

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 7th August 2017

Present

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

Councillors

Mr A Bury (Snr)

Mr G Farrington

Mr J Price

Mr M Hollick

Also Present: Mrs S Lewis (**Town Clerk**) 24 members of the public

Prior to commencement of the meeting proper the Town Clerk gave both council members and residents present an acknowledgement of the request in regard to public participation, which she had noted and would consider as part of a report for council in due course. The Town Clerk was thanked by members of the public.

48. Apologies for Absence

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

49. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 3rd July 2017

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

Resolved.

- 1.** That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 3rd July 2017 be received and signed as a true and accurate record

50. **Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest made.

51. **Planning Applications. (Received from the meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 7th August 2017)**

It was moved by Councillor Bury (Snr) 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 7th August 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.

01266/17 321 Manchester Rd erection of 1 detached dwelling

No members of the public spoke in connection with the application. Councillors commented that clarification should be sought regarding the land on which the application appeared as they felt that this land was privately owned and not Highways owned land. Therefore if access to the land had been given in writing by the owners of the land and that the set of bollards sited on the land was not a further indicator of privately owned land then they had no objections to the planning application but that full clarity should be sought in the first instance.

**01178/17 11 Blackhorse Street erection of 1st floor ext
above garage**

No member of the public spoke in this connection and council members voted in favour of the proposal.

**01247/17 land at Station Yard outline app for 12 residential
Dwellings access/ layout only**

Councillors discussed the proposal in detail and voted unanimously to object to the planning proposal on environmental grounds including the possibility of coal mining hazards and sewerage works locality.

52. 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.**

53. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

Feedback from 2nd site visit to Dark lane accompanied by Bolton Highways

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

The report presented is included at the end of the minutes as an appendix and includes points for discussion update/ action points

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted at this time with any further updates being presented to a future council meeting.**

54. 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 in addition to the feedback given by Councillors, queried what was happening with the funding provided to Bolton by the developers of Hill lane and could some of that money be used to improve the conditions being requested for Dark Lane such as a viewing mirror, clean up of the overhanging branches, undergrowth cut back.

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Several other residents spoke in connection with a spate of attempted burglaries in the village and asked what the police/ community policeman was doing about it.

(Several notifications with the PCSO details on were handed to residents following this item).

Resolved.

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

55. **Correspondence**

Bolton Council

Scot Lane Industrial Estate

The Town Clerk read a letter out from Planning Enforcement, previously circulated, in regard to the concerns raised by councillors regarding the over development on the Industrial Estate, together with H & S implications. Planning Enforcement have arranged a meeting with a member of the Town Council to visit the site in question and a report to be brought back to the Town Council thereafter.

The Enforcement Officer also informed council members that a breach of condition notice had also been served on the owners of the Industrial Estate in connection with another matter which had a compliance date of 20th August.

Resolved

- 1. Councillors members approved of this action.**

LALC

73rd AGM and Resolution Initiative.

The Town Clerk gave members a notification of the LALC Annual General Meeting date (Representative Cllr Price) to be held in November and having updated new members on how the process of Resolutions were administered, requested that Council members consider any Resolutions they may wish to forward to the LALC for consideration at that meeting. The Town Clerk requested that members bring Resolutions for consideration by vote to the next meeting of the Town Council.

Ruttles Transport

HGV Passage through Village

The Town Clerk read correspondence previously circulated, from the owner of Ruttles advising that following the complaints made by the Town Council he had advised all drivers to take an alternative route to the Hill lane development and that if vehicles are seen driving through the village rather than taking the route from the A6 through Dark Lane to Hill lane they are to be reported to Ruttles, with identification of number plate where possible.

Town Council members agreed that this was positive action but that the number of vehicles waiting to access the site, which are queuing on Vicarage Road West also needed reporting. *(A member of the public complained about all HGV vehicles driving through the village and was advised to bring number plate identification so that action could be taken)*

Resolution

1. **Any sightings by members of the Town Council should be reported to the Town Clerk for action.**

Post Office

Action being taken on concerns already Raised.

