

Blackrod Town Council

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

Present

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

Councillors

Mr G Farrington

Mr S Batchelor

Mr J Price

Mr M Hollick

Also Present: Mrs S Lewis (**Town Clerk**) 8 members of the public 1 Ward Councillor and
1 member of the Press

193 Apologies for Absence

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

194. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 5th February 2018

It was moved by Councillor Batchelor 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 February
2018 be received and signed as a true and accurate record.**

195. **Declarations of Interest:**

Councillor Hollick

**Agenda Item 12 (Donation Request)
Other Matters (Donation Request)**

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

It was moved by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Farrington 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 March 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.

**02862/18 &
02864/18**

Holmes House

**Listed Building Consent
& Erection of single
Storey ext.**

No member of the public spoke in connection with the planning application and councillors voted in favour of the development.

02964/18

21, Chorley Rd

**Erection of 2 storey front
Ext.**

Councillors debated the application and voted in favour of the application but with the proviso that Bolton Highways agree that the gate opening is within a safe distance from the road, due to the access location for cars from a fast moving road

02989/18

404 Manchester Rd

Erection of 1st floor ext at side

Councillors considered the application and voted to offer no comment in its regard.

197. 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.

198 Positioning of planning applications within a normal Town Council meeting.

Councillor Farrington asked members to consider the positioning of the Planning Application Meeting Items as part of future agendas, which Councillor Farrington felt would be best placed immediately after Item: Apologies for absence to allow those members of the public not wishing to stay for the full council meeting to leave. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. That the planning application part of future Council meetings commence at the beginning of the Town Council meeting prior to other items for inclusion on the agenda in full.

199. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

Residents Letter

Dark Lane (Further updates.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.

200. Public Participation

Resolved:

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

No member of the public spoke within the public participation section of the meeting.

201. **Correspondence**

Blackrod Community Centre

Invitation to open day

The Town Clerk read an email from the newly appointed Community centre manager which invited all members of the Town Council to the Open day being held on 22nd March at the Community Centre. Members indicated that they would try and visit on the day in question.

Resolved.

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

Hilltops Sports & Social Club

Donation Request

The Town Clerk read a letter from the Hilltops Social Club requesting consideration for a donation to their sporting side of the club. The Town Clerk gave an example of costs associated with Rounders Clubs. Discussion took place between members as to donations received by other sporting clubs from the Town Council and it was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded By Councillor Batchelor and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the request be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk ensure that the sum donated to the Hilltops Sports and Social Club equal that given recently to Blackrod Cricket Club. (*The Town Clerk subsequently confirmed this figure as £400.00 which was approved at the meeting*)**

Residents Letter

Bank House Garages

The Town Clerk read a letter from the owner of kennels within the village complaining about the state of the area surrounding his property and requesting that the Town Council clean up the area in question. The Town Clerk informed council members that she had informed the resident that unfortunately it was not the responsibility of Blackrod Council to clean the area in question and that this was

under the control of Bolton Council and that she had written to Neighbourhood Services on his behalf and that they had been in touch with the resident direct.

Resolved.

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

Gtr Manchester Combined Authority

Response in regard to Town Council's concerns about Anti-Social behaviour in the Village.

The Town Clerk read a letter from a representative of GMCA which had been received as part of the letters of concern that had been sent to the local MP, Greater Manchester Mayor and other official sources. The letter advised that they knew about issues with the 101 number, talked about cuts in service and funding and indicated that new initiatives would be being addressed with regard to recruitment. The letter also advised on talks which had taken place with local police and the Town Council and businesses in the locality, the majority of which the Town Clerk had to advise were incorrect. The Town Clerk advised that she had forwarded the letter and contents on to the representative within GMP and it was

Resolved.

- 1. To accept the letter and contents as part of the Town Council's ambitions to improve anti social behaviour within the villag**

202. Notification of a resignation of a member of the Town Council.

Although already noted the Town Clerk requested that members officially acknowledge the resignation as a Town Council member of Mrs Ann Cunliffe for personal reasons. The Town Clerk detailed that Mrs Cunliffe had been a member of the Town Council since the parish elections of 4th May 2007 where she represented the North Ward followed by the Central Ward in 2011. Members of the Town Council joined the Town Clerk in wishing Mrs Cunliffe well in any new endeavours. The Town Clerk then updated the Town Council with due process in regard to the vacancy.

