

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 2nd October 2017

Present

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

Councillors

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

Also Present: Mrs S Lewis (**Town Clerk**) 26 members of the public & One member of
GMP

Prior to the commencement of the meeting proper, council members and residents alike heard from PC David Heald of GMP in response to Minute No 90 (17/18) in regard to complaints received regard the residential housing project known as Phoenix Project ran by Next Stage Management Company, together with any other issue that residents wished to bring to the attention of the Police Officer. PC Heald covered all points raised by the public in regard to the residential project where possible as well as listening to additional complaints in its regard which were being made and other issues such as attempted break-ins to property and businesses. The Town Mayor as Chairman and members of the Town Council and residents present thanked PC Heald for his attendance in response to both theirs and general public request.

94. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Bury (Jnr) and Councillor Price and their reasons for absence were accepted.

95. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 4th September 2017

The Town Clerk indicated an omission which had been declared. 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 4th September 2017 be received and signed as a true and accurate record with an amendment at Minute No 76 to include a declaration by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe in regard to the item detailed at Minute No 86 (Highways Capital Bid programme)

96. **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.

97. **Planning Applications. (Received from the meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 2nd October 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 2nd October 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.

01751/17

40, Meadow Way

Erection of 1st floor ext
At side/ single ext at rear
And loft conversion with
Dormers side & rear.

No members of the public spoke in connection with the application. Councillors Discussed the application and proposed to offer no comment in its regard.

01774/17

77-79 Church Street

conversion of ground floor
To 2 shops incl single storey

Ext at front of No 79

Councillors heard objections from members of the public and following discussion objected to the current plans on the grounds of what was felt as misleading information in the application, together with concerns in regard to access and parking issues.

98. 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.**

99. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

Residents letter

Dark Lane

The Town Clerk requested that the author of the letter address her further concerns to members of the Town Council, which was agreed. The letter included thanks to a variety of persons and organisations for the current help she had received with matters to date but outlined her further requests for assistance in a letter to Bolton Council, in regard to Weight limits: Drainage: Construction of a footpath and signage. It was proposed by Councillor Batchelor and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted with support.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk liaise with the resident and Bolton Council in connection with the matters which have been raised with Bolton Council.**

100. Public Participation

Resolved:

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

A resident spoke in connection with the flooding of houses alongside the development at Blackhorse Street, caused through the drainage issues on the development. The resident also stated that these issues had been raised with Bolton Planning at the start of the planning application stage and hadn't been addressed then and the current flooding was a direct cause and wanted Blackrod Council to note her extreme disappointment with Bolton's planning procedures.

It was also noted that the Care Home on the other side of the development had also been affected by the issues with flooding caused by the same drainage issues on the land being developed at Blackhorse Street.

Another resident asked if it was possible for the Town Council to request a waste bin be placed on Dark Lane and Blundell Lane, where the rubbish is accumulating and where evidence of apparatus involved in drug misuse could be found.

Again, a resident raised the issues of grass cutting and indicated an area within Little Scotland where the grass was extremely untidy and water flowing out of blocked drains.

Resolved.

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

101. **Correspondence**

Blackrod Finger Posts

Horwich Resident's letter.

The Town Clerk read a letter addressed to Ward Councillor Pickup and copied to the Town Council in regard to the Blackrod Finger Posts, regarding the paintwork of the posts which had gone from being black and white hoops to all over black, which the resident felt was a highway safety issue. It was stated by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe that the black paintwork had been as a request from the Town Council in 2012/2013, which Councillor Hollick disagreed with but The Town Clerk stated that she would look in to this minuted item and in the meantime await an answer from Ward Councillor Pickup on the matter before sending concerns on behalf of the Town Council.

(n.b. following a check on the minutes, the only minuted items in connection with the finger posts was at Minute No 181 (Feb 2015) which was a series of photographs being sent to Bolton Council with a request for the finger posts to be cleaned and repainted. No indication of colour was given. A second Minute No 204 in March 2015 also addressed the maintenance and cleaning request which was also sent to Bolton Council, again with no direct request of colour. Following correspondence with a Bolton Officer it has been confirmed that painting the bottoms of the signposts black would not make any difference to the

visibility of the signpost. I have forwarded this correspondence on to Ward Councillor Pickup for his information. Town Clerk.)

