

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 4th December 2017

Present

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

Councillors

Mr A Bury (Snr)
Mr G Farrington
Mr S Batchelor
Mr J Price
Mr A Bury (Jnr)
Mrs S Warburton

Also Present: Mrs S Lowis (**Town Clerk**) and 28 members of the public

Prior to the commencement of the meeting proper, the newly co-opted member of the Town Council for the South Ward made the Declaration of the Acceptance of Office in the prescribed form to the Town Clerk and Proper Officer of the Town Council. The Chairman of the council then welcomed the new member and requested that Councillor Mrs Warburton take her seat at the council table and the meeting commenced.

133. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and Councillor Hollick and the reason for absence accepted.

134. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 6th November 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 6th November 2017 be received and signed as a true and accurate record.**

135. **Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest declared.

136. **Planning Applications. (Received from the meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 4th December 2017)**

It was moved by Councillor Bury (Snr) and seconded by Councillor Price 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 4th December, 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.

**02278/17 Hillcroft, Dark Lane Change of use &
Conversion of grazing
Land to domestic curtilage**

Councillors heard from members of the public in regard to the planning application, where concerns over access were made. Councillors voted to object to the current application on the grounds of development on green belt land, which would set a precedent for the future.

**02368/17 141, New Street conversion and change of
Use from vacant public
House to 6 residential s/c
Flats and alterations to
Side elevation.**

Council members raised the question that this was not a conversion and change of use of a public house as the property is already a multiple dwelling house. Councillors also raised concerns in regard to the outlined parking areas and queried that the marked area would not be big enough to contain 6 parking places and queried whether or not the proposal for parking was in keeping with Bolton's parking policy, when 5 of the 6 flats are 2 bedroomed properties. Councillors also requested that any renovation to the property retained the features at the front of the building.

02295/17 13 ESkdale Ave Erection of single storey ext

At rear.

Councillors raised no objections to the planning application providing that nearby neighbours raised no concerns.

137. 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.**

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138. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

Residents Letter

**Dark Lane (Additional update
Following viewing of video clips)**

Councillors read a letter sent from a resident to an officer in Bolton's Highways division in regard to the ongoing requests for safety measures to be put in to place on Dark Lane, Blackrod, particularly a pedestrian walkway and speed restrictions. Councillors also received a copy of an email from Bolton's Senior Engineering Manager in this regard which stated that to undertake such works would be too expensive and that Bolton Council did not have the funds for such works. Councillors considered the issues again and a query was raised as to how much the development on Hill lane was contributing to the S106 funds held by Bolton. 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 Bolton in regard to the Section 106 funds to ascertain how much money was being contributed by the developer and what it was being used for.**

Bolton Council

**Street Naming amendment/ update
In relation to Nightingale Gardens
(former recycling centre)**

The Town Clerk read a letter from Bolton Council acknowledging that the Town Council's suggestions had been received and that the area would be amended to Nightingale Gardens rather than Ploughland View as per the Town Council's request.

Bolton Council

Zebra Crossing Request. Vicarage Road (Update)

The Town Clerk provided members with an update from Bolton Council in response to their request for a zebra crossing on Vicarage Road which would provide assistance for the children attending the Blackrod Church School. The response from Bolton Council stated that the Vicarage Road site did not meet the criterion that is used as a baseline for the introduction of new zebra crossings i.e. that the location meets the requirements for the introduction of a school crossing patrol (based upon pedestrians crossing numbers and vehicle volume). Councillor Price stated that there was a disregard for the safety of children and that following the building of 107 more houses in that area, the footfall and movement of vehicles would increase and that a second request be made to Bolton. It was noted that the cost of establishing a zebra crossing be approx. £11K and it was therefore proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the information be received**
- 2. That a second letter be sent to Bolton Council for reconsideration**
- 3. That the Town Clerk write to the Ward Councillors requesting support for their request at Bolton.**

Residents Letter

Blackrod Post Office

The Town Clerk provided members with correspondence from a resident with further concerns and complaints regarding the service provided at The Blackrod Post Office. Concerns identified were staff answering phone calls in the middle of serving a customer: staffing shortages resolving in longer queues and no differentiation between post office and shop customers and still the issue of lack of privacy over transactions taking place. Councillor Price stated that he felt that the residents of Blackrod had been misled and that promises for action had not taken place. It was proposed by Councillor Batchelor and seconded by Councillor Bury and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the letter and information be noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk re contact the Post Office Representatives with the queries and extend an invitation to a future council meeting to hear the concerns raised by local residents.**

139. Public Participation

Resolved:

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

A member of the public spoke again in connection with the state of Dark Lane and it was noted that the MP for Bolton West had written to the resident stating that he would be making enquiries on her behalf.

An additional resident spoke in connection with the rubbish being dumped along Dark Lane and that the ownership of the stretch of land was under investigation

Another local resident raised concerns in connection with the property formerly known as Speke's shop which appeared to have an application under consideration for flats with separate entrances above the shop premises as well as access issues at the rear of the properties. *(Councillors noted these concerns and advised that they would be seeking clarity from Bolton in addition to local residents concerns)*

Resolved.

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

140. **Correspondence**

L.A. L.C

Training opportunity Information

The Town Clerk provided members with information in regard to the LALC workshops for 2018 and requested that any councillor wishing to avail themselves of any opportunities advise her in due course.

Resolved.

