

## **Blackrod Town Council**

### **Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

#### **Present**

Councillor. Ms A Cunliffe ( **Chairman**)

Councillors Mr A Bury (snr)  
Mr A Bury (Jnr)  
Mr G Farrington  
Mr S Batchelor  
Mrs I Seddon  
Mr M Hollick

**Also Present:** Mrs S Lowis (**Town Clerk**) Ward Councillor Mr S Pickup, 14 members of the public and 1 Press Officer

#### **107. Apologies for Absence**

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

#### **108. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016**

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

#### **Resolved.**

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016 be received and signed as a true and accurate record.**

109. **Declarations of Interest:**

Councillor 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.

**110.** *Prior to the commencement of the meeting, councillors and residents were addressed by Mr Richard Hall, Public Affairs Manager at the Post Office organisation, who spoke in connection with the current consultation process which was taking place regarding the movement of post office provision in Blackrod to another provider and location. Mr Hall apologised to the Town Council and local residents for the Post Office's failure to include Blackrod Town Council and other local stakeholders in its consultation process in respect of the above and stated that the period of consultation had been extended to allow for this omission. Following Mr Hall's presentation questions were taken from those present which was recorded by Mr Hal and which will also be included in the feedback as part of the consultation process. Mr Hall was then thanked by the Chairman for his attendance at the meeting.*

The Meeting of the Town Council commenced thereafter.

**111. Planning applications (Received from the Meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

It was moved by Councillor Bury (Snr) and seconded by Councillor Batchelor 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 7<sup>th</sup> November 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.

97479/16

Wigan Golf Club

Listed building consent  
For installation of a  
Handrail

Councillors offered no comment in regard to the planning application.

<b>97522/16</b>	<b>48, The Cheethams</b>	<b>retention of house Without complying with Condition 6 (20445/83) &amp; single storey extension</b>
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Councillors were not able to view the conditions against the old planning application and therefore offered no comment in connection with the current application.

<b>97592/16</b>	<b>5, Nightingale road</b>	<b>erection of porch at Front, 2 storey ext at Side and single storey at rear</b>
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Councillors commented that there appeared to be no access for bins. Councillors read the comments from Highways which indicated that the applicant needed to submit amended plans to accommodate off road parking spaces, which hadn't been addressed on the original application. Following a vote from members 3 councillors voted to offer no comment and 3 members voted to object to the planning application in its current form. There was no final vote for or against the application.

<b>97744/16</b>	<b>Dark Lane</b>	<b>Erection of Agricultural Building</b>
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Councillors heard from the applicant that the agricultural building was to be used for the housing of cattle and that no trees would be affected by the planning application. Councillors voted in favour of the planning application.

## **112. 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.**

## **113. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.**

The Town Clerk read a letter, previously circulated, from Bolton Council as well as an attached copy from Wigan Council in regard to the commencement of the public consultation on the draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework. It was noted that a full copy would be made available within the Blackrod Library and the item was deferred to the December meeting to allow for additional time for council members to prepare their comments.

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the item be recorded as received**
- 2. That the item be deferred to the December meeting for councillors comments**

**114. Public Participation**

**Resolved:**

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

A resident referred to a recent letter which had been sent to all council members which made reference to previous correspondence brought up in public participation and asked for comments. The Town Clerk informed the member of the public that the letter had not been received as an agenda item and therefore could not be discussed at this time. . The resident asked that councillors submit the item as a future agenda item and Councillor Batchelor indicated that he would like the item to be placed on a future agenda. The Town Clerk requested a copy of the letter from the resident. The Town Clerk stated that she would meet with Councillor Batchelor in regard to the agenda item and stated that this may also involve a communication with the resident in its regard.

**Resolved.**

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

**115. Correspondence**

**Residents Letter**

**Footpath Maintenance**

The Town Clerk read a letter from a resident in regard to a footpath running from the Community Centre to Lymbridge Drive, which contained a request for improvements

to the footpath itself. It was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Bury and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

1. **That the letter and contents therein be received and noted.**
2. **That the Town Clerk write to Bolton Council in the first instance to see if the issues could be addressed.**

**Residents letter**

**Tree Maintenance**

The Town Clerk read a letter regarding the state of the trees which surround the Lymbridge Drive side of the playing fields which asked if some branches could be pruned as they had grown to a significant height which could prove hazardous to the houses and residents within the nearby areas. It was proposed by Councillor Seddon and seconded by Councillor Hollick and approved by all and

**Resolved.**

1. **That the information be received and noted**
2. **That the Town Clerk write to Bolton Council to see if the issues could be addressed.**

**Residents Letter**

**Current Post Office premises**

The Town Clerk read a letter from a resident who was concerned that when the current Post Office premises close that the premises should revert to being a house, rather than a business. The Town Clerk informed council members that she had written to the resident directly in this regard.

