

## **Blackrod Town Council**

### **Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

#### **Present**

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

Councillors

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

**Also Present:** Mrs S Lewis (**Town Clerk**) 33 members of the public

#### **74, Apologies for Absence**

All Town Councillors present  
Apologies were received Ward Councillor Mr Stephen Pickup

#### **75. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

It was moved by Councillor Farrington 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 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017 be received and signed as a true and accurate record.**

#### **76. Declarations of Interest:**

**Councillor Mrs 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.**

<b>Councillor Mrs Cunliffe</b>	<b>Agenda Item 11</b>	<b>Trustee Request</b>
<b>Councillor Mr Farrington</b>	<b>Agenda Item 11</b>	<b>Donation Request</b>

**77. Planning Applications. (Received from the meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017)**

It was moved by Councillor Bury (Snr) and seconded by Councillor Farrington 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 4<sup>th</sup> September 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.**

<b>01660/17</b>	<b>Blackrod Primary School</b>	<b>Various extensions</b>
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No members of the public spoke in connection with the application. Councillors noted the changes to the school and recorded them as an excellent move for the generations of children who require a school place in their own town and voted in favour of the application.

<b>01615/17</b>	<b>Units 14a- 14n Blackrod Indl Est</b>	<b>Removal of Conditions.</b>
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No member of the public spoke in this connection. Councillors voted to object to the removal of conditions applied to the development at Blackrod Industrial Estate noting that the conditions were placed on the planning decision for a reason and that they should be fully adhered to and there was no reason to remove them.

<b>01525/17</b>	<b>land off Moss Lane</b>	<b>Removal of conditions</b>
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Councillors first noted that the comments from Bolton's Regulatory Pollution Unit set against this application were in fact comments in regard to a Cotton Works at Halliwell, which had no connection to the application being heard. Councillors also noted that the hours of operation had already been approved by Bolton Council Planning Dept as part of the application decision and queried the evidence in regard to noise assessments. Members therefore objected to the removal of condition 15 and requested that it remain in force.

**78. 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.**

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

**Bolton Council**

**Additional Feedback 1 and 2 from agenda in relation to Councillors visit to Dark Lane and questions raised with Bolton Officers.**

*(Members also took feedback from a resident in this connection which had been listed on the agenda under correspondence. It was also noted that the resident was thankful of all the work that the Town Council had contributed to the latest developments in the area).*

Councillor Price stated that the response that had been received from Bolton's Officers in regard to the first visit to Dark Lane had answered if not resolved, most of the points which had been raised. It was noted that the speed limit on Dark Lane had been reviewed and a 20mph speed limit at the junction of Hill lane up to and including No 18 Dark Lane welcomed in the first instance. Additional comments in regard to the lighting of Dark Lane were also noted with the costs associated with this work being prohibitive from Blackrod Town Council's perspective. However, it was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Farrington voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk liaise with Bolton Council in connection with Section 106 monies relating to the development at Hill lane and possible improvements to the area which may include the costs associated with the lighting and road improvements.**

## **Bolton Council**

## **Proposed Zebra Crossings**

The Town Clerk asked members present to consider the proposal being presented for a zebra crossing outside Blackrod Primary School and offer comments where necessary. Councillor Mrs Cunliffe stated that both the school parents and children had been requesting a crossing at this location for a long while. Councillor Hollick asked if this meant that the school crossing patrol was being abandoned. Councillor Mrs Cunliffe confirmed that this was not the case and that zebra crossings were being placed in locations outside schools across the borough. Councillor Price offered an alternative location for a zebra crossing to be installed stating that the location outside the primary school was the least pedestrianised and that Station Road would be a more beneficial location for those crossing a very busy road. The Town Clerk reminded members that the agenda item was to consider support/ objection for the zebra crossing location outside Blackrod Primary School on Manchester Road. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and seconded by Councillor Bury(Jnr) and voted in favour and

