

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 6th February 2017

Present

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

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

Also Present: Mrs S Lewis (**Town Clerk**) 27 members of the public and 1 Press Officer

165. **Apologies for Absence**

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

166. **Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 9th January 2017**

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

Resolved.

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 9th January 2017 be received and signed as a true and accurate record.**

167. **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

168. Planning applications (Received from the Meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 6th February 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 6th february 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.**

00076/17	land adjacent 475 Manchester Road	Outline app for Erection of detached house
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Councillors voted in favour to object to this application on the grounds that it would set a precedent for building on greenbelt land.

00095/17	Hillcroft Dark Lane	Change of use and Conversion of barn to Dwelling.
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Councillors proposed no comment to this application other than they request that health and safety aspects are sought as this is a development within the identified Hazard Zone that surrounds the pumping station.

Following an informal meeting held between council members, members of the public and officers from Bolton Council, where several points were raised in connection with the Planning application numbers 98112/16 (Hill lane) and 97995/16 Blackhorse Street) several

elements for consideration were given to the Planning Officer by those present in their regard. An essential item of request to Bolton Officers was for the deferment of the application for Blackhorse Street 97995/16 until March from their February Planning Meeting (Bolton) to allow time for further points and materials considerations to be given.

Letters on this subject (97995/16) were sent from the Town Council: Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group: Compilations from members of the public including letters to Chief Executive of Bolton: Leader of Bolton Council and 47 independent letters of complaint.

(The request for deferment was subsequently turned down by Bolton Asst Director covering Planning. However additional commentary was allowed to be given in addition to any previous comments already sent and include:_)

Additional feedback re Hill lane Development 98112/16

Councillors have asked that consideration be given to the junction of Dark lane, Hill lane and road leading to Little Scotland that surround application 98112/16 in that a roundabout be considered for this area to ease passage of vehicles and access in that area.

Additional feedback for 97995/16

In addition to all comments previously outlined, councillors made a further request that should the application go ahead, to which they object, then further consideration should be given to the situation regarding the entrance used for access to the Nursing Home which is being proposed as limited by use of bollards and no turning access as this would cause considerable health and safety issues with vehicles having to reverse on to a main road on a blind corner.

Members of the public present stated that no respect was being given to Blackrod Town Council or Blackrod residents on matters concerning Blackrod and Town Councillors also noted their disappointment that both their own objections and those of the public in Blackrod to the development have not been more fully considered.

169. 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.

170. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

Chorley Council

**Draft central lincs employment skills
Supplementary planning consultation**

Resolved.

- 1. That further time be given for councillors to consider any feedback to this planning document and the item to return to the March meeting.**

Public footpath 083

Bolton Council

The Town Clerk read a letter received from Bolton Council in connection with Public footpath 083 diversion. It was proposed by Councillor Batchelor and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. The information be received and noted**
- 2. That clarification should be sought on the proposals from Bolton.**

171. Public Participation

Resolved:

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

One resident stated that he felt the comments he was hearing were those already mentioned at previous meetings.

Another resident asked why Bolton Council developers could not ask the local people of Blackrod how they would like to see the site at Blackhorse Street developed.

Another resident commented on a programme which had been seen on television on Granada Reports in regard to Green England: school places: local hospitals and the police and stated that Bolton Council had the power to implement along similar lines.

Another resident stated that he would be present at the planning meeting due on March 9th and that he had received a written communication late on Monday which informed him that Bolton Council had taken the decision Not to defer the planning application for Blackhorse Street as had been asked for by numerous groups

including residents and Blackrod Town Council. The resident stated that no courtesy was being shown to the Town Council and other concerned groups and that something should be said to Bolton in this regard.

Additional members of the public agreed with this sentiment and echoed concerns which had all been previously documented.

Resolved.

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

172. **Correspondence**

Blackrod Cricket Club

Letter of thanks for donation

The Town Clerk read a letter from Blackrod Cricket club, 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.**

LALC

Training Opportunities

The Town Clerk gave out details of training opportunities available through the LALC and asked any councillor wishing to participate in the training to let her know by close of play on Friday 10th Feb 2017

Resolved.

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

Pageant Master letter

Re: 11th November 2018

The Town Clerk read a letter, previously circulated in regard to a request for information as to how local councils and associations plan to commemorate the end of the First World War on 11th November 2018. Members discussed the different groups in the village who may be interested in receiving a copy of the letter as well as agreeing that the Town Council should also think of ways this event could be commemorated at the given time. It was proposed by Councillor Batchelor 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 copy of the letter should be given to the local history group and Community Group**
3. **That the item be formerly put on the Town Council agenda for future consideration in 2018**

