

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 1st August 2016

Present

Councillor. Mrs I Seddon (Deputy **Chairman**)

Councillors Mr A Bury (snr)
Mr A Bury
Mr G Farrington
Mr M Hollick
Mr S Laycock

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

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Town Clerk asked the Chairman To ask members to accept an item (Hillside Avenue. Councillor Mrs Seddon) for discussion on the Agenda, which she had inadvertently missed This was unanimously agreed by all.

51. Apologies for Absence

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

52. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 4th July 2016

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

Resolved.

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 4th July 2016 be received and signed as a true and accurate record, with the following amendment noted.**

Item 40. This item should not read as a question whether or not there should be two bodies but whether the association believe that a member could serve as both a town councillor and ward councillor at the same time.

53. **Declarations of Interest:**

Councillor Farrington. Item 17 on the Agenda (Finance)

Councillor Laycock. Item 11 on the agenda (Donation Request)

54. **Planning applications (Received from the Meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 1st August 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 1st August 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.

97016/16

Denton Farm

Erection of agricultural Building

No members of the public commented on the application. Councillors debated the application and there was a difference of opinion in its regard. It was proposed by Councillor Laycock and seconded by Councillor Hollick to defer any decision making until clarification had been received from Bolton Planning. A site visit was also indicated, which the Town Clerk advised should take place with the permission given from the owners of Denton Farm.

(Prior to the site visit in question being arranged Bolton Planning visited the application address in question and advised the Town Council that the application was not for a new building but the replacement of an existing building in the same position. This building would be 4 feet longer and approx. 3 feet higher, with closed roller shutters rather than being open. The email was forwarded to Councillors on 4th August and prior to the proposed site visit on 8th August, leaving it for council members to decide whether they still wanted to conduct a site visit. From replies received the majority of council members stated they no longer felt it necessary to conduct a site visit)

55. 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.

56. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

Public Footpath 040

Update (Pennington Fold)

The Town Clerk read an update, previously circulated, in regard to public footpath 040 confirming the diversion of the path in question and definitive map and statement modification order.

Resolved.

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

Public Footpath 083

Update re Temporary Closure

The Town Clerk also gave an update in regard to footpath 083, as to the reasons for temporary closure.

Resolved.

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

57. Public Participation

Resolved:

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

A member of the public brought the issue of overgrown paths on the left hand side of Hill lane to council members.

(The Town Clerk stated that she had received concerns over several other areas of overgrown pathways and would add this to the list that was being sent to Bolton Council).

Another resident referred to a leaflet referencing planning application 95926/16, which he said had been delivered to residents in the area of Blackhorse Street from Blackrod & Horwich Ward Councillors and asked if members of Blackrod Town Council were aware of the leaflet going out to residents.

Councillor Farrington stated that if it was party propaganda then the Town Council would have had no reason to see or approve it.

(Following a small amount of debate, The Chair person informed members that the piece of literature could not be fully discussed as not all members of the Town Council had seen it and that the planning application had now been approved by Bolton Planning and it wasn't an Agenda item for debate at this time. Councillor Laycock requested that the item be placed on the next agenda.)

Resolved.

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

58. **Correspondence**

Rivington & Blackrod High School

Academy Status Notification.

The Town Clerk read a letter advising members that the Governing Board of Rivington & Blackrod High School had submitted an application to convert to Academy Status.

Resolved.

1. That the letter and contents therein be received and noted.

Donation Request

Haigh, Aspull & Blackrod Show

The Town Clerk read a letter, previously circulated, requesting a donation towards the costs of the above show, which the Town Council had supported in the past. It was proposed by Councillor Bury and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. **That the letter and request be received and noted**

2. That a donation of £250.00 be awarded to the Haigh, Aspull and Blackrod Show.
3. That the Town Clerk make the payment arrangements.

59. **Repairs to Council Chamber Furniture**

The Town Clerk pointed out the poor condition of the upholstery on some of the pieces of Council furniture and reminded members that the chamber is now well used by many community groups within Blackrod for several purposes and it would be prudent to seek repairs on the furniture now so as to prolong the life of the extremely old pieces of furniture. The Town Clerk advised members that the costs for the repairs would be £360.00. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Laycock and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. That the update be received and noted
2. That the repairs be approved
3. That the Town Clerk make the necessary arrangements.

60. **Hillside Avenue**

Councillor Mrs Seddon informed members that there had been several concerns regarding the safety of both drivers and pedestrians in the vicinity of Hillside Avenue where it joins Station Road, in particular in reference to the exit and entrance to and from Hillside Avenue. Councillor Mrs Seddon indicated the overgrown sides of the road on the left hand side going towards Horwich which caused visibility issues as well as causing concern when cars had to pull further out in to the middle of the road to see more clearly. Following additional discussion regarding the possibility of a site visit by members and Bolton Highways it was agreed to ask Bolton Highways to visit the area when they came to visit the Industrial Site and suggest possible outcomes which could be considered to possibly resolving the ongoing problem in this area.

Resolved.

1. For the information to be received and noted
2. That the Town Clerk request a visit by Bolton Highways to the area in conjunction with the visit to the Industrial Estate.

61. **LALC Annual General Meeting**

The Town Clerk requested that members discuss Resolutions to be passed to the LALC Annual General Meeting and reminded members that the proposer and seconder of each proposal should be present at the AGM to speak briefly in its regard. Councillor Farrington proposed the Resolution “*Do the members believe that a Parish or Town Councillor and a District Councillor can serve simultaneously on both councils at the same time*”. No other Resolutions were considered. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour with 3 abstentions and

Resolved.

1. That the Resolution for consideration be received and heard
2. That the Resolution be forwarded for consideration for the LALC Annual Meeting.

62. Neighbourhood Plan Monthly update

Councillor Bury(Snr) provided members with his monthly report, previously circulated, which included the progress on the formation of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to date. Councillor Laycock stated that he had requested to be part of the Steering Group and that he had received advice from CPRE/ LALC/NALC and the Borough Solicitor on the subject of his request. Following lengthy debate amongst members the Deputy Chairman requested that the meeting move on and it was

Resolved.

1. That Councillor Bury continue the progress he is making and continue to give monthly updates ongoingly.

63. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues

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

Potholes on Nightingale Road Overgrown verges needing cut
Hill Lane. Deep potholes along ridges backing up with puddles
A6 pavement conditions

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.

64. **Finance**

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

Resolved

1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £2987.98 (two thousand nine hundred and eighty seven pounds 98p) dated 1st August 2016.
2. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign a transfer from the deposit account to the main account for £15000.00 (fifteen thousand pounds)
3. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.

65. **Site Visits**

Site visits were arranged for Denton Farm 8th August at 10am.(Subject to approval of owner)

Hillside Avenue (deferred until the visit at the Industrial Estate takes place.

66. **Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration**

Agenda Items for September

Wigan & Bolton Parking Policies (Councillor Laycock)

Distributed letter from Ward Councillors (Councillor Laycock)

Other Matters

Councillor Farrington raised the issue of areas where new lighting had been erected but old street lamps had been left.1`

20mph sign outside Blackrod Primary which only served as notice in one direction.

The Town Clerk reported that the Council Community Newsletter had been received back from the printers and was being distributed.

67. **List of Outstanding Correspondence**
Resolved

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

68. **Reports from Ward Councillors**

Councillor Bury Commented:

That he had been dealing with case work issues and that there had been a quiet spell on Council matters due to the Summer recess.

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 5th September 2016 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed.....Chairman