

## **Blackrod Town Council**

### **Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

#### **Present**

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

Councillors

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

**Also Present:** Mrs S Lewis (**Town Clerk**) Ward Councillor Pickup 19 members of the public

#### **113. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Batchelor and the reason for absence accepted.

#### **114. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe 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 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 be received and signed as a true and accurate record.**

#### **115. 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 as a Bolton Councillor on any applications when submitted to Bolton Planning Committee.**

**116. Planning Applications. (Received from the meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 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 6<sup>th</sup> November 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.

**02040/17                      9, Greenbarn way                      Erection of single storey  
Extension at side.**

No member of the public spoke in connection with the application and following discussion councillors voted to approve the application.

**02125/17                      Yates farm                      Raising of ridge height  
By 1.2mtrs inc alterations  
To dormers.**

No member of the public spoke in connection with the planning application and after some consideration as to the improvements to the property councillors offered no objections to the plans.

**02118/17                      1, Metcalfe's Yard                      discharge of various conditions**

Following a discussion on the request for the discharge of conditions placed on planning application 00930/17 councillors voted to object to the conditions being removed due to conflicting information contained in the reports, including those from Bolton Officers, which requests that a watching brief during construction and a verification report to fully discharge certain conditions. Councillors voted to request Bolton Council defer any decision making on this application until such time all conditions have been fully met and approved by Bolton Council.

***(N.B. Due to the possibility of confusion arising, the Town Clerk will provide additional information on future applications to discharge at the next appropriate opportunity)***

**117. 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.**

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

**Bolton Council**

**Scot Lane Industrial Estate  
(2<sup>nd</sup> update)**

The Town Clerk provided members with a written report from the Bolton Officer in regard to earlier reports which had outlined issues arising on the Scot lane Industrial Estate. The report was spoken to by Councillor Farrington and covered items such as unauthorised use of storage, breach of various conditions and unauthorised use. Councillor Farrington expressed concerns again in regard to the position of mine shafts on the industrial estate and the lack of planning applications for several premises which were operating from the industrial Estate. Councillor Farrington proposed that a letter be sent to The Environmental Agency in regard to the matters which had been discussed and it was proposed by councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Hollick and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the information be received and noted..**
- 2. That the Town Clerk write to the Environmental Agency outlining the Town Council's continued concerns over the issue with both Coal Mines in the vicinity and premises which have no planning approval on the site.**

**119. Public Participation**

**Resolved:**

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

*Prior to the commencement of the public participation part of the meeting- item 1 , a resident who wished to speak on a planning matter requested that Councillor Mrs Cunliffe should leave the room. Councillor Mrs Cunliffe volunteered to leave the room until the matter had been spoken about.*

A resident spoke in connection with earlier reports of flooding on the development site, which were getting worse and supplied photographic evidence for council members.. The resident also stated that these issues were being continually raised with Bolton Planning, Bolton Enforcement and Bolton Floodrisk as well as at the start of the planning application stage and still hadn't been addressed. It was also noted that the developers were pumping water from the site continually despite there having been no rain and that it had been previously noted as part of planning objections that there was the possibility of a pond having been previously in place directly under the ground surface. The resident spoke in connection with documents which had originally been on the planning portal and were now classified as being of a sensitive nature and made a request for assistance in obtaining the information contained in these documents to see what had actually been resolved in connection with the drainage and flooding.

Additional residents stated that water/ flooding was also apparent on Thirlmere Avenue as well as Rydal Close and along Chorley Road and that concerns should be sent to various agencies and Bolton Council.

*(The Town Clerk requested that Councillor Mrs Cunliffe return to the meeting)*

Another resident asked if members knew about the development of bungalows on Grimeford Lane

*(The Town Clerk confirmed that the planning application had come before the Town Council some time ago and had been approved by Bolton Council and that she would supply a copy of the planning application if the resident would like to contact her)*

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### **Resolved.**

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

## 120. **Correspondence**

### **Bolton Council (Via Ward Councillor Response) Hedge Trimming on Hill lane.**

The Town Clerk provided members with a response (previously sent) from Bolton Neighbourhood Services, which had been forwarded to the Town Council from Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe following the Town Council's request to the Ward Councillor's for clarification on a matter of hedgerow cutting on Hill Lane.