### **Resolved.**

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk advise Bolton Council of the support for the Zebra Crossing with a proviso that this had no impact on the role of the School crossing patrol staff.**

## **Bolton Council**

## **Scot Lane Breaches of Planning**

Councillor Farrington gave members an update in regard to the communication received from Bolton's Enforcement Team in regard to breaches of planning conditions observed at Scot lane Industrial Estate and of the visit which had been undertaken by himself and the Enforcement Officer. Action has been taken by Bolton Council and currently outcomes of the Enforcement Visit are awaited. Chairperson Councillor Mrs Seddon

asked members to note the tenacity in which Councillor Farrington had pursued the Health and Safety concerns on the industrial estate for a very lengthy period of time, resulting in this latest outcome by Enforcement. Members present noted their approval to Councillor Farrington.

**Resolved.**

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

**80. Public Participation**

**Resolved:**

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

A resident spoke again in connection with Dark Lane and listed several points which she would still be pursuing with Bolton Council in this connection, they included footpath/ undergrowth/gritting/signage/weight limits/ speed limits. The resident reiterated her thanks to the Town Council for their continued support.

Another resident queried whether or not the Newsagents on New Street had received planning permission for the flashing lights linked to signage.  
*(The Town Clerk stated she would check on the situation)*

Another resident spoke in connection with Dark Lane in regard to ownership of certain land parts and stated that this was being pursued with various personnel.

A group of residents then spoke in connection with a residential development in the village which had appeared without any formal consultation with any parties. Various members of the public voiced their concerns about vandalism, increase in attempted burglaries, lack of respect and abuse being given by residents of the residential house, the number of times police had been called to the house which appeared to have no impact, low staff numbers and gave a general request to know what type of residential house this was and how it had come about in Blackrod without any prior knowledge being given.

*(The Town Clerk informed those present that the Town Council had already written to the Police ( at Commander level) regarding this situation when it had been reported at the last meeting who in turn had acknowledged the Town Council's concerns and that a report/ meeting with police officers had been arranged to update on the situation, which she hoped to bring back to the next council meeting).*

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the information received in this connection be noted with concern**
- 2. That the Town Clerk be tasked with contacting the owners of the home to establish what the residency was about:**
- 3. That the Town Clerk make contact with the police to receive further updates in connection with complaints made.**

**Resolved.**

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

81. **Correspondence**

**Blackrod Community Centre**

**Trustee Request**

The Town Clerk read a letter out from the secretary of Blackrod Sports & Community Centre, previously circulated to members, which outlined a request for the Town Council to nominate up to two named individuals to act as Trustees for the newly formed Sports and Community Centre Group. The Town Clerk informed members that she did not feel that the Town Council should be put in the position of naming members of the community who could undertake these roles and recommended that the Town Council decline the request. Council members agreed with the Town Clerks decision.

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the information received be noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk advise the Secretary of the Blackrod Community Centre Group of the decision.**

**Donation Request**

**Methodist Church. Letter of thanks.**

The Town Clerk read a letter of thanks from a representative of the Methodist church, thanking the council for their donation and providing an update as to the current situation which he would keep council members informed.

**Resolved.**

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

## **Donation Request**

## **Blackrod, Haigh and Aspull Ploughing**

The Town Clerk read a letter of request for a financial donation towards the Blackrod, Aspull and Haigh Annual Ploughing event. The Town Clerk informed members that an amount for this event had been included in the annual estimates received by members in January. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour and

### **Resolved.**

- 1. That the request be received and noted**
- 2. That a donation amount of £250.00 be awarded to the event and the Town Clerk arrange payment.**

## **82. Updated list of Items sent for consideration through the £80K Town Centre monies**

The Town Clerk informed members that there had been a good response by members and residents to ideas forwarded to the Ward Councillors for Blackrod & Horwich for items for consideration to be purchased through the Town Centre Funding. These included:

