

## Blackrod Town Council

### Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017

#### Present

Councillor. Mrs I Seddon ( **Deputy Chairman**)

Councillors Mr A Bury (snr)  
Mr S Batchelor  
Mr M Hollick  
Mr A Bury  
Mr G Farrington  
Mr J Price

Also Present: Mrs S Lewis (**Town Clerk**) & 28 members of the public and invited guests.

*Prior to the commencement of the meeting proper, newly elected member Mr John Price made the Declaration Of Acceptance of Office before the Town Clerk and Proper Officer of the Town Council, Council Members and members of the public present.*

*Councillor John Price then took his seat at the council table and the meeting commenced.*

#### 188. Apologies for Absence

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

#### 189. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017

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

#### Resolved.

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017 be received and signed as a true and accurate record.**

190. **Declarations of Interest:**

No declarations were made for the meeting.

**191. Planning applications (Received from the Meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

It was moved by Councillor Mr Hollick 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 6<sup>th</sup> March 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.

**00229/17                      Holmes Lodge                      Erection of 2 storey ext at side**

Councillors gave no comment in regard to this application

**00236/17                      213 New Street                      Erection new shop front**

Councillors indicated that the work had already been carried out in regard to this application. Councillors noted that the shop frontage would be extremely bright but that the application was for the movement of a doorway within the given framework. Councillors voted to agree to the planning application.

**00237/17                      213 New Street                      Siting of fascia sign & Poster  
Folders in windows**

Councillors noted the comments from Highways and voted in favour to offer a comment of no objection.

**00269/17      7 Half Acre Lane                      Erection of part single/ part 2  
Storey ext at side. Alterations to  
Roof and dormer at rear.**

Councillors could not vote to approve the application as three areas of concern were outlined. That the application did not appear to have a means of exit from the back of the house to the front externally. That the distance between the applicants windows may not be within the approved distances from the premises at the rear of the property and that the proposed conversion would convert the property to a 4 bedroom dwelling and that no information had been provided as to how off road parking would be achieved.

**00290/17      Land adj to 10 Grimeford Lane                      Reserved matters  
application  
Pursuant to p/app 96244  
Appearance/ landscape**

Councillors objected to the planning application for landscape details and appearance until clarification could be given in regard to footpath 074 that this would be kept to the existing 1.8mtrs width and that no landscaping would be of a nature to become overbearing on this public footpath . Councillors also raised concerns in regard to an identified BioDisc treatment plant which was identified on the proposed site plan and which would discharge in to soakaways or field drains as no details had been provided as to what this facility was for/ contained.

**00239/17      Pruning of Tree at Mercure Hotel**

Councillors commented that no papers had been received in relation to this planning application but noted that it was a TPO application for the pruning not felling of an ash tree And as such was noted.

**192. 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.**

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

**Resolved.**

1. That the information be received and noted
2. That no consultation comments be offered in this regard.

**194. Public Participation**

**Resolved:**

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

A member of the public elected to speak out in regard to the way she felt that members of the Town Council and members of the public were attacking the current Chairman of the Town Council. The member of the public stated that the attacks were personal and amounted to bullying against someone in the position of Town Mayor/Chairperson who in that capacity could not respond. The resident stated that those responsible should be ashamed. The resident went on to state that Ward Councillors were not answerable to the Town Council as the Town Council was not answerable to Ward Councillors or Bolton Council being separately ran bodies. The resident stated that she knew that the Ward Councillors did a lot of work both personal and work related which was not brought to Town Council meetings. The resident concluded by stating that those concerned knew who they were and should be ashamed of themselves.

Another resident felt it necessary to respond to contradict the comments made by the first resident in regard to the Chairman of the Town Council.

Another resident asked for additional information in regard to the Neighbourhood Plan, which the Chair stated would be presented as Item 12 on the Agenda.

A further resident asked if a simpler method of communication regarding email addresses of current council members could be considered for the Town Council's web page. *(The Town Clerk responded to say that she would look in to the options available)*

**Resolved.**

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

195. **Correspondence**

**St Katharine's Church**

**Letter of thanks for donation**

The Town Clerk read a letter from St Katharine's Church thanking the Town Council for their financial support.

**Resolved.**

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

**Former Village Resident**

**Memorial bench consideration.**

The Town Clerk informed members that she had received a communication 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 in which the young person had grown up. The relative mentioned a memorial bench in the first instance. The Town Clerk asked council members to consider other items as well as the bench and following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour by all and

**Resolved.**

1. **That the letter and contents therein be received and noted.**
2. **That the possibility of a Sports Trophy and Honours Board be considered by the family concerned**
3. **That the Town Clerk contact both the family and the Primary School where the young person had attended to discuss the possibility of a trophy in the young person's name.**
4. **That the Town Clerk arrange a meeting between council members and the family to discuss further plans as developed.**

196. **Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Councillor Bury provided those present with a monthly update (to February )in regard to the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan and referred to papers previously circulated. Councillor Bury provided an update on a Public meeting which had been held on February 28<sup>th</sup> 2017 in the Community Centre, attended by over 60 members of the public and thanked Councillor Batchelor for his generosity in providing the refreshments which had met with full approval by all.

**Resolved.**

1. Councillor Bury(Snr) was thanked by the Chairman, which was agreed by all present.
2. Councillor Batchelor was also thanked by members of the Town Council.