Resolved

- 1. That the information in regard to the resignation of Mrs Cunliffe and ongoing due process be received and noted.**

203. dates of Town Council meetings 2018/2019

The Town Clerk asked members to approve the meeting dates for the forthcoming year 2018/2019.

Resolved.

- 1. That the list of dates of council meetings and special meetings be received and noted and approved with one amendment in that the Annual Assembly will take place on 17th April not the 10th April as previously indicated.**

204. **land donated to the Town Council.**

The Town Clerk updated members on the progress which had been successfully completed between the Housing developers Wiggitts Homes and the Town Council. An agreement had been reached for an area of land to be given Freehold to the Town Council for the purposes on which the Town Council would decide. The Town Clerk thanked the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for their offer of future support with the land in question and for the developers Wiggitts Homes for their financial contribution given to the Town Council for projects in connection with the land. The land donated to the Town Council now covers an area of non resident parking within the development and all of the land at the frontage left to right of the development itself. The Town Council will ensure that created parking spaces will remain free from any parking costs for the residents and visitors to Blackrod. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the work that had gone in to the land acquisition and eventual outcome be noted and approved by all as a very successful outcome for the village.**

205. **Update in regard to Remembrance Sunday 2018.**

The Town Clerk provided members with a further update in regard to the Town Council's decision to press ahead for the Remembrance Service 2018 to be held on the morning of the 11th November 2018 in keeping with the rest of the country. The Town Clerk updated that she had met with Revd Wynne (St Katharine's Church) for a second time following concerns that the Town Council's decision to host the Remembrance Service on the morning of the 11th November was being identified as incorrect in certain areas of the community. The Town Clerk clarified the position in regard to the Town Council's position as organisers of the event and that agreement had been reached with the clergy on a way forward. The Town Clerk also stated that as yet there was extreme difficulty obtaining a band for the morning as bands had made commitment to other villages and towns but that one way or another the issue would be resolved with or without a band. Town council members stated that they were pleased with the outcome and looked forward to working alongside the church and the people of the village on this very important part of the history of this country.

Resolved.

- 1. That the update be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk's diligence with the matter be also noted**
- 3. That the Town Clerk keep the Town Council informed on every point along the way.**

206. Blackrod Industrial Estate (Coal Mines)

Councillor Farrington brought council members up to date with the recent visit he had undertaken with officials from the Coal Authority. Inspectors were concerned to see both traffic and buildings going over the area identified as having mine shafts and understood the Town Council's concerns. Councillors thanked Cllr Farrington for his tenacity in getting to this stage with the mine shaft issue and it was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information regarding the visit be received**
- 2. That the Town Council write to Bolton Council & Health and Safety teams about the visit and advise that a report would follow from the Coal Authority in due course.**

207. Zebra Crossing

Councillor Hollick asked if anything had been forthcoming regarding the Town Council's continued request for a zebra crossing to be put in place at Blackrod Church School location. The Town Clerk repeated the costs associated with this project to which Bolton Council had said that the criteria at this location did not match that for implementation. Councillor Price stated at what cost to a child's life did we match criteria to. The Town Clerk reminded members about the s106 funding allocation which was to go to each school from the development at Hill Lane and it was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the Town Clerk request that Bolton use some of the allocated s106 funds from the Hill Lane development, which has been allocated to the school goes towards the development of a zebra crossing on Vicarage Road for the school.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk also advise the current Head of the School about the allocation and ask that he requests a zebra crossing at his school location using s106 funding.**

208. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Due to the absence of Councillor Bury(Snr) from the meeting the Town Clerk circulated the monthly report of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and updated

council members present on the recent meeting that had taken with representatives from the Assistant Director Adult Services Office who had met with members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, which Councillor Price (who had been present at the NPSG Meeting) stated had been a very responsive and constructive meeting.

Resolved.

