

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 4th April 2017

Present

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

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

Also Present: Mrs S Lewis (**Town Clerk**) Ward Councillor Pickup. & 13 members of the public.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting proper, Councillors and members of the public received a short presentation by Mr Martin Teague a representative from the Canal and River Trust on the works of the canal network. Both members and residents were able to ask a number of questions and the presentation was enjoyed by all.

The Chairman then convened the meeting proper.

208. **Apologies for Absence**

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

209. **Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 6th March 2017**

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 March 2017 be received and signed as a true and accurate record with an amendment at Minute No 197, which sentence should state data and not date and that a note**

be added that Councillor Bury(Snr) and Councillor Price did not participate in the actual vote for the funding for the Housing Needs Assessment.

Minutes of the meeting of the combined Youth/ Town Council held on 30th November 2016

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Seddon and seconded by Councillor Bury(Snr) and

Resolved

1. That the minutes of the Combined Youth/ Town Council held on 30th November 2016 be received and signed as a true and accurate record.

210. **Declarations of Interest:**

No declarations were made for the meeting.

211. **Planning Applications.**

No planning applications had been received for the meeting, therefore councillors agreed to remove Item 6,7,and 8 from the meeting agenda.

212. **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.

213. **Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.**

Bolton Council

Confirmation of the diversion of Footpath 083 to land owned by Network Rail and installation of new pathway.

Resolved.

1. That the information be received and noted

Street Naming Update land at 11, Chorley Road

The Town Clerk gave members an update in regard to the consultation request from Bolton Council in regard to the proposed naming of the area behind No.11 Chorley Road. Several suggestions had been made by Council members in regard to the proposed street naming by the developer. However, it had been decided by Bolton Council that the development would be known as Paddocks Close nos 1-6, which met agreement by the Town Council.

Other.

Residents emails in connection with the planning application for Hill lane.

The Town Clerk updated members with the several emails of concerns that she had received in connection with current works being carried out on the land on Hill lane, all of which raised concerns in regard to the hedgerow, schedule of works. The Town Clerk informed members that she had raised the emails of concern with The Bolton Planning Team and awaited any advices. Councillor Farrington spoke again for the need for Bolton to consider a roundabout at that location to ease future traffic issues.

Resolved.

- 1. That the update be received and noted and any outcome awaited.**

214. Public Participation

Resolved:

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

A member of the public offered apologies for Councillor John Price not being in attendance but raised a matter that he stated would have been brought to members attention had Councillor Price been able to do so. The resident stated that in regard to the planning situation surrounding Nightingale Farm (Blackhorse Street) that it was the belief that a conversation had taken place between a Bolton Highways Officer and Bolton Ward Councillors Mrs Cunliffe and Mr Stephen Pickup regarding the implementation of double yellow parking lines being introduced nearby the area, which would quite clearly interfere with the intended car parking spaces already included within the approved application and cause displaced parking of cars already within the area along the highway. Bolton Ward Councillor Pickup strenuously stated that he had not spoken to any member of Highways in Bolton to request double yellow lines. A request was then made by a member of the public to Bolton Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe for clarity on the matter. However, as Town Councillor Mrs Cunliffe was seated as Chairman of the Town Council she felt unable to answer the question in her current role and added that any questions to a Bolton Ward Councillor could be put in writing to them on any matter. Several Members of the public present raised concerns on this lack of clarity and made several other public comments.

In addition another member of the public continued to raise a concern in regard to the land where the old toilets were located on Blackhorse Street, which he had heard had been transferred to the Care Home when it was clearly part of the Highway's assets and was an ideal opportunity to develop as public space.

(The Town Clerk stated that she had noted the concerns raised by residents and would make enquiries herself on behalf of members and residents alike)

Resolved.

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

215. Correspondence

Blackrod Methodist Church

Request for financial support.

The Town Clerk read a letter from Blackrod Methodist Church in regard to a request for assistance with a project to run a cinema club.

Resolved.

- 1. That the letter and contents therein be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk contact the church to request additional information on the project to come back to a future meeting.**

216. Former Village Resident

Memorial bench Update.

The Town Clerk referred to Minute No 195 in relation to a request that she had received from a family member of a young person, who had recently been the victim of a tragic accident, asking if it was possible to 'donate' something to the village which the young person had grown up. This had been further discussed with the family who had requested an extraordinary meeting between members who were available and the family who were only in the country for a short while and which had included staff from Blackrod Church School. It was proposed by Councillor Bury (Snr) and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and

Resolved.

- 1. That the decisions made at the extraordinary meeting for a trophy to be held by Blackrod Church School and awarded annually, which had met with approval by the deceased family be duly noted and accepted by all.**
- 2. That the Blackrod Church School take the lead on the arrangements with the family.**

3. That the Town Council be kept up to date on the matter in due course.

217. Council Meeting Dates, 2017-2018

The Town Clerk presented members with a list of proposed council meeting dates for the year commencing April 2017 through to 2018. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded By Councillor Bury(Snr) and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. That the information be received and agreed.

218. Quarterly Accounts Reconciliation

The Town Clerk provided members with a current financial update, previously circulated for the period ended 31st December 2016. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Seddon and seconded by Councillor Bury(Snr) and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. That the third quarterly accounts for the 2016-2017 year be received and noted.