Traffic Lights for Scot Lane

Traffic calming measures on Vicarage Road

Flower baskets holders returned to the lamps throughout the village

Play area repairs at Scot lane

Roundabout at Hill lane

CCTV in Town Centre

Improved parking scheme for the retail area

Resurfacing of Chorley Brow Pavements

Contributing to the street furniture costs outside the library

Wild flower displays

A plaque in centre of village details aspects of Blackrod/ map etc

Increase improvements in disabled parking facilities in the village

Car Park improvements opposite the Methodist Church

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 re-proposed by Councillor Batchelor 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 the Ward Council members in regard to arranging a meeting between the Town Council and Ward Council to discuss the Town Centre monies further.**

**83. Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Update**

An written / verbal update was provided by Councillor Bury (Snr) about the previous months activities and included updates in regard to the heritage aspect of the plan/ topic groups targeting identified organisations and to note that a PhD Researcher had asked to meet with the Steering Group in connection with the work of the Plan.

**Resolved.**

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

**84. Consideration of Resolution to be forwarded to the Annual General Meeting of the LALC in November.**

Council members were asked to consider resending the Resolution which had been carried for the 2016 AGM, where the LALC were asked to debate whether or not a member of the Town Council could also be a member of the Borough Council. The Town Clerk reminded those present that the proposer of any Resolutions passed had also to attend the Annual AGM together with the seconded of the motion. Council members voted to send the Resolution which was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Bury (Jnr) and voted in favour

**Resolved**

- 1. That the Resolution be received, noted and agreed and forwarded to the LALC for consideration at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.**

**85. South Ward Vacancy**

The Town Clerk advised members that she had liaised with the Elections Officer in Bolton and understood that no election had been called for through the appropriate legal channels for the South Ward and therefore proposed that the vacancy be filled

through the method of Co-option. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Price and approved by all and

**Resolved.**

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

**86. Resurfacing Works (Highways Capital Bid Programme)**

Councillor Bury (Jnr) provided members with a list of suggestions for repairs to road surfaces throughout areas of the village. Council members added Vicarage Road from the junction of Manchester Road up to Vicarage Road West to the list. Councillor Bury advised that the list was a suggested list at this stage and that it would be put forward in due course.

**Resolved**

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That Councillor Bury inform the town council when decisions had been made.**

**87. Street Signage**

Councillor Price made Councillors aware of the lack of street signage in the village for areas such as Cricket Club and other organisations used by the general public. Councillor Price advised that he had been made aware that this type of signage was the responsibility of the organisers of those venues to seek to erect signage and with it the costs/ planning matters themselves.

**Resolved.**

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

**88. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues**

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

The mess on footpaths in various locations in Blackrod with grass/ moss  
The routes to school being overgrown and slippery

Footpath No 17 with overgrown trees ( reported)  
Vehicles being washed off Industrial Estate at Scot lane with waste water flowing in to the stream containing detergents/ oil etc.

*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.

89. **Finance**

It was moved by Councillor Hollick 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 £4487.14( four thousand four hundred and eighty seven pounds 14p) dated 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017.
2. That the chairman, clerk and 2 members sign a transfer from the deposit account to the main account for £500.00
3. That the chairman, clerk and 2 members sign a transfer from the deposit account to the Community Project account of £168.00
4. That the chairman, clerk and 2 members sign a transfer from the contingency account to the community project account for £4000.00
5. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.

90. **Site Visits**

No site visits were elected. However, councillors were asked to make note of pavements in need of repair/ cleaning whilst walking through the village.

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

**Agenda Items for October 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting given at the meeting.**

Antisocial behaviour  
Zebra Crossings  
Environment Visit

Councillor Price  
Councillor Hollick  
Councillor Farrington ( if responses received)

**92. List of Outstanding Correspondence Resolved**

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

**93. Reports from Ward Councillors**

No reports were received from Ward Councillors but Councillor Bury (Jnr) as a Ward Councillor stated he had noted issues which had been raised at the meeting.

**The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 at 7pm.**

**The meeting closed at 9.15 pm**

**Signed.....Chairman**