

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 5th February 2018

Present

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

Councillors

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

Also Present: Mrs S Lowis (**Town Clerk**) 13 members of the public and 1 member of the Press

169 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and Councillor Bury(Jnr) and the reasons for absence accepted. *(The Town Clerk advised members present that she would be looking at advice given by the various Associations of Town Councils in regard to what is reasonable to accept as reasons for absence and this would be published for acceptance in due course.)*

170. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 8th January 2018

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 8th January 2018 be received and signed as a true and accurate record.**

171. **Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest

172. **Planning Applications. (Received from the meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 5th February 2018)**

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 5th February 2018, 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.

02757/18	318, Manchester Rd	Erection of 1st floor pitched Roof ext to side inc dormer To front.
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No member of the public spoke in connection with the planning application and councillors voted to offer no comment.

02629/18	192, New Street	demolition of dwelling & erection of 2 dwellings
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No member of the public spoke in connection with the application. Councillors discussed the maintenance of the ginnel thereafter and that in keeping with the street scene no dormer windows to be installed at the front of the properties. Councillors voted to object to the planning application on the grounds that the development would be that of a new build which would encompass Bolton's Parking Policy and that at the current location this would be impossible to achieve.

173. 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.

174. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

Residents Letter

Dark Lane (Additional update)

Resolved.

1. That the information be received and noted..
2. That the resident be thanked for her continued work in connection with Dark Lane and a request made that she keep the Town Council continually informed where possible.

175. Public Participation

Resolved:

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

A resident spoke in connection with what constitutes an apology for absence from a council meeting. The Town Clerk explained the current system in place and stated that this would be reviewed in keeping with the Council's Standing Order Procedure.

Another local resident spoke in connection with the standard of cleanliness on the lower part of Station Road. The resident produced pictures taken of the state of garden walls, street gullies and pavement issues and requested that the Town Council complain to Bolton over lack of cleaning in this area. *(The Town Clerk took receipt of photographs of the area from the resident which were forwarded on to Bolton Council)*

Another resident spoke to advise all present that a PACT meeting had been arranged for Sunday 11th February 2018 at the local Community Centre

Resolved.

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

176. **Correspondence**

Bolton Council (RTR)

Notification of temporary closure of footpath

The Town Clerk read a notification from Bolton Council in regard to a temporary closure of footpath 008.

Resolved.

- 1. That the letter and content be received and noted.**

Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe

Capital Funding Grant Information

The Town Clerk provided information to members, forwarded by Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and distributed to members, in regard to a Town Centre Business Grant, which also included information on Flower Basket availability, through an approved process.

The Town Clerk also gave members an update on the £80K Town Centre Funding received from Ward Councillor Pickup, which was that £20K of the £80K would be spent on the above project. No figure was confirmed in regard to the funding associated with the flower baskets.

Whereas members stated that they were not against the scheme Council members also spoke in connection with the way in which information had been handled in connection with the scheme, where details had emerged through social media channels first before information had been given to the Town Council – particular concerns were raised that despite requests from the Town Council for information in regard to the £80K Town Centre Funds previously this proposed item had not been mentioned to the Town Council by the Ward Councillors. It was also noted that Town Council members had visited local businesses to ensure they were aware of the scheme and had noted that information had been given to some local businesses but not all. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and voted in favour by all and

Resolved

1. **That the information be received and noted**
2. **That the Town Clerk write to the Ward Councillors for information as to who had received the grants within the Blackrod and Horwich Ward.**

177. Events surrounding 11/11/2018 & attendance at Community Meeting held on 25th January 2018

Councillor Bury and Councillor Price gave an update as to the meeting they attended in respect of the wider Community Group and initiatives that were being discussed for the commemoration of WW1. Councillor Bury(Snr) stated that no direct requests had been made of the Town Council but that the Blackrod Community Centre Manager would be completing a grant application in its regard and that a list of several events had been compiled which would be advised on at a later date.

The Town Clerk also advised members that she had met with Reverend Wynne in regard to a possible change of time in regard to the service on 11th November 2018 whereas further communication was to take place following a meeting of all Clergy for the area. The Town Clerk reiterated that following a request from several local residents and themselves as contributing organisers, it was the Town Council's decision that the annual service of remembrance should take place on the morning of the 11th and that progress would be reported at the next meeting.

Resolved

1. **That the information in regard to the Remembrance Commemorations be received and noted**
2. **That the Town Clerk to report back following meetings with the Clergy in its regard.**

178. Financial Estimates.2018/2019

The Town Clerk referred to a set of documents previously circulated containing the financial estimates for the forthcoming year April 2018- March 2019. Members having carefully considered the estimates and examined the proposals of increases and decreases where applicable that would allow the Town Council to meet its financial obligations as well as carry out works to promote community cohesion and physical improvements within the village. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour by all and

Resolved.

1. **That the financial estimates as circulated be received, noted and approved**
2. **That a precept request for £64608 be made to Bolton Council**
3. **That the Town Clerk be thanked for her detailed work in preparation of the annual estimates.**

179. **Financial Accounts Reconciliation.**

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of an interim auditable review of the current financial reconciliation to 30th November 2017. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. **That the timely reconciled accounts to 30th November 2017 be received, noted and approved.**

180. **Date of the Annual Parish Assembly**

The Town Clerk in keeping with appropriate procedures asked council members to consider and approve the date of the next Annual Parish Assembly. It was proposed by Councillor Batchelor and seconded by Councillor Hollick and

Resolved.