- 1. That the monthly update be received**
- 2. That feedback from the Adult Services meeting be brought back to the Town council meeting by Councillor Bury when able.**

209. Urban Traffic Control Re A6 and Traffic Lights Update

The Town Clerk provided members with an update in regard to a response from Urban District Traffic Control and requests for someone to meet with Bolton Officers and Council members to look at ways forward with this junction. However the update included that Urban District had no finances for the projects and that Bolton Council would have to assist. However it was decided that in the first instance a meeting should be arranged with all 3 parties at a date convenient to all. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and voted in favour by all and

Resolved

- 1. That the update be received and noted**
- 2. That a meeting be arranged between all 3 parties as soon as it is convenient to do so – to be arranged by the Town Clerk.**

210. Rigby Avenue Update

The Town Clerk gave an update from a Neighbourhood Project Officer from Bolton at Home in regard to requests from residents in this location to have a path installed to assist in the crossing of grass verges to the road. Bolton at Home had considered the request from the Town Council and confirmed that they would work in conjunction with Bolton Council to assist with this matter which should be completed within the next month or so. Councillor Price said that this was a positive outcome and showed what could be achieved when groups work together to achieve positive outcomes for local residents.

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received**
- 2. That a letter of thanks be sent to Bolton at Home Director.**

211. Civic Flagpole

The Town Clerk informed members that she had been approached by a member of Corporate Property to look at erecting a new flagpole outside the civic building

(Town Council offices) and asked members if they had any suggestions as to where the pole could be placed. The Town Clerk also stated that she would be consulting with the Senior Librarian on choice of locations and would inform council members when a site visit had taken place on 15th March.

Resolved.

1. That the information be received and noted

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

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

Hill lane	Rowland Homes not cleaning the road
Station Road	That should be cleaned 9 times per year
St Katharines Drive	Pot holes becoming worse
A6 Bypass	Rubbish increasing
Dark Lane	not salted
Grimeford Lane	not salted/ reported and salted same day
Little Scotland	5 large pot holes requiring attention.
Scot Lane	Another accident reported/ pot holes in disrepair.

Councillor Price also reported that he had been informed that J Dickinsons had a contract with Bolton Council to clean the road in addition to Bolton Council which did not appear to be happening. This matter had been brought to Bolton Council's attention who had stated thatthey would be following this matter up with J Dickinson.

Resolved.

1. That the information be received and reported, where applicable.

213. **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 £3259.74 (three thousand two hundred and fifty nine pounds 74p) dated 5th March 2018.
 - a. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.

214. **Site Visits**

Awaiting a date for the visit to the A6 Bypass Traffic Lights

215. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

Councillor Price indicated that he was in the process of putting a Litter Picking team in to operation and would advise on goingly

The Town Clerk stated that she was still awaiting a response from Environmental Health regarding the pallet burning at Scot Lane and hope that the report from the Coal Authority would be of assistance.

The Town Clerk also reported that following repeated requests to Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe for reports on the visit she had made to Next Stage Management (Phoenix House) which were still not forthcoming, the Town Clerk had now been in touch with one of the Co Founders of the Business and arrangements were being made for a meeting to take place between Next Stage and the Co Founder who was more than happy to attend any meeting with council members and the public if necessary

The Town Clerk updated members on the current situation for the replacement of a member for the Central Ward which will now go to Cooption process.

Agenda Items for March meeting.

575 bus	Councillor Hollick (TBC)
Donation Request	Local resident to be ratified at the next meeting.

216. Reports from Ward Councillors

Ward Councillor Pickup

Reported that

That Bolton Council had set their budget for the forthcoming year and council tax would be increasing by 4.99% inc 2% for adult healthcare.

That PC Heald had stated that more patrolling of the area was in place and that crime reporting had lessened

That decisions on the £80K Town Centre Funding had still not been finalised with some items going through the process

That the 575 bus was not going to have the route in Blackrod affected

(Councillor Price asked ward Councillor Pickup if the Town Council could be informed how many had applied for the grant scheme and how many of those came from the Blackrod area.)

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 26th March (brought forward due to bank holiday) at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Signed.....Chairman