The Town Clerk read a letter, previously circulated, from the Post Office representative in connection with several concerns that had been raised by the Town Council on behalf of members of the public at a previous meeting. It detailed that:-

Free Use of ATM

This has not transpired at the agent in the Post Office is retaining his contract with a previous Provider.

Opening Hours

It was confirmed that the agent had been advised Of the hours of opening and had confirmed that These would be adhered to and products made Available during those shop opening hours.

Signage

The removal of the signage was being followed Up with the landlord of the property.

Privacy at Counter

This should improve as staff training becomes More apparent and the Post Office is also Looking at lines of demarcation of queuing points

Ward Councillor Feedback

£80K Town Centre monies

Following queries raised by Town Council members in connection with the monies allocated to the Town Centre Funding, Ward Councillor Pickup provided a written response which included that there was:-

No defined split of funding

The monies are intended to improve the town centres of both Horwich and Blackrod
The funds are required to be spent by 31st March 2018

There is no formal consultation process though suggestions are welcomed by all interested parties.

The monies are earmarked for 'one off capital projects (i.e. no ongoing maintenance costs) within a defined town centre area.

Councillor Pickup also thanked members for their ideas to date.

Members of the Town Council still felt that a meeting with the Ward Councillors would be beneficial in regard to suggestions for the Town Centre spend, It was therefore 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 write to the Ward Council members in regard to arranging a meeting between the Town Council and Ward Council to discuss the Town Centre monies further.**

Ward Councillor Feedback

Litter issues in Blackrod

The Town Clerk gave members an update on the request they had made to the Ward Councillors (Minute No 41) which asked what they had done in their roles as Ward Councillors in relation to the growing issues of litter in the village. The Town Clerk informed members present that she had received written responses from Ward Cllr Pickup and Ward Cllr Cunliffe and read the responses received.

Resolved

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

56. Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Update

An written update was provided by Councillor Bury (Snr) about the previous months activities and included updates in regard to the Housing Needs Survey, Consultancy updates and Topic Group Updates.

Resolved.

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

57. Request for Financial Assistance. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

The Town Clerk advised the Town Council that the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on the matter of the Housing Needs Survey of Blackrod had had a tremendous amount of support with almost a quarter of households returning the survey. This had resulted in a need for additional funds on top of the original amount which the Town Council had allocated to the spend on the Housing Needs Assessment. The additional funds required amount to £167.00 and that a request had been made to the Town Council for consideration, It was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That the additional funding of £167.00 be allocated to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for its work on the Housing Needs Assessment.**

58. South Ward Vacancy

The Town Clerk advised members that she had liaised with the Elections Officer in Bolton and was advising members that the current vacancy in the South Ward should be filled. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Bury(Snr) and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the Town Clerk advise the Elections Office that a vacancy for the South Ward should be advertised**
- 2. and that the Town Clerk commence the arrangements.**

59. Blackrod Litter picking group

Councillor Price introduced the topic of the possible creation of a Volunteer Litter Picking Group, for the village. Councillors heard the reasons behind the need for a possible group to be formed and Councillor Price said that he had already received some information both from Bolton Council and the Town Clerk on the matter. The Town Clerk stated that this kind of project has been talked about before but that had involved young children which this volunteer group would not. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Bury and

Resolved

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

- 2. That Councillor Price undertake further investigations in to the formation of a Volunteer Litter picking group and bring details back to a future council meeting.**

60. Professional Updating Opportunities

The Town Clerk gave members information in regard to various training courses that could be accessed on line by councillors.

Resolved.

