

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 4th July 2016

Present

Councillor. Mrs Ann Cunliffe (**Chairman**)

Councillors Mrs I Seddon
Mrs P Barrow
Mr G Farrington
Mr M Hollick

Also Present: Mrs S Lewis (**Town Clerk**) Ward Councillor S.Pickup and 9 members of the public

30. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Bury and Councillor Bury (Jnr) Councillor Batchelor and Councillor Laycock and the reasons for absence noted and accepted.

31. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 6th June 2016

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

Resolved.

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 6th June 2016 be received and signed as a true and accurate record.**

32. 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.

33. Appointment of Working Groups/ Outside Bodies (Deferred from the Annual Meeting)

The Town Clerk gave Councillors a list of details of memberships of current working groups and outside bodies and ask Members to go ahead with resolving the representatives as this item had now been deferred twice. It was therefore moved by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Hollick and

Resolved.

- 1. The following members were duly reselected to continue as representatives/ Trustees on the following working groups and outside bodies**
- 2. All council members are members of council working groups as formed by the Town Council.**

Councillor Mrs Cunliffe	Popplewell Trusts
Councillor Mrs Barrow	Popplewell Trusts
	Blackrod Educational Trust
Councillor Hollick	Rivington & Blackrod Foundation
Councillor Farrington	Popplewell Trust
	Blackrod Educational Trust
	(Non Council)
Councillor Bury (Jnr)	Rivington & Blackrod Foundation
	Lancashire Association of Local
	Councils
Councillor Laycock	Lancashire Association of Local
	Councils
	Standards Committee(Confirmed)
Town Clerk: Stella Lewis	Blackrod Educational Trust

34. Planning applications (Received from the Meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 4th July 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 4th July 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.

95818/16 **213, New Street** **alterations to form
New shop front &
Dormer at rear**

Councillors considered the application and comments which had been received including car parking issues: not in keeping with the row of adjoining houses and voted in favour to object to the development on the grounds of over development of the existing property.

96635/16 **2, Waterhouse Nook** **discharge of conditions**

Councillors considered the proposals for the discharge of conditions and Provided that all conditions had been met and signed off by Bolton Council, they raised no objections to the application.

96513/16 **692, Chorley Road** **part demolition of
Dwelling, erection of 2
Storey ext at rear. Single
Storey linked reception
area front section of
Existing dwelling to be
used as domestic storage**

Councillors further debated the location of the house and asked that Bolton Council determine further which district the property lay within as it appears to be split between Westhoughton and Blackrod. Councillors noted that the application was subject to a bat survey and providing that the survey is carried out and agreed by Bolton they agreed that there was no objections to the application.

35. 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.

36. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

There was no correspondence for this meeting.

Following a request from a member of the public, The Chairman and Councillors allowed Item 13 on the agenda (response from the Town Clerk in regard to matters raised by members of the public in regard to Planning Application 95926/16 to be heard ahead of Item 11 Public Participation.

37. Response to concerns regarding planning application 95926/16, raised through public participation at the June meeting.

Following concerns raised in public participation, the Town Clerk read a detailed report that had been prepared and previously circulated to members in response to residents concerns that Bolton Planning had not included the concerns of the Blackrod Town Council and Blackrod Residents in their decision to approve planning application 95926/16. The report highlighted remarks made in the Bolton Officers report & Decision making, and included the public motion made at the Bolton Planning Meeting and cross referenced them to the concerns that had been raised and where they had each been addressed.

Resolved.

- 1. That the fully detailed report be received and noted.**

38. Public Participation

Resolved:

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

The local resident that had requested Items 11 and 13 be heard in reverse, spoke in further connection with planning application 95926/16. The member of the public outlined further concerns about the application that included:-

The availability of additional parking

That parking outlined would be further displaced by the placing of yellow lines at the exit/entrance to the development

That Bolton Council had disregarded their own policy regarding the development of the Town Centre for the benefit of the town.

That there had not been fair representation of the views of the residents of Blackrod and Blackrod Town Council made by Ward Councillors present at the planning meeting.

(The Town Clerk stated that she would look in to several concerns that had been raised by the member of the public and report back accordingly.)

