

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 5th December 2016

Present

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

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

Also Present: Mrs S Lowis (**Town Clerk**) 13 members of the public and 1 Press Officer

128. Apologies for Absence

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

129. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 7th November 2016

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

Resolved.

1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 7th November 2016 be received and signed as a true and accurate record.

130. Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council/ Youth Council held on 19th October 2016.

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

Resolved.

1. **That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council and Blackrod Youth Council be received and signed as a true record.**
(This followed the Resolution accepting the minutes as a true record made in the Youth Council Meeting on 30th November 2016)

131. **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.

Councillor Cunliffe and Councillor Bury (Jnr) declared their positions as a school governors for Blackrod Primary School prior to the presentation by the Headteacher of Blackrod Church School.

Councillor Hollick declared an interest against planning application 97774/16 and took no part in the vote.

Councillor Bury (Jnr) declared an interest in Item 12 on the agenda (Cricket Club) and took no part in the vote.

- 132.** *Prior to the commencement of the full council meeting, councillors and residents were addressed by Mr James Royal, Headteacher, Blackrod Church School, who spoke in connection with the current consultation process which was taking place regarding the increase in numbers at the Blackrod Primary School. The introduction was preceded by a comment from the Chairman who stated that the town was extremely lucky to have two very good schools in the village each with a clear direction and ambition for excellence*
Mr Royal then gave an overview of the current position of the Church School, work that they were undertaking with community groups and sports organisations; school achievement data; 2/3 issues with the school premises; stated that their school supported all educational improvements within the village; and detailed items that they were planning for the future. Following Mr Royal's presentation questions were taken from those present, Council members and residents and Mr Royal was then thanked by the Chairman for his attendance at the meeting.

The Meeting of the Town Council commenced thereafter.

133. Planning applications (Received from the Meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 5th December 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 5th December 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.

97828/16	8, Cranleigh Close	demolition of existing Conservatory and Erection of single storey Ext at rear.
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Councillors offered no comment other than to approve in regard to the planning application.

97774/16	1a Ridgeway	erection of single storey Ext at rear.
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Councillors offered no comments other than to approve in relation to this planning application.

134. 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.

135. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

This item had previously been deferred to allow for further reading. Therefore The Town Clerk again 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. Councillor Hollick stated that he did not feel that Blackrod was being adversely affected. Councillor Bury(Snr) noted there was impact on sub regions and there was very little mention of Blackrod Ward. The Town Clerk read out a number of dates for Drop In sessions in regard to the Spatial Framework, which would be placed on the council noticeboard.

Resolved.

- 1. That the item be recorded as received and noted.**

136. Public Participation

Resolved:

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

A resident referred to a planning application recently approved on Dark Lane, which she and others in her neighbourhood had not been consulted on and therefore denied the chance to comment.

The resident also called for councillors to seek a motion to reduce the speed on dark Lane.

The same resident also referred to the litter along dark Lane and that she had taken to picking this up resulting in a collection of 57 cans on the last occasion, where she had been offered a high visibility jacket by a passing motorist.

As a final point the resident wanted to know what the rules were on farms and stables burning stable waste. Councillor Farrington confirmed that the burning of this type of rubbish was not allowed and that Environmental Services should be informed.

The Town Clerk stated that she had noted the comments made and would be researching the items for a future council meeting agenda.

Resolved.

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

137. Correspondence

Donation Request

Blackrod Cricket Club

The Town Clerk raised the letter from Blackrod Cricket Club in connection with a request for a donation for the maintenance of items within the cricket club It was

proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. **That the letter and contents therein be received and noted.**
2. **That a donation of £400.00 be made to the cricket club and the Town Clerk make all the necessary arrangements.**

138. Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Update

Councillor Bury provided those present with a monthly update (to November)in regard to the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan and referred to papers previously circulated. Councillor Bury (snr) advised members that the work with the consultants had been completed to date and that topic groups had been allocated areas of the plan to be working upon. Councillor Bury also stated that a second tranche of monies were about to be applied for in relation to the project and that he had tasked the Blackrod Youth Council with providing answers to three pertinent questions in connection with the Plan.

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.**

139. 517/518 Bus Routes.(additional update)

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 had been made on 18th November in regard to partial replacement of bus journeys and routes. Councillor Cunliffe stated that unfortunately Blackrod residents would be receiving a much reduced service.

Resolved.

1. **That the update be received and noted**
2. **That a list of the current amended timetable be placed on the Council noticeboard to assist residents with transport queries.**

140. Resignation of a member of the Town Council

Councillor Cunliffe gave an update in regard to the recent resignation of Mr Stephen Laycock as a town council member for the North Ward of Blackrod. Councillor Cunliffe stated that Mr Laycock had joined the town council on 6th June 2011 and served until 13th November 2016 and had served the parish as a councillor, Deputy Mayor 2012 and Mayor in 2013 as part of that service. Councillor Cunliffe echoed the thoughts of those present in that the Town Council were extremely grateful for the service provided by Mr Laycock and together with all members present wished Mr Laycock well in whatever new endeavours he would be undertaking. Councillor Farrington also made a mention of Mr Laycocks knowledge and commitment to all matters involving planning

Resolved.

1. **That the resignation of Mr Laycock be noted as accepted**
2. **That the Town Clerk make the necessary arrangements in connection with the vacancy in the North Ward.**

141. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues

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

Continuous blocking of pavements on Scot Lane by vehicles- causing problems for those on foot.

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

Issues with electricity and telegraph poles

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.**

142. 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 £3722.63 (three thousand seven hundred and twenty two pounds 63p) dated 6th december 2016.**

2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.

143. Site Visits

No Site visits were arranged.

144

. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

Other Matters

No other matters were raised at the meeting.

Agenda Items for January given at the meeting.

Correspondence (TBA)
Footpath No 083

Councillor Batchelor.(Carried forward)
Councillor Hollick

145. List of Outstanding Correspondence Resolved

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

146. Reports from Ward Councillors

Ward Councillor Bury

Indicated that Bolton Council had requested more time to put forward their position in regard to the Spatial Framework.

Bolton Council had expressed support for the West Pennine Moors – site of special interest (Re. Fracking/ Housing)

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 9th January 2017 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed.....Chairman