Neighbourhood Services response indicated that the hedgerows recently cut on Hill Lane formed part of the adopted highway and therefore do fall within Bolton Council's remit for maintenance. Councillor Farrington indicated that there was clearly an issue when Bolton Council did not know what was adopted highway and what was private land and if that was their answer then the same resolve should be given to land down Dark Lane. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Hollick and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the information from Bolton Council be received**
- 2. That this information be again clarified with Bolton Neighbourhood Services**
- 3. That the issue of hedge cutting along Dark Lane be re explored.**

**L.A. L.C**

**AGM Update (Resolution & Debate)**

The Town Clerk provided members with an update from the Lancashire Association of Councils, following the Town Council Resolution proposal to the Association for consideration at the forthcoming AGM. The Town Clerk informed members that she had received a communication from the Chief Executive Officer of the LALC requesting that due to its content/ nature the item which had been suggested be moved to the Open Forum part of the AGM Agenda where it would receive more debate and consideration. Members agreed that this was an excellent step and it was

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the information on the LALC AGM be received and noted with great interest**
- 2. That those members attending the AGM feed back to the Town Council when time allows on this matter.**

**Bolton Council Update**

**Resident Memorium Request**

The Town Clerk updated members on a request which had been made by a resident to Bolton Council in regard to the resident taking over and maintaining patches of Bolton Council owned land with a view to creating a Memorial garden at their own expense. This had been agreed, with conditions, by Bolton Council's Director of Place and the information been given to the resident concerned. The Town Clerk will work with the resident to ensure all conditions are met. The resident had offered his appreciation for the assistance that the Town Clerk/ Town Council had given on this matter and further updates will follow in due course/ on-going in its connection.

**121. Development at Blackhorse Street.**

The Town Clerk referred to earlier communications in regard to offering names for the proposed development at Blackhorse Street and asked Council members to consider the proposals which had been forwarded to them for consideration from Bolton Council as per Bolton's policy for street naming. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Bury(Snr) and

**Resolved**

- 1. That the request be received and noted**
- 2. That the name Nightingale Gardens be forwarded to Bolton Council as per their Naming Policy.**

*(At this point it was brought to the Town Council's attention that another street had been named in the village and that this had not come through the Town Council for consideration. The Town Clerk stated that she would mention this to the department concerned.)*

122. **Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Update**

An written / verbal update was provided by Councillor Bury (Snr) about the previous months activities and included a statement to the Town Council which had been brought to the attention of the Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group that, in certain quarters, the group had been accused of being politically motivated. The members of the Steering Group wanted it known that they take great exception to these unfounded accusations. It was reiterated that although from a legal point of view the group had to act under the umbrella of the Town Council, the group members are drawn from the Blackrod Community itself acting solely for the good of the community and as such are totally apolitical. The spokesperson for the group requested that the Town Council members confirm that they offer full support to the Steering Group for all the work which has taken place and for their future endeavours. This was proposed by Councillor Bury (Jnr) and seconded by Councillor Hollick and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the updates from Councillor Bury be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Town Council give their full support to the work of the Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.**

123. **Co option Procedure for adoption**

The Town Clerk outlined that in order to be fully transparent in matters involving the appointment of new council members outside the election process the Town Council should have its own Co-option process which would be drawn down from best practices. The Town Clerk provided members with a procedure process for

consideration. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Price and approved by all and

**Resolved**

- 1. That the Co-option procedure and process for Blackrod Town Council be received, approved and adopted with the inclusion of members to be present at any process to be made up of the majority of council members.**

**124. South Ward Vacancy Update**

The Town Clerk informed members that the closing date had passed for those members of the public who wished to be considered for the Co-opted role of Town Council member. The Town Clerk advised members that she would be inviting candidates to an extraordinary meeting of the Town Council, where a selection of new candidate would be made by members of the Town Council. Summons and advices to the meeting would follow in due course.