1. **That the date of the next Annual Parish Assembly be held on 10th April 2018**
2. **That the Town Clerk proceed with due proves ongoingly.**

181. **Nominations for the position of Mayor Elect for 2018/2019**

Councillors considered nominations for the position of Mayor Elect for the year 2018/2019. It was moved by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. **That Councillor Mr Scott Batchelor be duly nominated as Mayor Elect for 2018/2019**

182. **Nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor Elect for 2018/2019 year.**

Councillors present considered nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor Elect for the year 2018/2019. It was proposed by Councillor Batchelor and seconded By Councillor Bury(Snr) and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. **That Councillor Mr John Price be duly nominated for the role of Deputy Mayor Elect for the 2018-2019 year.**

183. Annual Meeting 2018

In keeping with appropriate council procedures, Council members considered the date for the Annual Meeting 2018. It was proposed by Councillor Batchelor and seconded by Councillor Bury(Snr) and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the date of the Annual Meeting be held on 14th May 2018**
- 2. That the Town Clerk proceed with due process on goingly.**

184. Survey Assessment Blackrod Station

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of the results of a local survey provided by Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe, which had been carried out by Transport for Greater Manchester for Bolton Council. Councillors stated that the information in number form did not draw any conclusions via a report format which would have been more helpful.

Resolved.

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

185. Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Update

A written / verbal update was provided by Councillor Bury (Snr) about the previous months activities including a conclusion to the Housing Needs Assessment report/ Executive Summary signed off. Currently still working on policies and topic groups. Councillor Hollick stated that Councillor Bury and the team were to be congratulated on the work they have put in to this project, agreed by all.

Resolved.

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

186. Urban Traffic Control Re: Traffic Lights on A6 junction with Manchester Road.

The Town Clerk provided members with a response to the signal timings on the lights at the junction with the A6/ Manchester Road. The response had been provided following a letter sent by the Town Council to Bolton Council Highway Division and a response given to them from Urban Traffic Control at TFGM. The response indicated that to incorporate the suggestions made by the Town Council this would only be achieved by alterations to the current road width. Councillors felt that this was

not the only option and it was therefore proposed By Councillor Bury(Snr) and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and voted in favour and

Resolved

1. That the points raised were noted
2. That further interest should be given by related departments in Bolton and therefore an invitation to be sent to a Design Engineer for TFGM as well as Bolton Highways for a meeting at the location.

187. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues

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

Little Scotland.	Some action had taken place to date
Dark Lane	Drains backing up again
A6	Under water again, mortar lifting
Station Road	Depot not doing the job they said they would – Sweeping
Station Road	Cleanliness
Scot Lane	Cleaning had taken place but it still required Further work.
Vicarage Rd West	School sign needs straightened

Councillor Farrington indicated that family members had collected a considerable amount of debris along areas of Scot lane which he had shown to the refuse department.

The Town Clerk was also provided with photographic evidence for Station Road which would be forwarded on to the relevant departments.

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.

188. Finance

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

Resolved

- 1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £4126.19 (four thousand one hundred and twenty six pounds 19p) dated 5th February 2018.**
- 2. That the Chairman Clerk and 2 members authorise a transfer from the Deposit Account to the Main Account for £5000.00 (five thousand pounds only)**
- 3. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.**

189. Site Visits

Awaiting a date for the visit to the Industrial Estate by the Coal Board.

190. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

The Town Clerk provided members with information in regard to a forthcoming PACT meeting to be held on Sunday 11th February at 6.30pm, which had been arranged.

Scot lane and the lack of enforcement on the parking issues.. This issue would be brought up at a forthcoming PACT meeting.

The Town Clerk provided members with information from GMP on the number of recorded crime in Blackrod 1/1/18 to 1/2/18. 31 crimes had been reported

Repeated Requests made for feedback from Ward Councillors on:-

- 1. The £80k Town Centre Spending Proposals**
- 2. Locality Plan.** What was the results of the consultation and how things will change for Blackrod in terms of Primary Care provision and Social Care.
- 3. Phoenix House.**
This item had been requested for several months and had not been reported back appropriately by Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe. Information would be helpful on Curfew Hours/ who daily contact is/ age range/ who qualifies to use it/ whose responsible for its use

Resolved

- 1. That the Town Clerk write to Ward Councillors in regard to the outstanding items above.**

Agenda Items for February meeting.

Zebra Crossing

Councillor Hollick

Industrial Estate

Councillor Farrington (Coal Board if completed
And Planning Enforcement if response rec'd)

191. **List of Outstanding Correspondence**

The Town Clerk brought up the matter of the sheet that is provided with the monthly papers which outlined a form of diary of events in regard to certain items of correspondence. The Town Clerk asked council members to consider whether or not this item was necessary as items were now addressed through the agenda or Town Clerk's Monthly Report. Councillors considered the matter and it was voted in favour and

Resolved

1. **That the list of outstanding correspondence be received and noted for February**
2. **That the Town Clerk cease to provide the sheet as a diary of events and that all updates would appear either as an Agenda Item Update when necessary or as part of the Town Clerk's Monthly report.**

192. **Reports from Ward Councillors**

Ward Councillor Pickup

Reported that

**Bolton Council would be electing their new Leader on Monday 5th February
Bolton Council currently considering what tax rise to impose prior to the budget for 2018—2019 being voted upon on 21st February
Further delays to electrification of railway through Blackrod will mean buses replacing trains for the foreseeable future on weekends.
A good response had been received for the grants scheme for local businesses.
Information regarding the £80K Town Centre monies will be announced shortly.**

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 5th March at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Signed.....Chairman