

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 5th June 2017

Present

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

Councillors

Mr S Batchelor
Mr G Farrington
Mrs A Cunliffe
Mr J Price
Mr M Hollick
Mr A Bury (Snr)
Mr A Bury (Jnr)

Also Present: Mrs S Lowis (**Town Clerk**) 12 members of the public and 1 member of the Press.

1. Apologies for Absence

All council members were present for the meeting.

2. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 24th April 2017

It was moved by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 24th April 2017 be received and signed as a true and accurate record**

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 8th May 2017

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

Resolved

1. **That the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 8th May 2017 be received and signed as a true record.**

3. **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 declared an interest in Item 11 on the agenda under Planning Correspondence.

4. **Appointment of Deputy Mayor/ Chairman for 2017/2018**
(Item deferred from the Annual Meeting on 8th May 2017)

Council members confirmed receipt of the nominations for the role of Deputy Mayor/Chairman and it was moved by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour by all

Resolved

1. **That Councillor Scott Batchelor be elected to the position of Deputy Town Mayor/ Chairman for Blackrod for 2017/2018**

Councillor Mr Scott Batchelor made and signed the Declaration of Office before the Town Clerk, the Proper Officer of the Town Council, and received a round of applause from members and residents present.

5. **Appointment of Committees/ Working Groups/ Representatives on outside Bodies.(Item deferred from the Annual Meeting on 8th May 2017)**

The Town Clerk provided council members with details of current membership of working groups and outside bodies and asked members to resolve the item of membership, deferred from the Annual Meeting. It was therefore moved by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Farrington and

Resolved

- 1. That the following members were duly selected/ reselected to continue as representatives/ Trustees on the following working groups and outside bodies.**
- 2. All council members are members of the Town Councils working groups as formed by the Town Council**

Popplewell Trust	Councillor John Price (Trustee) Councillor Mrs Ann Cunliffe (Trustee) Councillor Graham Farrington (Trustee)
Rivington & Blackrod Foundation Trust	Councillor Mike Hollick (Trustee) Councillor Alan Bury (Jnr) (Trustee)
Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	Councillor Alan Bury (snr)
Blackrod Educational Trust	Councillor Graham Farrington (Trustee but not as a council member) Councillor Mrs Isabel Seddon (Trustee) Mrs Stella Lewis (Town Clerk) (Trustee)
LALC Representative	Councillor Mr John Price.

6. Planning Applications. (Received from the meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 5th June 2017)

It was moved by Councillor Batchelor and seconded by Councillor Hollick 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 June 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 present were given the opportunity to speak to the Town Council on any particular planning application as listed.**

**Window to form new
Doorway/ creation of
Play area to front inc
Fencing & ext to rear**

No members of the public spoke in connection with the application and Councillors voted to offer no comment

**00959/17 8, Blackhorse Street erection of dormers to front
And rear**

No member of the public spoke in connection with the application and councillors voted to offer no comment

**00714/17 land at Grimeford Lane erection of 3 dwellings with
Detached garages with new
Access and landscaping**

No member of the public spoke in this connection and council members voted to accept the application following clarification from Bolton Council regarding details on Highways Feedback to application which states “highways access layout appears to comply with” comment which they felt was ambiguous.

7. Planning Decisions

Resolved

- 1. That the list of planning decisions and conditions made by Bolton Council, copies of which had been previously circulated are received and noted.**

8. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

Update regarding the Town Council members meeting with the developers of the former Waste recycling centre and with Blackrod Nursing Home in the same connection.

The Chairman of the Town Council gave a short update in regard to the meeting which had taken place between members of the Town Council and Wiggett Homes & Blackrod Nursing Home in regard to the housing development at the former Waste Recycling Centre.

The chairman stated that the meeting had been most cordial and productive assuring those present that there was a willingness on the part of the developers to work with Blackrod Council and the local community to eliminate/ resolve any concerns each

party may have. As a follow up a second meeting had taken place with representatives from Blackrod House to discuss how the Town Council could work cooperatively with them to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the needs, wishes and concerns of both parties and to explore how any conflict could be avoided. The discussions were at a very early stage, however any progress will be communicated to the public as and when the Town Council is confident that we have relevant and accurate information to share.

Resolved.

1. That the information be received and noted

9. Public Participation

Resolved:

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

A member of the public spoke in connection with the lack of grass cutting by Bolton Council along the A6 and Chorley Brow as well as other areas in the village and stated that Blackrod was becoming forgotten about.