173. Financial Estimates 2017/2018

The Town Clerk referred to a set of documents previously circulated containing The financial estimates for the forthcoming year April 2017 to March 2018. Members having carefully considered the estimates and examined and questioned thoroughly the proposals for increase/ decreases where applicable debated the recommendations that would allow the Town Council to meet its financial obligations as well as carry out works to promote community cohesion and address any physical improvements to the village. It was then proposed by Councillor Bury (snr) and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and voted in favour by all in attendance and

Resolved

1. **That the financial estimates as circulated and discussed be received, noted and agreed**
2. **That a precept request of £64608 be made to Bolton Council**
3. **That the Town Clerk be thanked for the work involved in the preparation of the 2017/2018 estimates in such thorough detail.**

174. Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Update

Councillor Bury provided those present with a monthly update (to January)in regard to the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan and referred to papers previously circulated. Councillor Bury (snr) advised members of the main activities and progress that was being made in each capacity of the plan including giving consideration to a proposed Housing Needs Assessment: BFL12 standards and a future Public meeting outlined for February 28th 2017 in the Community Centre for members of the public which would cover ways in which they could contribute to the development of the plan.

Resolved.

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

175. Town and Ward Councillors Working Relationship

Councillor Batchelor introduced the topic of how improvements could be made to the way in which the Town Council,, Public and Ward Councillors work together in the future in order to save similar situations arising, which had been noted in the

past. Councillors debated that the two areas should be working together for the residents of Blackrod and that when Blackrod residents or the Town Council need a louder voice to be heard in Bolton, that the elected Ward Councillors should be there to support them and the public. Personal opinion should not be taken in to consideration. Councillors felt a closer working relationship was necessary and Councillor Bury(Jnr) suggested that the middle ground is the office of the Town Clerk. Several other matters were addressed and it was proposed by Councillor Batchelor and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the details debated be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk devise a strategy and process whereby the Town Council and Ward Councillors work together for the residents of Blackrod. The process to come back to the Town Council and Ward Councillors for joint approval in due course.**

176. Date of the Annual Parish Meeting

The Town Clerk in keeping with appropriate procedures asked council members to consider the date of the next Annual Parish Assembly. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and

Resolved.

- 1. That the date of the next Annual Parish Assembly be held on 11th April 2017**
- 2. That the Town Clerk proceed with due process ongoingly.**

178. Mayor Elect for 2017/2018

Councillors considered nominations for the position of Mayor Elect for the year 2017/2018. It was moved by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and unanimously voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That Councillor Mrs Seddon be duly nominated as Mayor Elect for 2017/2018**

179. Deputy Mayor Elect for 2017/2018

Councillors did not receive any appropriate nominations for the above position and due to low numbers of councillors in attendance it was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor Elect be deferred until the March meeting.**

180 Annual Meeting 2017

In keeping with appropriate council procedures, Councillors considered the date for the Annual Meeting 2017. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the date of the Annual Meeting be held on May 8th 2017**
- 2. That the Town Clerk proceed with due process ongoingly.**

181 Impact of GP Out of Hours Service.

Councillor Mrs Cunliffe gave those present an update in regard to the NHS Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group regarding the borough's GP out of hours service. Council members discussed the issue of transport in connection with the provision being located at A & E outlets. Councillor Bury(Snr) stated that there had been some improvement in bus services recently through the daytime but on an evening and weekend this remained an issue for those living in Blackrod. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon that feedback on the survey is given with these points on behalf of the concerns for residents by Blackrod Town Council.

182. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues

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

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, where applicable.**

Parking outside the Spa difficult due to the location of the lamppost. Highways/
Power company to be consulted
The entrance and exit of Hillside Avenue remains an issue.
The pot holes near to the Christmas Tree have been filled in
Resurfacing on Hill lane

The bollard on Vicarage Road which to some proves a problem and others say makes the road safer.

Recycling waste dumped on Scot Lane. (Enforcement)

183. **Finance**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Seddon and seconded by Councillor Bury (Snr) and voted in favour by all and

Resolved

1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £2712.70 (two thousand seven hundred and twelve pounds 70p) dated 6th February 2017.
2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.

184. **Site Visits**

No Site visits were arranged.

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

Other Matters

No other matters were reported.

Agenda Items for March Agenda given at the meeting.

Hillside Avenue (Councillor Mrs Seddon)

Housing Needs Assessment (Councillor Bury Snr)

186. **List of Outstanding Correspondence**

Resolved

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

187. **Reports from Ward Councillors**

Ward Councillor Report. (provided by Councillor Pickup – read by the Town Clerk in his absence))

The new 577 bus service is now running on the same timetable on Saturdays as it is Monday to Friday

The slim bin rollout has been a success with £1.4 million savings made and recycling of waste improved

Bolton Vision Conference had taken place and a strategy up to 2030 had been launched with various sectors.

Albert halls had now been restored to former glory

A new hotel, office block and multi storey car park to be built on Trinity Street following the completion of a £48 million transport interchange

Bolton food and drink festival had scooped a coveted national award for having the best food market in the country.

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

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed.....Chairman