Another member of the public spoke in connection with the setting of the Council agenda which she felt disadvantaged the general public in being able to comment on planning matters After councillors had considered the proposals.

(It was pointed out to the resident present that all residents have the opportunity to comment on planning applications prior to Council members debating the applications. However, the Town Clerk understood what the resident was implying and stated that if following councillors debate , questions were raised where a member of the public could give an appropriate answer that would clarify the query for council members, then this would, following agreement by members at the meeting, be allowed on a discretionary basis.

A third member of the public asked if the Town Council could clarify whether or not they had withdrawn their offer of funds for appropriate floral purchases for the village. Both the Town Council and Town Clerk confirmed that this rumour was incorrect and that funds remained on offer but were not requested.

Resolved.

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

39. Correspondence

There was no additional correspondence for this meeting.

40. LALC Annual General Meeting

The Town Clerk advised members of the date of the LALC Annual General Meeting to be held on 19th November 2016 and asked for any Resolutions for consideration to be given to be discussed at the next meeting in August. A Resolution was offered by Councillor Farrington for discussion by members at the August meeting in regard to District and Town Councils/ Councillors and whether or not there should be two separate bodies.

Resolved.

- 1. That the update item be received and heard**
- 2. That the Resolution appear on the August agenda for consideration for the LALC Annual Meeting.**

41. Neighbourhood Plan Monthly update

In the absence of Councillor Bury(Snr) members received his monthly report.

Resolved.

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

42. **Flower Containers – Library Building Area.**

The Town Clerk spoke to members in connection with making improvements to the front of the Council/ Library building in regard to floral displays/ paved and grassed areas. Councillor Farrington also added that he has requested the pricing of new floral containers estimates to be presented. The Town Clerk stated that she had received some information but suggested to members present that to avoid any further delay, that a project to include new containers and improvements to the area outside the library and council building be approved with a maximum spend to avoid further delays and that the project be dealt with by Councillor Farrington, Library Representatives and herself on goingly. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Seddon and seconded by Councillor Hollick and

Resolved.

1. **The the proposal and funding be approved up to a maximum of £2500.00. Funding to be found through community Project funds.**
2. **That the Town Clerk work ongoingly with representatives as stated to design and implement new improvements to the area outside the Council Chamber/ Library Building.**

43. **Town Council Minutes.**

The Town Clerk asked members to consider recent training they had received in regard to minute taking at meetings (*Where lengthy minutes needn't be displayed only Motion/ Resolution*) and requested a decision as to whether or not members would prefer this method of minute writing or whether they would prefer the current form provided by the Town Clerk to remain. Councillors present stated that they preferred the method deployed by the Town Clerk at her discretion and It was therefore proposed by Councillor Mrs Seddon and Seconded by Councillor Farrington and

Resolved.

1. **That the Town Clerk continue to provide minutes to meetings in their current form**
2. **That the Resolution should form the only part of the minute that should be submitted for signature and accuracy.**
3. **Minor details for query or discretionary change should be given to the Town Clerk ahead of the monthly meeting in which they are approved**

44. **Bolton Council. Parking Policy**

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of Bolton Council's approved parking policy as well as a copy of Wigan Council's approved policy as requested.

Resolved.

1. That the information requested be received and noted.

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

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

Hillside Avenue

Overgrown verges needing cut

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.

46. **Finance**

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

Resolved

1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £4150.86 (four thousand one hundred and fifty pounds 86p) dated 4th July 2016.
2. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign a transfer from the contingency account to the main account for £1000.00 (one thousand pounds)
3. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.

47. **Site Visits**

No site visits were requested

48. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items

Agenda Items for August

Hillside Avenue (Councillor Mrs Seddon)

Other Matters

The Town Clerk requested members to note the Order for the temporary closure of Footpath No 083 (as circulated)

The Town Clerk gave an update from Bolton Streetcare in regard to a request for footpaths to be cleared along the A6 Carriageway. These areas will now form part of a cyclic inspection regime.

49. List of Outstanding Correspondence

Resolved

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

50. Reports from Ward Councillors

None present (Councillor Pickup had left the meeting earlier)

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 1st August 2016 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed.....Chairman