

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 3rd July 2017

Present

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

Councillors

Mr S Batchelor
Mr G Farrington
Mrs A Cunliffe
Mr J Price
Mr M Hollick

Also Present: Mrs S Lewis (**Town Clerk**) 15 members of the public

Prior to the commencement of the meeting proper an introduction was given by the new PCSO for the area, Stephen Howard. PCSO Howard indicated that PACP meetings may become a future possibility again: that there was to be a new Sergeant stationed at Middlebrook and that various Inspectors were moving around the area. PCSO Howard also gave an indication of the crime figures for the month of June and took questions from members including

- (i) Physical presence in village*
- (ii) Some car crime not noted*
- (iii) Police surgeries commencing again in Horwich. PSCO stated he would be guided by those in Blackrod & the Town Council if there was a need for this in Blackrod.*

The Chairman thanked PCSO Howard for his attendance at the meeting and hoped that a more fruitful relationship would follow, which was seconded by all present.

26. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Bury(Jnr) and Councillor Bury(Snr) and the reasons for absence were noted, approved and accepted.

27. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 4th June 2017

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

Resolved.

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 4th June 2017 be received and signed as a true and accurate record with the following additions/ amendments.**

The Town Clerk also advised members of the Town Council that minute No 208 2016/2017 was inadvertently accepted as correct. However, an error occurred in the recording of an absent Council members name. This should have read Councillor Bury instead of Councillor Batchelor.

Additionally, Councillor Price queried Minute No 5 and his selection on the list of Trustees for the Poppywell Trust, replacing Councillor Mrs Barrow (Dec'd) The Town Clerk indicated that she had written his name down in her notes from the meeting and sought clarification from Councillor Price if he would be willing to take on this role as Trustee.

Resolved.

- 1. It was moved by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and acknowledged that the error in Minute No 208 be rectified.**
- 2. That Minute No 5 stand,unaltered , with the inclusion of Councillor John Price as Trustee on the Popplewell Trust.**

28. 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 Agenda Item 15 (£80 Funding) on the agenda

Councillor Farrington declared an interest in Agenda Item 21 (Finance)

29. Planning Applications. (Received from the meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 3rd July 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 3rd July 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.

00930/17	Metcalf's Yard	Demolition of one Pair of semi detached & erection of 1 detached
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Council members heard an objection from a member of the public. Councillors indicated that no bat survey had been carried out, that the comments made by GMP required clarification, that the distance and height of those properties closest to the development requires checking as they appear to be too close to other houses. Councillors voted in favour to object to the planning application due to over development of the land.

01020/17	52, Meadow Way	erection of part 1st floor / part single storey ext To rear and side.
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No member of the public spoke in connection with the application and councillors voted to offer no comment in its connection.

01063/17	24, The Cheethams	Erection of single storey ext To side.
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No member of the public spoke in this connection other than to clarify a location point. Members voted to offer no comment on the application providing it was subject to regulation approval..

30. 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.**

31. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

Feedback from site visit to Dark lane.

Councillor Price provided verbal feedback on the Town Council visit to Dark Lane where they were accompanied by a local resident of the area.

Conclusions to the visit included:-

Narrowness of the road with no speed limit making it a dangerous road

There is little signage on the road for traffic information such as road narrowing signs where it becomes a further danger for two vehicles to pass each other with ease.

Litter and fly tipping is a problem for residents

There is no footpath for pedestrian access – again an area of safety concern

Hedgerows overhand and owners should be made aware where possible.

The new development on Hill lane will cause further traffic issues

I street Light and no gritting taking place when required.

It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk write to Highways and ask them to attend a site visit with members and concerned residents with a view to looking at long term proposals for the area.**

Site Visit. Scot lane Industrial Estate

Councillor Farrington commented that in addition to the site visit to Dark Lane, members had also carried out a visit to the Scot lane Industrial Estate. Where members could see for themselves the over development and H & S concerns that had previously been raised on more than one occasion. Councillor Farrington stated that he now had a map outlining those buildings identified for the Scot lane Industrial Estate and requested that the item be placed on the next agenda to allow council members to consider any further actions which they could request. The Town Clerk also stated that she had written to Bolton Council to request an update on various issues which had been identified in that area.

32. Public Participation

Resolved:

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

A resident spoke about again in connection with the issue of Dark Lane and stated that she had written to but as yet received no response from a Bolton Officer in connection with the various issues raised on Dark Lane.

Another resident stated that the dumping of waste in the area of Dark Lane was another problem particularly as horses in the fields attempted to get in to the waste bins being dumped.

Another resident spoke in connection with large HGV coming along Vicarage Road where 5/6 vehicles had been noted as being driven in that area around the 3pm time when children are leaving school for the day.

A member of the public raised concerns about vehicles travelling along Manchester Road where several wing mirrors on parked cars were being knocked off as cars were parking on both sides of the road. However there were no traffic orders preventing cars parking on both sides of the road in the area concerned.

Another resident spoke in connection with the lack of grass cutting in the village

Resolved.

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

33. Correspondence

No correspondence was received for the meeting.

34. Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Update

An written update was provided by Councillor Bury (Snr) about the previous months activities and it was noted by the Town Clerk to members that a copy of the Housing Survey Questionnaire had also been circulated to all members for information purposes as to the scope of the survey currently being undertaken by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Resolved.