Blackrod Resident

Map Feature. Town Council Website

The Town Clerk read a letter from a local resident regarding the map which is shown on the Town Council Website. The resident queried whether or not a more informed map could be put on the website, identifying places of public interest such as local churches, Health Centre etc and perhaps include artists impressions. The Town Clerk advised members that she had spoken to the administrator for the council website in regard to a more digital, interactive based map but also advised members that the Town Council could not be seen to be promoting businesses within the area. It was therefore

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk seek further advise from the Website administrator as to costs and associated works that would be involved if this project went ahead**
- 3. That the Town Clerk update the Town Council at a future meeting.**

102. Land at Blackhorse Street.

The Town Clerk read a letter which had been received from the developers at the former Waste recycling site, which asked the Town Council's opinion on names for the site once completed which would then to be forwarded to Bolton Council by themselves (Wiggett Homes) The Town Clerk advised members that as a Town Council they were also a legal consultee and would therefore also receive notification from Bolton Council as per Bolton Council's policy for consultation in regard to this area in due course Re. suitable names. Several names were put forward and it was therefore proposed by councillor Bury (Snr) and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour by all and

Resolved

- 1. That the letter be received and information noted**
- 2. That the name Nightingale should be included in the street name, followed by Mews or Close whichever is in keeping with Bolton Council's Policy.**
- 3. That the Town Clerk advise Wiggett Homes of the Council's decision.**

103. Town Council's External Audit for year ending 31st March 2017

The Town Clerk submitted the Notice of Completion of the Town Council's Annual External Audit for the year ending 31st March and updated members on its report and contents. There were no matters arising from the auditors. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour by all present and

Resolved.

- 1. That the Annual Return and External Auditors report for the year ending 31st March 2017 be approved and accepted by the Town Council**
- 2. That the Town Council be thanked for the hard work undertaken over the past year in fully preparing all matters for audit.**

104. **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 Key Issues and Topic Group updates and identifying the next step of the processes which will include policy mapping. An invitation was also extended to members of the Council in regard to a steering group meeting which will be held with external personnel responsible for Social Car. It was proposed by Councillor Bury and seconded by Councillor Hollick and

Resolved.

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

105. **Update Re South Ward Council vacancy.**

The Town Clerk updated members on the current vacancy, which following no call for a Bi Election will now go to external advert as a co-opted role. The Town Clerk also confirmed that in keeping with openness and transparency she would prepare a Co-option procedure for full council approval. It was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and voted in favour by those present and

Resolved

- 1. That the update be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk keep the council informed on-goingly.**

106. **Zebra Crossings in village.**

Councillor Hollick informed members that as the Primary school on Manchester Road was to receive a zebra crossing as identified by Bolton Council, that the Town Council should support and request a school zebra crossing for Blackrod Church School on Vicarage Road to be installed. It was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and voted in favour and

Resolved

1. That the information be received and noted
2. That the Town Clerk write to Bolton Council on behalf of the Town Council to request consideration be given to the installation of a school zebra crossing at the appropriate point on vicarage Road.

107. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues

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

The condition of Grimeford Lane due to mud and blocked gulleys
Maintenance of footpaths with subsidence becoming a hazard on Vicarage Road
And Ridgeway
Tarmac road deterioration at Little Scotland

It was also indicated that the vegetation required cutting back on Dark Lane but this had been identified by Bolton Council as private land and therefore not cut. However, it was mentioned that Hill Lane had had their hedges etc cut back by Bolton Council and that this was felt to be private land. Therefore it was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Hollick and Voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. That the Town Clerk write to Blackrod Ward Councillors asking them to obtain information as to whether or not the land on Hill lane (as identified)was belonging to Bolton Council or the developers

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.

108. Finance

It was moved by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Bury(snr) and voted in favour by all and

Resolved

1. **That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £4038.65(four thousand and thirty eight pounds 65p) dated 2nd October 2017.**
2. **That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.**

109. **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.

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

Other Matters

Councillor Farrington updated members on his visit to the cul de sac off Scot Lane accompanied by a Bolton Officer to check out the situation in regard to parking problems. The officer had informed Councillor Farrington that a T Bar would prove to be ineffective and that yellow lines would just displace the parking issues elsewhere. (A report will be forwarded by the Bolton Officer)

Councillor Farrington also informed members that as part of the visit above, himself and the Bolton Officer had also looked at the request for a mirror to be positioned opposite Heroes Bar on Manchester Road to assist drivers coming out of the road behind Heroes which is becoming a serious hazard. Councillor Farrington informed members that the Bolton Council Officer had stated that the Ministry of Transport would not allow a mirror at this location and that part of the solution would be to suggest to those living in the area to lower their fence to aid visibility where the entrance was: or cut back the bush which was causing some visibility issues. **(The matter was noted but no action suggested at the meeting).**

Councillor Farrington also thanked the Town Council for their offer of a donation for the ploughing competition but that due to extremely bad weather this event had had to be cancelled and therefore no donation had been taken.

Councillor Hollick raised concerns regarding the building work at 'The Paddock' and the fact that the houses appeared to be 3 storeys. ***(The Town Clerk said she would revisit the planning application and update him when she had the information to hand. This had taken place with the Town Clerk confirming that the planning application had identified bedroom space on the 3rd floor)***

Agenda Items for November 6th Meeting given at the meeting.

Antisocial behaviour Councillor Price (deferred at October meeting)

**111. List of Outstanding Correspondence
Resolved**

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

112. Reports from Ward Councillors

No reports were received from Ward Councillors

(Councillor Cunliffe was asked by the Chairman for any updates she may have but the Town Council was informed that she was at the meeting as a Town Councillor and not a Ward Councillor so could not update on any matters at that time)

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 2nd October 2017 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed.....Chairman