**Resolved.**

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

116. **Additional information in regard to school pupil places within Blackrod**

The Town Clerk provided members with further information, previously circulated, as requested at the last meeting, in regard to their queries regarding pupil places in Blackrod in light of the consultation process which had recently taken place.

**Resolved.**

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

**117. Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Councillor Bury provided those present with a monthly update (to October) in regard to the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan and referred to papers previously circulated. Councillor Bury (snr) advised members that a flyer had been distributed across the village and various consultations had taken place together with various draft documents being discussed by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

**Resolved.**

- 1. Councillor Bury(Snr) was thanked for all his hard work by the Chairman, which was agreed by all present and a request made for updates to be continued to be received.**

**118. *(Agenda Items 15/16 were taken together)*  
517/518 Bus Routes.**

Responding to various comments raised by both council members and the public, Councillor Mrs Cunliffe gave feedback in connection with the 517/518 Bus Service through Blackrod, together with other updates in connection with bus transport. Councillor Mrs Cunliffe told those present that a decision would probably be taken at a meeting on or around the 18<sup>th</sup> November in regard to partial replacement of bus journeys and routes.(the 577 bus) Councillor Cunliffe also stated that TfGM no longer appeared to inform the Town Council in regard to changes and that this should be queried with a view to a representative being appointed to attend the TfGM meetings. It was proposed by Councillor Bury and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the update be received and noted**
- 2. That various people including the local MP, Emmerson and Bolton's transport representative David Chadwick should be written to in order to advise of the current situation**
- 3. That the Town Clerk contact TfGM with a view to representation at their meetings.**

**119. Bollards A6 Traffic Lights**

Councillor Farrington raised the subject of the bollards on the A6 Junction with the Traffic Lights for Manchester road to enquire if any response had been received from Bolton Council in their regard. The Town Clerk read a response she had received from a Bolton

Officer which stated that Streetcare would be dealing with the matter but as yet no update had been received by the Town Council. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the Town Clerk write to Bolton Council again on this matter**
- 2. That a report is made in regard to the traffic lights situation, which if left unattended could result in a serious accident.**

**120. Dumped vehicles on land near to the cricket club**

Councillor Farrington raised the matter of an abandoned caravan on land near to the local cricket club, which had been reported to him by local residents. It was

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That the matter be reported as part of the roads and footpaths updates to Bolton Council.**

**121. Local Parish Precept capping.**

The Town Clerk gave an update in regard to a vote which had taken place at National Local Council level which was to oppose the governments suggestion to cap Parish precepts which in turn would involve extra expense by Principal Authorities who are currently reducing services and in many cases devolving these services to Local Town Councils. The Town Clerk read a copy letter, previously circulated and requested that a copy be sent to the local member of parliament for the area. Councillors agreed with the contents of the letter and it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Seddon and seconded by Councillor Bury and voted in favour by all and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the information be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk write to the local MP giving him a copy of the letter and request action by himself at Central Government.**

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

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

Whitehall Lane cobbled footpath to the A6  
Station Road being continuously dug up (Electrification/ Gas works)

Continuous blocking of pavements on Scot Lane by vehicles- causing problems for those on foot. (Councillor Bury added an update to this point in regard to a visit by the PCSO.)

Vehicles parking on the dangerous bend of Hill lane with Vicarage Road.

*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.

123. **Finance**

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

**Resolved**

1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £5765.57 ( five thousand seven hundred and sixty five pounds 57p) dated 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016.
2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.

124. **Site Visits**

No Site visits were arranged.

125

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

**Other Matters**

No other matters were raised at the meeting.

**Agenda Items for December**

Correspondence (TBA)

Councillor Batchelor.

126. **List of Outstanding Correspondence**

**Resolved**

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



127. **Reports from Ward Councillors**

**Ward Councillor Bury**

An update was given on the ginnel on Greenbarn Way

An update was received in regard to signposting on Manchester Road

**The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 7pm. The Chairman reminded members that Seasonal refreshments would be served following this meeting to which all present were invited.**

**The meeting closed at 8.45pm**

**Signed.....Chairman**