219. Health & safety Implications in regard to the Blackrod Industrial Estate (access/redress) and associated Goods vehicle applications.

Councillor Farrington gave an update as to what had becomes a diabolical situation on the Blackrod Industrial Estate. Councillor Farrington stated that There are more than 60 vehicles on the estate many parked on access roads to the estate, which when the vehicles are reversing on to Scot Lane is an extreme accident risk. Councillor Farrington said that there had been several requests for officers and officials to come and observe the situation for themselves and no enforcement action appears to have been taken. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the information again be recorded and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk write to Enforcement to request action about conditions not being met on the site**
- 3. That the Town Clerk write to Highways in regard to the condition on Scot Lane involving the access/ redress of vehicles from the site.**
- 4. That the Town Clerk be persistent in requesting action in regard to the issues raised on the site.**

220. Street Name Consultation Hill lane Development.

The Town Clerk requested that council members consider the proposed street names for the forthcoming Hill lane development and offer suitable changes for consideration where considered appropriate and in keeping with Bolton Council's Street Naming Policy. Councillor Mrs Seddon offered several alternatives for Bolton's consideration which were met with agreement by council members. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Seddon and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information from Bolton be received and noted**
- 2. That the approval/ alternative street names suggestions be forwarded to Bolton Council for consideration.**

221. Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Update

Councillor Bury provided those present with a monthly update (to end of March 2016) in regard to the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan and referred to papers previously circulated. Councillor Bury provided an update on a meeting which had been held with the consultants Envision and gave an update in regard to a request to Bolton for a copy of a council tax list to use alongside the Housing Needs Assessment.

Resolved.

- 1. That the update be received and noted**
- 2. Councillor Bury(Snr) was thanked by the Chairman, for his diligence which was agreed by all present.**

222. Web Update in regard to Councillors email addresses

Following a request by a resident at a recent council meeting for members to have their email addresses visible on the web, The Town Clerk gave an update which had been received from the Web Facilitator in this regard. Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Seddon and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information from the web management be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk administer the email address of council members who wished their address to be made visible on to the website**

3. **That the Town Clerk liaise with the Web page manager to facilitate a group button for use by external sources for common email circulation.**

223. Disabled parking spaces at Blackrod Railway Station

Councillor Farrington raised the issue of disabled parking spaces being used by non badge holders at the station car park. Councillor Farrington stated that both himself and Councillor Price had had communications with third parties in regard to the problem. A suggestion was that the Town Council place compliment slips on the car requesting that non disabled drivers find alternative parking spaces. It was also noted that Councillor Price had also held talks with third parties in this connection. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Bury(Snr) and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. **That the issue be received and noted**
2. **That a deferment of further action be taken until such time Councillor Price can update the Town Council on any information he had received.**
3. **That the Town Clerk make contact with Northern rail to ascertain how they govern the parking on land provided by themselves.**

224. A6 junction with Manchester Road- Bollards.

Councillor Farrington provided members with an update in regard to the bollards at the Traffic lights at the junction of the A6/ Manchester Road which were not lighting up and facing the wrong way, causing traffic issues and the possibilities of further accidents. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Bury(Snr) and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. **That the information be received and noted**
2. **That the Town Clerk write to Bolton Highways with a request for the the bollards to be realigned and made functional.**

225. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues

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

Blackhorse Street – Pot hole has come loose again

Scot Lane - the repairs had lasted for one week and it was out again

Greenbarn Way - Inspector had been out and stated that the repairs would be done in 20 days

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.

226. **Finance**

It was moved by Councillor Farrington 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 £2976.65(two thousand nine hundred and seventy six pounds 65p) dated 3rd April 2017.
2. That the chairman, clerk and two members sign a transfer of £5000.00 (Five thousand) from the Deposit Account to the Main Account.
3. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.

226. **Site Visits**

No Site visits were arranged.

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

Other Matters

The Town Clerk reported that she had received an update in regard to street lighting in Blackrod which confirmed that not all Blackrod Lights had been changed and some would be held back until new funds were available. That the lights on Scot Lane were under investigation and that Dorning Street lights had been completed but had shown signs of cracking and were to be redone.

Agenda Items for April 24th Meeting given at the meeting.

Parking outside the former Post Office Councillor Farrington
Parking off Scot Lane Councillor Farrington

228. List of Outstanding Correspondence Resolved

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

229. Reports from Ward Councillors

Ward Councillor Combined Report

Slim bin roll out had been completed and proven successful with recycling on the increase and fly tipping decreasing.

Savings from the above would go to protect school crossing patrols

An exhibition is to tour libraries following an item at the Bolton Vision conference

GM Police is consulting on the future of policing, managing a £44 million cut by 2020

Trade Union time had been reduced at a recent Bolton cabinet meeting

Bolton Council to pay LAC council tax up to age 21 and discretionary payments for LAC up to age 25

No reports of Burglaries or crime in Blackrod this last month

GM Spatial framework does not contain the item that 300 houses would be built in Blackrod.

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 24th April 2017 at 7pm. (instead of May 1st a Bank Holiday)

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed.....Chairman