by Highways.

96324/16

213, New Street

**change of front of part
Ground floor to retail
(Class A1) together with
New shop front and
Erection of first floor ext
& dormer at rear.**

Councillors voted unanimously to object to the planning application. Their objections included loss of light and privacy to neighbours: extensive over development of the property: parking issues associated with neighbouring parking facilities: waste facilities to the property which are totally inadequate and spreading out on to neighbouring areas. Councillors also added that the over development of the already imposing property has also ensured that as an original mid terrace property, this no longer remained in keeping with the existing street scene. Councillors voted to request a visit by Bolton Planning Committee to the address and would contact the district councillors to speak on their behalf as an objection to the application, when the application is heard.

235. 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.

236. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

Resident letter of concern

**Planning Application 95926/16
(nightingale Farm- Blackhorse st)**

Following the receipt of a letter of concern regarding the proposed planning application No 95926/16 and a time extension for comment, Councillors considered additional comments following a site visit to a nearby property.

Additional comments included:

In regard to Core Strategy OA1 Para 3, it states that the local centre of Blackrod will continue to serve local needs. The Town Centre as well as other parts of Blackrod does not have enough parking facilities for both resident and visitors to the town already, including to the shops, church, health centre, library etc. Local free space is of a premium as the village becomes swamped in over development of the area with houses. In addition to previous comments submitted regarding the possibility of an additional 14 dwellings on to the former recycling centre area, councillors also stressed that Blackrod is at present struggling to cope with infrastructure support such as not enough health care facilities and schools for the ever increasing number of residential occupation, which with additional houses already outlined for various other parts of the village, will again impact even more seriously on already over stretched resources. Councillors suggest strongly that this small remaining piece of free space should be developed currently as a car park area that would serve local needs better, whilst at the same time be there at a future date to support the infrastructural needs of a growing community. Councillors request that Bolton Planning seriously consider the impact this development would bring to the village of Blackrod and request that the application is refused.

Resolved

- 1. That the letter of concern from the resident be received and contents noted**
- 2. That additional comments be sent to Bolton Planning Dept.**
- 3. That the Town Clerk write to invite the Principal Officer from Bolton Planning to a meeting with members of the Town Council and local residents to hear their concerns over this planning application.**
- 4. That councillors note that an appeal by residents has been given to local Ward Councillors regarding this application, which members of the Town Council endorse.**

237. Public Participation

Resolved:

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

A member of the public addressed the Town Council with a letter of concern regarding not only the building of additional houses in the area and lack of appropriate infrastructure but with the impact this was having on local school places and need. The points raised by the member of the public included local children not being able to obtain a place in a local school but having to travel out of the town. The local school facilitating places for children from nearby towns instead of local

children due to the criteria given for a place within the local school. The impact additional housing would bring in terms of school places and local children having to travel further for schooling which brings about all that is inappropriate in a child's development such as social aspects and travel times adding to the daily activity and what this does to overburdened families already. The issue of having children in different schools also being an issue raised. The resident suggested a solution would be to increase the places available at the local school, which would require minor building works and asked that the Council add this item to a future agenda so that this issue regarding schools and infrastructure could be debated properly.

Resolved.

- 1. That the concerns of the resident be heard and noted**
- 2. That the items regarding schools and school places be placed on a future agenda**

Resolved.

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

238. Correspondence

There was no additional correspondence for this meeting.

239. Cemetery Clock (Brought forward from the Annual Assembly)

The Town Clerk advised members that the issue of the continual break down of the cemetery clock had been raised at the Annual Assembly for additional consideration by members. The Town Clerk reminded members that this matter had been considered after the 2015 Annual Assembly and the resolution passed at Minute No 248 (8th June 2015) was that an estimate for repair had been given at circa £1000.00, which members had approved in principle. However as the clock was given further repairs this item had not come back with full replacement costs for consideration. A local resident also commented that discussions had taken place between the town's Cemetery group and the Officer with responsibility for the cemeteries in Bolton and that it had been intimated that costs of replacement would be considered by Bolton. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Laycock and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the item be received and heard**
- 2. That the Town Clerk liaise with the officer from Bolton with a view to obtaining up to date replacement costs for the clock and the possibility of the Town Council funding some or all of the replacement.**

240. Councillor Training

The Town Clerk advised members of two training opportunities available , both being supported by the LALC but with one event being held locally across all three town councils. The Town Clerk reminded members that CPD was an important part of their development. It was proposed by Councillor Laycock and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and

Resolved

- 1. That the information be received and noted.**
- 2. That members interested in both training events forward their names to the Town Clerk as soon as possible.**

241. Creation of an additional Rose Garden

Councillor Hollick indicated that he had received a letter from a resident requesting that a Rose Garden or similar be installed on an area of land on the Cheethams Estate referred to as common land. The resident wrote that this piece of land could also become a leisure and recreational area and include a community garden such as similar projects throughout the country. Councillors considered the item and noted that the land in question was not in the ownership of Blackrod Town Council and that previous use of this land as a childrens play area had also been withdrawn following requests by residents. The item was therefore not proposed or seconded.

Resolved

- 1. That the information be received**
- 2. That the Town Clerk advise the resident that the Town Council were unable to support this project under current circumstances.**

242. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues

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

Station Road
A6 Bypass

Potholes and sunken ground (already reported)
Bricks (being transported elsewhere noted)

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.**

243. Finance

It was moved by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £2775.25 (two thousand seven hundred and seventy seven pounds 25p) dated 25th April 2016.**
- 2. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign a transfer from the Deposit Account to the Main Account amounting to £20,000.00 (Twenty thousand pounds) dated 25th April 2016**
- 3. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign a transfer from the Deposit Account to the Mayoral Account amounting to £1500.00 (One thousand five hundred pounds only)**
- 4. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.**

244. Site Visits

No site visits were diaried.

245. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items

Other Matters

Councillor Farrington asked if a response had been received regarding the appeal on the opening (widening) from the Industrial Estate. (*The Town Clerk confirmed that nothing had as yet been received*)

Councillor Cunliffe informed members that the Halt sign had been erected at the junction of Scot Lane with Manchester Road.

The Town Clerk asked that council members consider a set of papers which had been sent to all (*which hadn't arrived in time for this meeting and deadline would be beyond the next meeting*) and that all comments be sent for circulation and approval by 15th May 2016

Agenda Items

Neighbourhood Plan	to form a monthly update item	Cllr Bury(Snr)
Rubbish on the A6	(Cllr Laycock)	
Blackrod Town Infrastructure	(Cllr Laycock)	
CPRE membership	(Cllr Laycock)	

246. List of Outstanding Correspondence

Resolved

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

247. Reports from Ward Councillors

Ward Councillor Bury commented:-

Bolton Council item on turning schools in to academies
Fracking. That a decision to oppose had been taken
Façade. Policy regarding making all existing visual aspects the same
EU referendum
The use of private bailiffs for removal of non approved travellers.

The Chairman indicated that the Annual Meeting would be held on 3rd May at 7.15pm

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 25th April 2016 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm

Signed.....Chairman