

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 9th January 2017

Present

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

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

Also Present: Mrs S Lowis (**Town Clerk**) 22 members of the public and Ward Councillor
Stephen Pickup

147. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Barrow and Councillor Farrington and Councillor Bury(Jnr) and the reasons for absence noted and accepted.

148. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 5th December 2016

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

Resolved.

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 5th December 2016 be received and signed as a true and accurate record.**

149. **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

150. Planning applications (Received from the Meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 9th January 2017)

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Seddon 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 9th January 2017, 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.**

97995/16

**Former amenity site
On Blackhorse Street**

**Demolition of existing
toilets & erection of 13
Residential dwellings &
Associated works.**

Councillors voted to object to strongly object to this planning application on the grounds that the local needs of the community (Bolton Policy A01) were not being met including the reduction in the number of public parking spaces, which had been omitted from the officers report: that new evidence was available of bat activity in the vicinity which did not appear to have been assessed. The report which contained some information regarding bats / trees appeared to not be relevant to the current planning application; that there appeared to be no topographical details regarding land levels which are irregular within the area and which would result in existing properties being overshadowed and not in keeping with the legal matter of right to light legislation: that one of the properties identified on the new plan was too close to an existing property, in particular to its principal room. Conditions set against a previous application appeared to have been ignored. Councillors raised further concerns regarding the position of the Care Home which also appeared to have no access to the rear and a reduction in parking places and that the site entrance would be on a very busy corner of the highways making entrance and exit extremely difficult, despite a slight movement in the location. No mention had been given to

existing green space at the front of the development area: that the lack of parking consideration in the area was of great concern to local residents in light of the movement of the post office location in the village to being opposite the proposed development site and a proposed additional 107 houses just around the corner in an already cramped area of the village. Council members felt that the application should be turned down and any developer and Bolton Officer to come and speak to the residents of Blackrod to hear the many concerns any such development would bring.

98112/16	Land at Hill lane	reserved matters app To outline p/app 94656 Appearance, landscape 107 dwellings
98113/16	land at hill lane	erection 2 dwellings

Councillors considered both of these applications at the same time as they were part of one development site. Councillors voted to strongly object to the planning application on the following grounds. That the area in connection with the development already has road traffic and parking issues which would be greatly increased by the building of another 107 houses. That submitted plans do not mirror the outline planning permission which had been granted previously for this site. The new plans appear to ignore the Environment Report recommendations previously submitted including the protection of birds, hedgerows, replacement of native trees and shrubs and the erection of a boundary wall would create limited movement of wildlife. The area indicated as to include a pond would create significant H & S concerns not suitable for informal play. Plots which appear to front Hill Lane would only further increase parking and traffic problems in this area and plots identified within the south western area of the development appear to be higher than those properties within the surrounding area, which would not be in keeping with the existing street scenes. Additional comments included concerns from the residents of the Ainse Road area who already have parking problems and H & S concerns with vehicles driving through the already narrow streeted development. The arrival of another 100 plus houses would further add to the extremely difficult parking and driving conditions/ delays in the small village. Residents from Dark Lane raised additional issues of no lighting on Dark Lane which is close to the proposed access to the development and the speed in which vehicles travel in and around the area. Council members stated that as outline permission had already been granted access and design should be paramount to meeting the needs of the area, including access and exit routes, parking issues and the guarantee that the area of Little Scotland should not be inundated with future housing developments. Councillors echoed all concerns from residents and voted wholeheartedly to object to the planning application.

97078/16

458, Manchester Road

erection of 1st floor
Ext to provide residential
Accommodation

Councillors proposed that no comment be offered in respect of this application

97953/16

13, Boardman Street

Retention of 1st floor
Bedroom window

Councillors voted to offer no comment in regard to this planning application.

151. 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.

152. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

No correspondence on these matters had been received for the meeting.

153. Public Participation

Resolved:

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

Resolved.

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

A resident referred to the planning application process and requested that the Town Council ask a developer or an officer from Bolton to come along to a meeting with local residents and hear the concerns of those living in the village regarding planning applications. *(The Town Clerk advised that she would look in to this matter)*

Another resident reiterated this request and also made comment in regard to Bolton's parking policy which new applications failed to identify with.

Another resident commented on the prospect of over 100 new houses in the village in connection with the issues of lengthy queues of traffic trying to pass through the village which is becoming longer and longer.

A final comment was made in regard to Hill lane and the narrowing of the road, where cars were also parked which was also causing difficulties.

154. **Correspondence**

Blackrod Art Group

Letter of thanks for support

The Town Clerk read a letter from Blackrod Art Group, thanking the Town Council for their support both financially and on a personal level.

Resolved.

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

Chris Green MP/ LALC

Council Tax Referendum Principles

The Town Clerk advised members that she had received a letter from Chris Green MP in regard to their letter of concerns regarding Council Tax proposals for Town Councils. The Town Clerk also advised that she had received confirmation from LALC that the Government had not extended the council tax referendum principles to Parish and Town Councils for 2017/2018

Resolved.