- 1. That the information and content be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk email the information out to all members.**

141. Development at Grimeford Lane. Valynette Car Park.

The Town Clerk referred to earlier communications in regard to suggesting names for the proposed development at the above location. Council members and asked Council members to consider the proposed names 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 Farrington and voted in favour by all present and

Resolved

- 1. That the request be received and noted**
- 2. That the suggested name Whitehill Meadow be agreed forwarded to Bolton Council as per their Naming Policy.**

142. **Confirmation of actions taken at the meeting of 6th November 2017.**

The Town Clerk read a prepared agenda item, in regard to an item which had been raised within the public participation part of the November agenda. The Town Clerk reminded members present that at the point of public participation on an agenda the meeting of the Town Council is adjourned. The Town Clerk asked that members recall the point in public participation during the November meeting when a resident had requested that Councillor Mrs Cunliffe leave the room, whilst the resident brought a matter to the Town Council's attention. The Town Clerk informed members that the matter in front of them was not about the contents of that matter (pp. nov 2017) and so required no debate but that she had been written to several times in its regard and statements had been made by Councillor Mrs Cunliffe about both the Town Clerk and Chairman of the Town Council, which the Town Clerk believed were not correct in regard to the action/ request which took place at the meeting held on 6th November 2017. The Town Clerk then asked for 4 points to be clarified for accurate minute taking by those who were present at the meeting on 6th November. Members were asked to vote by show of hands :-

- (i) Was the action (a request for councillor Mrs Cunliffe to leave the room) that took place on 6th November requested by a local resident during the public participation part of the meeting?

Response

All voted in favour that it was

- (ii) Were council members present at the meeting asked to take a vote on the request for Councillor Mrs Cunliffe to leave the room by the Town Clerk or Chairman?

Response

All confirmed they were not asked to take a Vote by the Town Clerk or Chairman

- (iii) Did any vote requesting Councillor Mrs Cunliffe to leave the room take place?

Response

All confirmed that no vote took place

- (iv) Did Councillor Mrs Cunliffe leave the meeting for a short period in a voluntary manner and return to the meeting when the item had been raised by the resident?

Response

All confirmed that this action had taken Place.

The Chairman thanked members for their recollection and clarity on the matter.

143. Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Update

A written / verbal update was provided by Councillor Bury (Snr) about the previous months activities including that a number of draft policies were duly being prepared in its connection and that a revised draft Housing Needs Analysis had been received together with information supplied from Bolton.

Resolved.

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

144. LALC 73rd AGM Feedback Report.

Councillor Price provided members with a report from his attendance at the LALC AGM which members received in particular the item in connection with Zebra Crossings and Red Lights. Councillor Price also included feedback from the Open Forum discussion which had been presented by a Blackrod Town Council Resolution on whether having a Town Councillor who is also a Borough Councillor can provide benefits or create difficulties. The report contained the comments and reactions by those at the Open Forum but overall it was suggested that the best way forward was for Town Councillors and Ward Councillors to try to work together. It was also confirmed at the AGM that the Town Council has every right to request that Ward Councillors attend the meeting of the Town Council or submit a written report if not able to attend. Councillor Price concluded by asking if information received from the LALC could be included as future Agenda items

Resolved

- 1. That the report and information contained be received and noted with interest**

2. That the Town Clerk will note any item received from the LALC which may be of interest to be included as an Agenda item.

145. **A6 Road Junction at Traffic Lights.**

Condition of bollards.

Crash of vehicles at traffic lights

Councillor Farrington updated members on the continued issues with the lights at this junction and that the bollards in the same area now are unlit with bulbs missing, together with the white lines at the junctions being almost invisible due to be worn away. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour by all and

Resolved

1. That a request for a site visit with a Bolton Officer is requested for the new year
2. That a request be made for an accident report to be submitted for this particular area of Blackrod.

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

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

Station Road

Hawthorn Hedge on left growing in to Highway
Loss of sign indicating concealed entrance

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.

147. **Finance**

It was moved by Councillor Price 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 £2841.80 (two thousand eight hundred and forty one pounds 80p) dated 4th December 2017.
2. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members authorise a transfer request from the deposit account to the main account for £10,000 (Ten thousand pounds) and from the Deposit account to the Town Mayors account £500 (five hundred pounds only)
3. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.

148. **Site Visits**

No site visits were elected. New Year visit to the junction of the A6 to be advised.

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

The Town Clerk referred to information she had received in regard to an employee of Bolton Council who has been working within the Blackrod Cemetery. Following the update, which recorded the excellent work that the Bolton employee was carrying out, members all elected to send an informal letter to Bolton Council in regard to the employee with a request that he remains on duty at the cemetery.

Resolved

1. That the Town Clerk write an informal letter to Bolton Council in this regard.

Agenda Items for January meeting.

7.5 ton limits on roads leading in to Blackrod (Councillor Price)

150. **List of Outstanding Correspondence**

Resolved

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

151. **Reports from Ward Councillors**

Ward Councillor Pickup (written report received)

Reported that following a spate of vehicle related crime no burglaries or thefts had been reported from vehicle for the period 10th to 23rd November 2017
That the new Horwich Leisure Centre opened today 4th December and Councillor Pickup wrote encouraging residents to use the superb new facilities.
At last weeks meeting of Bolton Council 3 motions were passed unanimously: on the issue of lobbying Government on the funding for children in care/ proper funding for adult social care and on tackling children having easy access to gambling.

Ward Councillor Bury

Reported:-

That enforcement had been in the village putting tickets on cars which were parked on pavements
That a new round of stencils for pavements in regard to dog fouling would include Blackrod areas.
That reports regarding speeding vehicles in the village – police were being informed but police were struggling with resources.

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 4^{8th} January at 7pm.

The Town Mayor wished all residents and members a very happy Christmas and New Year and invited those present to join her for seasonal refreshment.

The Town Clerk also reminded those present that the annual tree lighting would take place on Tuesday 5th December 2017 at 6.30pm followed by seasonal refreshments and entertainment provided at St Andrews Hall

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Signed.....Chairman