

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 8th January 2018

Present

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

Councillors

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

Also Present: Mrs S Lewis (**Town Clerk**) Ward Councillor Pickup and 17 members of the public

152. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Cunliffe and Councillor Bury(Jnr) and Councillor Mrs Warburton and the reasons for absence accepted.

153. 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.**

154. **Declarations of Interest:**

Councillor Hollick
Councillor Batchelor

Agenda Item. Planning
Agenda Item Planning

155. **Planning Applications. (Received from the meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 8th January 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 8th January 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.

02402/17

34, Nightingale Rd

**Erection of single
Storey ext to front**

No member of the public spoke in connection with the planning application and councillors voted to offer no comment.

02506/17

**land adj to 8 Blundell Lne outline app to demolish
Garage and erect 2 dwellings**

A member of the public informed members that the land alongside this piece of land was privately owned by herself and that she hadn't been notified of any planning application. Councillors considered the outline application and voted to object to the proposal due to it being development on green belt land. *(Note from Town Clerk. Only occupiers of property near to the development are consulted not owners living elsewhere)*

156. 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.**

157. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

Residents Letter

Dark Lane (Additional update

Councillors read several communications 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. The residents communication stated that she would still be pursuing the issues with Bolton Council and in particular on how the section 106 monies (S38) had been spent and what works would be carried out through the funding from the developer. Some discussion took place amongst members as to how Dark Lane could be reconfigured and it was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Farrington and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted..**
- 2. That the resident be thanked for her continued work in connection with Dark Lane**
- 3. That the Town Clerk write to Bolton in regard to the Section 106 funds (S38) to ascertain how much money was being contributed by the developer and what it was being used for.**

Chris Green MP

Dark Lane Correspondence

The Town Clerk provided members with a copies of letters from Mr Chris Green MP for Bolton West and Bolton Council Highways Division in connection with their correspondence with the resident on Dark Lane (as above). Members of the Town Council noted that Mr Chris Green MP was disappointed in the response from Bolton Council in regard to their financial constraints on the matter especially in light of various

other sums which Bolton Council had allocated to various other projects namely £1 million on new saunas in the Town Centre as well as funding to a local firm of solicitors.

Resolved.

1. That the copy letter from Mr Chris Green MP to a local resident be received and noted
2. That the Town Council noted with disappointment that the letter from the MP to the resident did not offer any other form of assistance.

158. Public Participation

Resolved:

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

A 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 spoke in connection with an earlier comment involving the possible change of direction along Dark Lane which she felt would prove unhelpful

Resolved.

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

159. Correspondence

Blackrod Art group

Letter of thanks

The Town Clerk read a letter from Blackrod Art Group thanking the Town Council for the support which the Town Council had given.

Resolved.

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

Chris Green M.P.

Letter in response to policing in Blackrod

The Town Clerk read a letter from Mr Chris Green M.P in connection with policing in Blackrod. The letter outlined that Mr Green had been carrying out a survey amongst Blackrod residents in connection with the recent increase in crime related reports as well as mentioning the new GMP on line crime reporting systems. However the letter offered no new information other than Mr Green would be meeting with members of GMP to discuss matters further. Town Council members made reference to talks of vigilante groups which was circulating in the village and of those members of staff in local businesses who unfortunately had found themselves in serious situations as a result of crime activity. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Bury (Snr) and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the letter be received and noted**
- 2. That a second letter be sent to Mr Chris Green MP as well as other listed contacts in regard to ways of addressing the issues.**
- 3. That the Town Clerk coordinate the suggested methods/ contacts as indicated in the meeting on behalf of the Town Council.**

160. Events surrounding 11/11/2018

The Town Clerk referred to a letter that had been received in regard to the lighting of Beacons in commemoration of the end of WW1. This was then followed by a discussion regarding the Town Council's own involvement and timing of the Annual Remembrance Parade, together with an invitation from the Blackrod Community Group for attendance at a forthcoming event meeting in regard to the 100 year anniversary. It was proposed by Councillor Bury(Snr) and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the information in regard to the Beacons be received and noted and a response to be forwarded by the Town Clerk**
- 2. That the Town Council send a representative to the Community Meeting being held on 25th January by way of offering support to the local community if required**
- 3. That the Town Clerk liaise with the Vicar of St Katharine's Church in regard to timings of the Remembrance Service in November**

161. Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Update

A written / verbal update was provided by Councillor Bury (Snr) about the previous months activities including Steering Group meetings, compilation of Templates,

revisions from Arc4 etc. which had taken place throughout the month of December and Cllr Bury updated that the group were now at the draft policy writing stage.

Resolved.

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

162. 7.5ton limit entrances to the village of Blackrod.

Councillors debated the subject of the entrances to the village and of the requested 7.5ton limit for these roads. Cllr Bury also stated that as part of the Neighbourhood Plan work this was something that would be something that the Transport and Infrastructure group would also be looking at. Councillor Farrington said that perhaps consideration could be given at entrance points to the village which offered information in regard to alternative routes for Wigan. All members present felt that 7.5ton limits restrictions would be ideal other than for access to the village only. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the points raised were noted with interest**
- 2. That further work needed to be carried out with various authorities/ agencies including the Highways Agency along the lines of promoting a restrictive entry to the village, other than for access.**
- 3. That the Town Clerk commence contact with various agencies to see what could be done.**

163. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues

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

Blackhorse Street	Pot holes over 6 inches deep
Blackrod/ Aspull boundary	Very large pot holes and break up of road
Little Scotland	Lorries breaking up areas of tarmac
Hill Lane	new drainage systems trench uncovered
Scot Lane	Ambulance Station through to the Industrial tarmac Breaking up.
Station Road	Piles of rubbish under the bridge

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.

164. **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 £2835.73 (two thousand eight hundred and thirty five pounds 73p) dated 8th January 2018.
2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.

165. **Site Visits**

No progress had been made on requesting that the National Coal Board visit Scot Lane Industrial Estate so date still to be advised.

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

Requests made for feedback from Ward Councillors on:-

1. The £80k Town Centre Spending Proposals
2. Train Station Car Park – results of survey/assessment on parking
3. 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.

Resolved

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

The Town Clerk informed members that whilst preparing the annual estimates she had been provided with a tender in regard to the preparation of the Council newsletter and asked Council members to give advice on the matter in hand. Councillors stated that they were completely happy with the current arrangements to hand but that the contractor should be thanked for their information.

Councillor Price brought to members notice the issue of flagging at Rigby Avenue with projected actions. Members agreed that the Town Clerk should make further enquiries and bring the matter back to the Council for decision making in due course.

Agenda Items for February meeting.

Street Maintenance/ cleaning Cllr Farrington
A request for a report to be brought to the meeting in regard to the Phoenix House visit by Cllr Mrs Cunliffe

167. **List of Outstanding Correspondence**

Resolved

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

168. **Reports from Ward Councillors**

Ward Councillor Pickup

Reported that
Police have been lobbied in regard to allocation of resources and advise members and residents to keep reporting incidents as this has an impact on the resource model.
£80K Town Centre funding – details of spending should be available by March

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

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed.....Chairman