1. **That the letters and contents therein be received and noted.**

Local Residents Letter

Blackrod Railway Station

The Town Clerk read an email from a concerned resident who wanted Blackrod Town Council to fight to save the local Blackrod Railway Station. The Town Clerk advised that British Rail had been in communication with a Ward Councillor who had advised that Blackrod Station did not form any part of consultations for any closures.

Resolved.

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

Post Office

Confirmation of the new Post Office Location

The Town Clerk read a letter from the Post Office confirming the location of the new Post Office Branch , which would be at the Spar Stores on Blackhorse Street. In response to comments raised by the Town Council the letter noted that the access doors to the new premises would be widened to accommodate wheelchair access and queuing areas made compliant with Post Office Guidelines, with staff training on confidentiality issues paramount. The letter also indicated the longer opening hours making the post office more accessible and additional serving points at the counter to make for speedy efficiency.

Resolved.

1. **That the letter and advices within be received and noted.**

LALC

Buckingham Palace Garden Party

The Town Clerk advised members that they had received the annual garden party invitation and explained how the process worked in regard to nominations from LALC and those usually associated with the Town Council. It was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and voted in favour by all present and

Resolved.

1. **That the letter be received and noted**
2. **That in keeping with due process the name of the Chairman elect should be forwarded as part of the nomination process and the Town Clerk to forward all relevant parts of the process.**

155. Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Update

Councillor Bury provided those present with a monthly update (to December)in regard to the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan and referred to papers previously circulated. Councillor Bury (snr) advised members that amongst other items, Topic Groups were working on aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan, Draft letters for businesses were being processed and that a display of current activities had been displayed in the foyer of the Library Building.

Council members present agreed to adjourn the meeting to hear a request from a local resident. Once heard and answered, members voted to return to the meeting of the Town Council.

Resolved.

1. **Councillor Bury(Snr) was thanked by the Chairman, which was agreed by all present.**

156. Reinstatement of Peak & Northern Footpaths Membership.

The Town Clerk reminded members that they had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda following a recent deferment. Following a request for the cost of membership to be given £22.50 and the benefits of membership noted, it was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and agreed by all and

Resolved.

- 1. That the cost of the membership be agreed by all**
- 2. That the Town Clerk advise the Society of the reinstatement of the Town Council's membership.**

157. Update in regard to Bi Election within the Village

The Town Clerk advised members and residents present as to the current position in regard to a recent resignation in the North Ward. The current position being, that the correct number of signature/ request had been made by local residents which had been acknowledged by Bolton Council, with the result being that a Bi Election will be called for 23rd February 2017 and as such relevant papers will be posted in due course.

Resolved.

- 1. That the update d information be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk proceed with due process ongoingly.**

158. Receipt of Donation

In the absence of Councillor Farrington, The Town Clerk asked members to note that a donation of £50 had been made by the Blackrod Educational Trust to the Town Mayor's Charity Accounts.

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Town Mayor thanked the Educational Trust for their generous donation.**

159. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues

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

Blackrod Bottoms was detailed as an area of concern for fly tipping and its location verified by Councillor discussions.

Councillor Seddon asked if a response had been received in connection with proposals previously discussed in regard to the entrance/ exit from Hillside Avenue. *The Town Clerk advised accordingly.*

In the absence of Councillor Farrington an update was provided by the Town Clerk in regard to the cleaning of footpaths in the village, which had been recently reported to Bolton Council. Following the complaint made by the Town Councillor in this regard a team had been deployed to Blackrod to assist in the cleaning campaign, which was noted by all, with further information to be received from Bolton Council in due course. The Town Clerk also advised that up to date cleaning dates for areas could be found for areas on the Bolton Council website, which may prove useful.

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.**

160. **Finance**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Seddon 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 £4164.52 (four thousand one hundred and sixty four pounds 52p) dated 9th January 2017**
2. **That the Chairman, Clerk and two members authorise a transfer of £15000.00 (Fifteen thousand pounds) from the Deposit account to the Current account.**
3. **That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.**

161. **Site Visits**

No Site visits were arranged.

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

Other Matters

The Town Clerk advised members of correspondence she was having in relation to a request for repairs/ replacement of Bus Shelters. TfGM had requested precise locations which were being forwarded in due course.

Agenda Items for February Agenda given at the meeting.

Footpath No 083

Councillor Hollick

163. List of Outstanding Correspondence Resolved

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

164. Reports from Ward Councillors

Prior to receiving comments from Ward Councillor, the Town Clerk advised that she had written to the 3 Ward Councillors connected with Blackrod, with an open request for their continued updates in regard to pertinent matters from Bolton Council, which would be of interest to members and residents in Blackrod. The Town Clerk advised that she hoped this addressed any anomaly in regard to this item which appeared on each monthly Agenda.

Ward Councillor Report. (provided by Councillor Ms Cunliffe)

That Bolton had received another government cut to their budget of 42.5 million over the next two years.(£30 million in reserves but an additional £12.5 to find)

Indicated that Bolton Council had requested more time to put forward their position in regard to the Spatial Framework, which had been extended to 16th January.

Work is continuing on street lighting with LED

That the Ward councillors continue to lobby for resurfacing work

20mph speed limits are still being rolled out throughout the ward.

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 6th February 2017 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed.....Chairman