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

61. Local Footpath conditions.

Councillor Price and Councillor Farrington both raised the issue of the condition of local footpaths and pavements within the village., It was noted that requests had been made for improvements to Bolton Council who had stated that funds for these areas had been spent. However it was noted by members that various roads and pathways were now in need of urgent work as there was a risk of H & S issues arising in various locations, particularly when some are a thoroughfare for children on their way to school. 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 a request be made to Bolton Council for an officer to attend and visit certain roadways within the village with a view to having a thorough examination of the current conditions.**

62. Waste Bins in the village areas

Councillor Farrington brought up the subject of the lack of waste disposal bins in the village, in particular those on the layby's on the A6 which is becoming a dumping ground for waste products as well as on Scot Lane, where a bin is required opposite Chamberlain Doors on the Industrial Estate which is catering for more and more vehicles and with it more dumping of litter and waste, 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 liaise with Bolton Council in respect of their requests for additional waste bins in the village and in particular on the areas noted.**

63. War Memorial Update.

Councillor Price gave members an update in regard to the proposals made by council members for a small piece of fencing to be erected around the cenotaph. Councillor Price indicated that talks were taking place with Bolton Officers and the War Memorial Office in this connection. Councillor Bury (Snr) also indicated that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would be interested in the information received as part of the groups work on local Heritage Topics. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Hollick and

Resolved.

- 1. That the update from Councillor Price be received and noted**
- 2. That additional information be brought to a future Council meeting ongoingly in this regard.**

64. Vehicles for sale on private strips of land.

Councillor Hollick raised the issue that was arising through the village of vehicles being left on strips of privately owned land (off the public Highway) for the purpose of sale. This was noted by most members present and other areas of land with vehicles for sale were also indicated. The Town Clerk gave an update about a recently reported similar situation which had now been remedied. It was the proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Price and

Resolved

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk continue to liaise with GMP in this connection.**

65. Signage on Hillside Avenue

Councillor Mrs Seddon brought up the subject of Hillside Avenue and drivers awareness of this area as a form of “concealed entrance” and members discussed ways in which it was felt that the road and access and redress could be better improved. Items discussed included taking a corner off the current bank: ensuring the grass length was kept to a minimum as well as the installation of a road mirror in the vicinity. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Seddon and seconded By Councillor Bury (Snr) and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. That the information be received and noted
2. That the own Clerk make a request to an officer from Highways to come and inspect the area with a view to suggesting any improvements which could be made to make the access to Hillside Avenue safer.

66. Finance (1)

The Town Clerk updated members that following purchases of noticeboards, seating, planters and funds to support the Neighbourhood Plan Housing Survey that the Community Project funds were now considerably low and recommended to members that some of the unused funds within the Contingency Funds be moved to the Community Projects Fund in order to allow for future projects to be developed. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Bury(Snr) and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. That the update be received and noted
2. That the Town Clerk transfer an appropriate amount of funds between the Contingency Fund and Community Project Funds of approximately £4000.00

67. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues

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

Grids on Dark Lane
A6 Drainage issues
Manchester Road
Hope Street

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.

68. Finance (2)

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 £3075.93(three thousand and seventy five pounds 93p) dated 7th August 2017.**
- 2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.**

69. Site Visits

No site visits were elected

Councillor Farrington asked members to note that he would be meeting with an officer from Bolton on 8th August in connection to year long complaints regarding Scot Lane Industrial Estate and a report would be forthcoming for a future meeting

70. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

The Town Clerk updated members on a request from the new PCSO in regard to the setting up of the old PACT meetings. The Town Clerk had reminded the PCSO that these meetings were the responsibility of the GMP and not the Town Council but that she would try to assist where possible.

Agenda Items for September 4th Meeting given at the meeting.

3.5 ton van
Street signage in Blackrod

71. List of Outstanding Correspondence Resolved

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

72. Reports from Ward Councillors

No reports were received from Ward Councillors

73. *The next item on the Agenda was heard in the absence of public and press*

The Town Clerk updated members in regard to an item in regard to the CCG and NHS. Members expressed their concerns in this area and it was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour by all present and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted with concern**
- 2. That the Town Clerk liaise with all parties to arrange a meeting as soon as possible to seek update and clarity on the matter noted.**

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 4th September 2017 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Signed.....Chairman