Another resident spoke about the issue of speed on Dark Lane and stated that she had been in touch with Bolton Council to see about getting a speed reduction in that area which she had been informed would not be possible as the road had had no recorded accidents. A further concern was that this road also had no pavement which would secure the safety of those walking down the road which would only increase in number when the Hill lane development was completed. The resident had been informed that the spare lane (which could possibly occupy a pavement) was not owned by Bolton Council and knowledge of the ownership was not known. The resident mentioned that Councillor Farrington had called for the development of a roundabout in the Hill Lane/ dark Lane vicinity following the Hill lane development and asked if this was possible. The item will be placed on the July agenda for council members discussions.

Another resident spoke in connection with Kerb stones which were on Dark Lane causing an issue when two cars attempted to pass by each other

A member of the public raised the issue of the ATM at the newly renovated Post Office, which is charging for its use when Post Office Officials stated that this would not be the case.

Another resident spoke in connection with the Post Office in regard to the sale of items which no longer can be purchased from the shop itself but must be bought through the post office which is not viable when the post office is closed. The same resident spoke in connection with the total lack of privacy available for people

carrying out financial transactions with the staff being heard clearly when transactions are taking place.

A reference was also made to the hours of opening of the post office section within the shop which appeared to contradict the information which was provided by the spokesperson from the Post Office who spoke with members and residents in this regard at a previous council meeting.

A resident spoke in connection with the speeding along Vicarage Road West and requested that 'sleeping policemen bumps' be put on the road to deter racing.
(Council members asked the Town Clerk to make this an agenda item for the next meeting)

Resolved.

- 1. Members of the public were thanked for their contributions by the Chairman on all matters.**
- 2. The Town Clerk stated that she would contact the Post Office Services directly to make enquiries about the matters which had been raised.**

10. **Correspondence**

Resident Letter

Motorbike speed through village

The Town Clerk read a letter from a resident in connection with the speed in which motorbikes appear to be racing along the A6 Bypass, which asked if councillors could consider requesting road traffic changes in order to deter speeding vehicles. Councillors debated several points in this connection which resulted in a proposal by Councillor Farrington seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the letter from the resident be received and noted**
- 2. That a letter be written to the Chief Constable of Gtr Manchester requesting that radar cars (speed traps) are re-introduced along the road in question**
- 3. That a additional request to the chief constable be made for the return of PACT meetings in the area where residents can take their concerns and speak with police representatives.**
- 4. That a request for a Neighbourhood Inspector to attend a meeting of the Town Council and listen to the concerns of residents be made.**

Resident Letter

Complaint re bin collections

The Town Clerk advised members that this matter had now been dealt with and item was withdrawn from the agenda.

11. Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Update

An update was provided by Councillor Bury (Snr) for both the month of April and May. Councillor Bury confirmed to the meeting that the plan was still only in a consultative/ developmental stage and that the next project to be completed is the Housing Needs Assessment for Blackrod and a stand would be in place for the forthcoming Scarecrow Festival.

Resolved.

- 1. That the update from Councillor Bury be received and noted.**

12. External Items On Town Council Web Site

Following a request by members of the public Councillors discussed the practicalities of items appearing on the Town Council Web Site. The Town Clerk advised that she felt that only items from non-profit making organisations be put on the web pages but agreed that a “ what’s on” page would be an advantage to many of those accessing the web page for information. Council members agreed that a form of disclaimer could be inserted on the pages in question and it was proposed by Councillor Price 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 liaise with the web manager as to the possibility of an additional page / link on the web page**
- 3. That the Town Clerk liaise with the Blackrod Community Group in regard to the list they are compiling of events around the Blackrod area.**

13. 4th Quarter Financial Account Reconciliation

The Town Clerk provided members with a current financial update, previously circulated for the period ending 31st March 2017. Councillor Hollick pointed out that there had been a typing error on a digit in one column , which was duly noted and agreed. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and seconded by Councillor Bury (Jnr) and voted in favour with the amendment to the figure shown and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted**

14. Parking concerns in relation to Newlands Drive (off Scot lane and Eskdale Ave)

Councillor Farrington made members aware of issues residents are having in relation To parking in the cul de sac off Eskdale Avenue detailed as Newlands Drive. Issues are arising due to vehicles being parked within an area formerly identified as a turning circle as well as taking up parking places, leaving residents with restricted access to their driveways and with nowhere to park their own vehicles. Discussions included possibility of yellow lines and H lines being requested within the area. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour with two abstentions and

Resolved

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk liaise with Highways in regard to their advices on possible outcomes to the solution including the possibility of a site visit to the area.**

15. Inappropriate parking and letter to Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Farrington raised the continuous inappropriate parking on Scot Lane through a request for consideration to be given to the writing of an official letter to GMP in its regard as no action appears to be taking place through previous actions taken. It was therefore proposed by councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk write officially to GMP in regarding the continuous parking issues in the area.**

16. Councillors to approve the Town Council's Statement of Account/ Annual Return for the Financial Year 2017-2017

Members considered the Annual Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2017, copies of which had been previously circulated, following the completion of the first stage audit, which had found no issues to comment upon. It was proposed by Councillor Batchelor and seconded by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and voted in favour by all and

Resolved.