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

35. Memorial Plaque on Council owned bench.

Councillor Farrington updated members in regard to the Town Council owned bench which had been agreed for siting outside the council chamber and suggested that it would be appropriate to place a memorial plaque on the bench in memory of Councillor Mrs Pat Barrow (Dec'd) who had undertaken many years of civic duty as a council member in Blackrod as well as serving the parish as Mayor and raising thousands of pounds for various charitable works. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour and agreed

Resolved.

- 1. That the item be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk liaise with the family of Councillor Mrs Barrow (Dec'd) In this connection and the installation of the plaque.**
- 3. That the Town Council agree any additional costs incurred in this connection.**

36. Donation Request. Methodist Church

The Town Clerk provided members with a further update following a meeting with a representative from the Methodist Church in regard to the letter which had been received requesting financial assistance. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the additional information be received and noted**
- 2. That a donation of £250.00 be awarded to the Methodist Church for their cinema proposals.**
- 3. That the Town Clerk make the necessary financial arrangements.**

37. £80K funding awarded to the Blackrod and Horwich Ward

The Town Clerk gave a brief update as to the current round of funding given to Blackrod & Horwich Ward Councillors and asked members to provide ideas as to Possible financial spends which would be of benefit to Blackrod and its community, which could be relayed to the Ward Councillors who represent the Blackrod ward. Several points were raised that required an answer from the Ward Councillors which included how the split in the funding would be made: what geographical area would be covered by the financial remit (Town Centre). Who would be consulted on the items: Most members felt that this knowledge was required prior to providing proposals for expenditure. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and voted in favour and

Resolved

1. That the information be requested from Ward Councillors as indicated
2. That a suggestion for traffic lights at Scot Lane junction be made in the interim until further knowledge was given by Ward Councillors
3. That a request for "sleeping policeman" traffic calming" measures be made in the interim until further knowledge be given by Ward Councillors

38. **Adjoining town residents clearing sections of the A6 Blackrod Bypass (Blackrod end)**

Councillor Farrington raised the issue that residents of Adlington had helped to clear sections of the A6 Bypass which had appeared as an article in the local newspaper. Councillor Farrington and Councillor Hollick both felt that the lack of rubbish bins along the bypass were contributing to the rubbish and fly tipping in these areas. Councillor Price stated that he felt that a litter picking team could be created, despite this project not coming to fruition at an earlier stage (*The Town Clerk added that this item had also included children from the neighbourhood which it had felt made the matter unsafe to pursue*) Councillor Farrington stated that these matters of concern should be getting picked up by the Ward Councillors for the area in their own right which was agreed by all present. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Price voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. That the information be received and noted
2. That an item regarding Waste Bins be on the next agenda
3. That the creation of a litter picking group be put on the agenda
4. That a letter be sent to the Ward Councillors asking what they have done about concerns relating to litter.

39. **Dark Lane/ Chorley Brow weight restrictions**

Councillor Price brought up the matter of various issues to do with the speed vehicles were travelling at through the village and the damage that was doing to roads in the area. These were in addition to the current vehicles travelling to and from the building sites in the locality. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and voted in favour with one abstention.

Resolved.

1. That the information be received and noted
2. That a request be made to Bolton Highways for a restriction of 7.5ton to be made for Chorley Brow and Dark Lane – other than for access.
3. That the Town Clerk request the support of the Ward Councillors on the matter.

40. Roundabout at the junction of Dark Lane and Hill Lane.

Councillor Farrington brought up the subject of the possibility of requesting a roundabout at the junction of Hill lane with Dark Lane especially as there will be an increase in motorised traffic once the building development is completed. The Town Clerk stated that The costs of meeting this project could probably not be found through the Town Council's own funds. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That The Town Clerk write to Highways with the request for the roundabout and the total of costs associated with such a project.**

41. Request for a sleeping policeman on vicarage road.

(see also minute No 37)

The Town Clerk indicated that this item had arisen following a request made under public participation by a local resident. Additionally councillors mentioned that a roundabout at the school end of Vicarage Road could also prove beneficial as this may slow the traffic down in the area of the school exit. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received**
- 2. That the Town Clerk write to Bolton Highways for consideration**
- 3. That The Town Clerk write to the Ward Councillors to request their support with the matter.**

42. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues

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

Pot hole on road at Little Scotland – where are we up to?

The ginnel requires clearing off Hill Lane through to Harrison Crescent

The cleanliness of Hill Lane – hedge and pavement issues for safety

Advertising signs left after event

Cars advertised for sale and left on public car parks

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.

43. **Finance**

It was moved by Councillor Price 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 £4804.77(four thousand eight hundred and four pounds 77p) dated 3rd July 2017.
2. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members authorise a spend fro the Community Project account for £1930.20 (One thousand nine hundred and thirty pounds and 20p only)
3. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.

44. **Site Visits**

That the Town Clerk request Bolton Highways to come to a visit with members and residents on Dark Lane when convenient.

45. **Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration**

Agenda Items for August 7th Meeting given at the meeting.

Vehicles for Sale on public land
Signage on Hillside Avenue
War Memorial

Councillor Hollick
Councillor Mrs Seddon
Councillor Price

Other Matters

The Town Clerk indicated that she had received correspondence from Rowland Homes which she was pursuing

The Town Clerk indicated that she had received correspondence from Post Office representatives which she was pursuing
The Town Clerk confirmed she had received correspondence from GMP Chief Constable and Bolton Commander which was being pursued.

46. List of Outstanding Correspondence Resolved

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

247. Reports from Ward Councillors

No reports were received from Ward Councillors

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

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm

Signed.....Chairman