**Resolved.**

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

**125. Anti-Social behaviour Issues**

Councillor Price and Councillor Farrington spoke on the topic of the increase in anti social behaviour within the village including additional attempted robberies; petty crime; car chases through the village; increased litter and other aspects. Councillor Price spoke in connection with an item from a previous agenda when it was proposed that a meeting take place with the management of the Phoenix House project as well as receiving input from the GMP on the matter and asked if a meeting with the management of the project had been able to be arranged as residents within parts of Blackrod were aware that a meeting had taken place and that an updated sheet of information had been put through doors of local residents. The Town Clerk advised that she had managed to provide input from a member of GMP who had spoken to residents at a recent Council meeting but that the meeting with local management of Phoenix House had not gone ahead as the management there had stated that they had already met with a council representative and a member of the local community. When asked, the Town Clerk was able to respond that the meeting had been arranged and taken place with Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe which was not in her capacity as a Town Councillor. When asked to comment on this meeting, Councillor Mrs Cunliffe felt she was unable to update members of the Town Council as she was present at the Town Council meeting as a Town Councillor and not a Ward Councillor. Following concerns that a meeting had gone ahead without the knowledge of the Town Council and that no report had been given to the Town Council from Mrs Cunliffe in her capacity as a Ward Councillor for the Blackrod area it was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

### **Resolved**

- 1. That the Town Council note their concerns that no update had been received on this matter from Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe**
- 2. That the Town Clerk write to Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe requesting a written report on the meeting with Phoenix House and outcomes from that meeting.**

### **126. Contacting local MP in regard to the reduction of policing within Blackrod.**

Councillor Bury (Snr) spoke in connection with the lack of policing available within Blackrod and surrounding areas, which was clearly evident due to the increase in reported and unreported crime levels in the area as well as increases in anti social behaviour issues. Councillor Farrington mentioned that residents had received a letter from the current MP in regard to these self same issues. Councillors stated that it may be necessary to invite the local MP to a meeting with residents in order that he hear their views first hand. It was thereby proposed by Councillor Bury and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour by all and

### **Resolved**

- 1. That the item be heard with concern**
- 2. That in the first instance, the Town Clerk write to the local MP and Mayor of Greater Manchester outlining the Town Councils concerns over the decrease in police man power to the area.**

### **127. Blackhorse Street Development Update.**

The Town Clerk provided members with an outline of the Blackhorse Street development and updated members on current activities in its regard. This included the talks that had taken place with members of the Town Council and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group with the developers currently on Blackhorse Street. The update included the offer from the developer for the Town Council to be given/ leased the land identified as public parking and the area currently containing the plough and Christmas tree as well as the public right of way that runs through the development. The Town Clerk advised members that she would have concerns in regard to the council taking over the maintenance of the Public Right of Way and outlined various reasons and advised council members that this part of the offer should be refused but that the offer to place bollards at the openings to the public right of way by the developers should go ahead. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Bury and voted in favour and

### **Resolved.**

- 1. That the information be received and noted#**
- 2. That the Town Clerk advise the developer of the Town Council's decisions re the offers of pieces of land and update members of the Town Council ongoingly.**



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

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

Little Scotland further deterioration on road  
Roman Way – all grass verges churned up and tarmac split  
Gas repairs taking place on Hill Lane  
Tree situation on private properties. Requiring inspection by Highways in regard to leaves and overhanging branches

*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.**

**128. Finance**

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

**Resolved**

- 1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £3866.33 ( three thousand eight hundred and sixty six pounds 33p) dated 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017.**
- 2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.**

**129. Site Visits**

No site visits were elected.

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

**Other Matters**

Councillor Price asked if the flag had been ordered for the building in front of Remembrance Services at the forthcoming weekend. *(The Town Clerk informed members that this was in hand)*

The Town Clerk requested clarification as to the address/ location of the broken school sign which required replacement.

**Agenda Items for December meeting.**

7.5 ton limits on roads leading in to Blackrod (Councillor Price)  
Station Road – additional barrier (Councillor Price)

131. **List of Outstanding Correspondence**

**Resolved**

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

132. **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 and that She had provided the Town Clerk with any updates on matters that she had been written to about. Members of the Town Council outlined their disappointment in the lack of information and updates being provided by the Ward Councillors on matters that may be of interest to the residents of Blackrod.*

*Ward Councillor Pickup had been present at the meeting but had to leave the meeting prior to the agenda item being presented.*

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed.....Chairman