**197. Housing Needs Assessment for Blackrod (In conjunction with Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan)**

Councillor Bury(Snr) gave an outline of a housing needs assessment which had been completed by Bolton Council but which had collated data from both Blackrod and Horwich as a Ward- which in turn had had very limited return. He informed members that he had approached both Bolton Council and Bolton at Home to see if they would assist in the organisation and payment of another housing assessment for Blackrod alone- in relation to the ongoing work of the Neighbourhood Plan- which unfortunately neither could do. Councillor Bury stated that he had also approached Locality who fund Neighbourhood Plan with limited funding. Councillor Bury (Jnr) asked how much this type of project would cost with a given response of £6500.00. Councillor Bury(Snr) therefore asked if it would be possible for the Town Council to give financial support to this requirement, being an imperative part of the work required for the Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan. Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Bury(Snr) and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

1. That the information and its importance to the workings of the Neighbourhood Plan be received
2. That the Town Council elect to support the funding of the scheme up to a total of £6500.00
3. That the Town Clerk work alongside Councillor Bury(Snr) to ensure the financial costings and value for money aspects are finalised.

**198. Nominations for the Deputy Mayor Elect for 2017/2018 year.**

Following deferment from last month's meeting, nominations were received for the role of Deputy Mayor Elect for 2017-2018 and following decisions made by those nominated it was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

1. That Councillor Scott Batchelor accept the nomination of the role of Deputy Mayor Elect for the year 2017-2018

**199. Installation of railing supports for the bottom of the cenotaph**

Councillor Hollick asked council members to consider the installation of a support railing along the bottom of the cenotaph to allow extra support to be in place when Remembrance Wreaths are laid. Members of the Town Council felt this was of benefit to all concerned especially in view of the tremendous winds which had plagued the area in recent months. Councillor Price stated that he was meeting with a representative from Bolton Council Cemetery Division in regard to another matter and would speak to him on behalf of the council if required. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the item be received and noted**
- 2. That Councillor Price liaise on the item with the representative from Bolton Council in the first instance.**
- 3. That the Town Clerk administer the costs of the item on behalf of the Town Council.**

**200. Town & Ward Councillor Working Process.**

Councillor Batchelor referred to a similar item (Minute No 175) which had been discussed at the February meeting in regard to the relationship between Town and Ward Councillors and requested further discussion on the process of communication. Councillor Bury(Jnr) added that currently all ward Councillors for this area are from one political party which currently makes communication easier between themselves. This helps them deal with caseloads of items connected to individuals or items within the Blackrod area which in some cases are of a confidential nature. Councillor Batchelor added that this was a good point and that would it not be possible for the benefit of all to know what the Ward Councillors are dealing with so that the Town Council may be able to assist and vice versa. Councillors Hollick and Price added that the sharing of knowledge on items involving matters, non personal, in the village should be given as a matter of courtesy to the Town Council for the benefit of all. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Batchelor and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the additional comments in this connection be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk write to all three Ward Councillors with a request that they meet with members of the Town Council to aid the creation of a clear pathway of communication channels between both parties for the benefit of the residents of Blackrod.**
- 3. That the Town Clerk advise Town Council members when arrangements have been made for this developmental meeting.**

**201. Annual/ Bi-Annual Adoption of Council Policies**

The Town Clerk in keeping with appropriate procedures asked council members to readopt current policies (11) whose review dates were scheduled. It was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted and agreed by all and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the current list of policies due for annual/ bi annual review be re-adopted for their identified periods.**
- 2. All policies to be brought to the council meeting prior to review date for additional review if legislation brings about change.**

**202. 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.**

Scot Lane pot holes  
Greenbarn way  
Outside 61 Nightingale Road  
Hill Lane  
Church Street 71-73  
Outside Spekes Shop

**203. 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 £5219.59 ( five thousand two hundred and nineteen pounds 59p) dated 6<sup>th</sup> March 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.**

204. **Site Visits**

No Site visits were arranged.

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

**Other Matters**

The Town Clerk reported that rumours that the health visitors liaison with new parents that takes place in the Library on Tuesday mornings were not correct.

Disabled parking areas at the station were being used by non identified disabled vehicles.

20mph sign on Greenbarn Way. No mention had been given to the Town Council.

That the bus shelter had been reinstated on Scot Lane, following discussions with the Town Clerk and Bus Company.

That Blackrod Town Council had not been successful in this year's draw for the Annual Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

**Agenda Items for April Agenda given at the meeting.**

**Weight Restriction for Chorley Road (Councillor Price)**

**Disabled Parking at Station Road (Station) Car park (Councillors Farrington/ Price)**

206. **List of Outstanding Correspondence Resolved**

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

207. **Reports from Ward Councillors**

**Ward Councillor Report. Councillor Bury**

**Increase in fly tipping across the borough. Landowners have to remove this at own cost if not on Bolton owned land.**

**Alleyway to Fryent Close Residents complaints re dog fouling**

**Sign in regard to speeding being moved to the A6 junction as the road enters Blackrod**

**Ward Councillor Report. Councillor Pickup**

**Bolton recently passed its budget for 2017-19 requiring it to find £42.5 million pounds worth of cuts due to the reduction in grants received from central Government. £30 million will be used from Bolton Council reserves leaving £12.5m to be found from departmental cuts.**

**There will be a rise of 3% in council taxes, ring fenced for adult social care plus 1.8% for other services- total of 4.8%**

**Bolton Council has also set aside capital monies of**

**Primary school breakfasts £300,000**

**Safe dry warm homes - £1 million**

**Dropped Kerbs for disabled access £200,000**

**Anti Poverty Fund £500,000**

**The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 at 7pm.**

**The meeting closed at 9.40pm**

**Signed.....Chairman**