- 1. That the Annual Governance Statement be approved and completed and signed.**

17. Members considered the Annual Accounting Statement for the year ending 31st March 2017 copies of which had been previously circulated, following completion of the first stage of the audit, which had raised no issues. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour by all and

Resolved

- 1. That the Annual Accounting statement be approved, completed and signed.**

18. **Access/ parking issues at entrance to Nightingale Road of Chorley Road.**

Councillor Hollick updated members on the issues with parked vehicles at the entrance to Nightingale Road, particularly outside the end houses on either side of the entrance to Nightingale Road, from Chorley Road, which were causing issues with vehicular sightings in either direction along Chorley Road, Several considerations were made including leaflet drops, letters to current residents in regard to their inappropriate parking. After much discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Bury (Jnr) and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
2. That in the first instance the Town Clerk find the most appropriate form of action to take when speaking to local residents in regard to the parking issues that have been identified.

19. **Station Car Parking and strip of land alongside railway line.**

Councillor Farrington raised the subject of the irregular use of disabled bays at the Station car Park as well as the number of parking bays not being sufficient to meet the growing needs of local residents. Councillors debated the ownership of the spare strip of land running alongside the railway line/ parking area together with requesting that additional car parking spaces be possibly constructed in the area, Councillor Mrs Cunliffe informed the meeting that the strip of land houses the electrification cables. it was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour by all and

Resolved

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
2. That the Town Clerk write to Northern Rail/ others to ascertain ownership of the strip of land

20. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues

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

**Some street lights have been renewed others still outstanding
Dorning Street Light has had some work undertaken following reports**

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.**

21. Finance

It was moved by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour by all and

Resolved

- 1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £4739.89(four thousand seven hundred and thirty nine pounds 89p) dated 5th June 2017.**
- 2. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign a transfer of amount from the Deposit Account to the Main Account for £30,000 (Thirty thousand pounds) from the Deposit Account to the Mayors Account £2000.00 (Two thousand pounds) and £1000.00 (One thousand pounds)**
- 3. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.**

22. Site Visits

A site visit was arranged for Wednesday 14th June 2017 to Dark Lane to look at areas of concern raised by the public and council members.

23. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

The Town Clerk provided members with details of a training opportunity. Those interested to contact the Town Clerk by Friday 9th June.

Councillor Price informed members about residents concerns in regard to the mess that is being created through the contractors vehicles along Hill lane and beyond.
(the Town Clerk advised that she would try and speak to the developers in regard to a regular road sweep in the vicinity)

Agenda Items for July 3rd Meeting given at the meeting.

Dark Lane 7.5 ton limit / roundabout/ footpath (Councillor Price)
Sleeping policeman on Vicarage Road

24. List of Outstanding Correspondence
Resolved

- 1. That the list of outstanding correspondence be received and noted**
- 2. That the item involving the industrial estate was commented on as far overdue for action by Bolton.**

25. Reports from Ward Councillors

Councillor Pickup reported:-

That the lights on Blackrod Station Car park have now been fixed

Councillor Mrs Cunliffe reported:

Bolton council staff had worked alongside colleagues at the recent Manchester Arena attack.

**A minutes silence will be observed on Victoria Square at 11am on 4th June
Bolton Cares, Bolton's adult care company is now up and running and a permanent Chief Exec has been appointed**

A disabled friendly chicane has now been erected on the footway leading from 346 Manchester Rd to Greenbarn Way

A pilot to enforce car parking restrictions has successfully taken place at Daisy Hill railway Car Park. Once permissions have been given by landlords, signage and enforcement will be rolled out to the rest of TfGM car parks. Bolton will be informed when this happens.

Following the Ward Councillor's report regarding car parks being read out, members asked the Chairman if they could be taken out of committee to pursue the item further with the Ward Councillor, which was agreed.

Ward Councillor Cunliffe gave clarity on the above point on car parks.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting. The meeting resumed.

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 3rd July 2017 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed.....Chairman