

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 4th June 2018

Present

Councillor. Mr J Price (**D/ Chairman**)

Councillors

Mr G Farrington
Mrs S Gaskell
Mr A Bury (Snr)
Mrs I Seddon

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

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Bury, Councillor Mrs Warburton, Councillor Batchelor and Councillor Hollick and the reasons for absence accepted.

2. Declarations of interest

Councillor Farrington	Agenda Item 6	Planning Application No.03531/18 (Non pecuniary)
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3. Appointment of Working Groups/ Committee members/ representatives on outside bodies (Deferred from Annual Meeting held on 14th May 2018)

Due to the absence of members from the meeting It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Bury(Snr) and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the appointments of working groups/ membership and representation be deferred to the next meeting of the Town Council.**

4. Planning Applications.

It was moved by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and agreed by all and

Resolved.

1. That the following planning applications, detail which had been previously circulated and voted on at the planning meeting held on 4th June 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.

03531/18	The Heights, Scot Lane	Demolish and erect new Dormer bungalow
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No member of the public spoke. Councillor heard details provided by Councillor Farrington in regard to the proposed building being higher than the roof line of buildings on the industrial estate to which the proposed application front. Additional information included the siting of mine shafts in the area which the town council has raised concerns about previously: The possibility of Bats and other protected species and nesting birds being present: Issues with the drainage in the area and the access road to the site of the proposed development: Councillors did not vote to object or approve the application but did offer comments for consultation by the Bolton Planning Committee to include the request for a site visit.

03656/18	8, Latham Drive	remove existing ext and Erection of part 2/ Part single storey ext to Side and rear.
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No member of the public spoke and councillors voted to offer no comment.

03631/18	land at Hill lane	Variation of condition 13/ 14
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No member of the public spoke and councillors voted to offer no comment

03608/18

3, Cranleigh cls

**erection of 2 storey
Ext at side**

Councillors offered no comment in regard to this application other than to request adherence to Bolton's Parking policy.

03391/18

65, Vicarage Rd

**erection of single
Storey ext to rear &
Porch.**

No member of the public spoke and council members offered No Comment.

5. 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.**

6. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 30th April 2018

**It was moved by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Bury
And voted in favour and**

Resolved

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 30th April 2018 be received and signed as a true record.**

7. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 14th May 2018

**It was moved by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell
and voted in favour and**

Resolved.

- 1. That the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on May 14th 2018 be received and signed as a true record of events.**

8. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

Bolton Council

No waiting Time restriction

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of the letter, previously circulated, which had been sent to Highways and Engineering in regard to the proposed TRO 303899 for Blackhorse Street/ Blackrod Brow (Chorley road) placement of yellow lines. The letter outlined the Town Council's strongest objections to the proposals. Councillors shared remarks on the contents of the letter and it was

Resolved.

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

Ward Councillor Pickup

Response to request for assistance by Ward Councillors in regard to a request for funding in relation to a traffic count at the A6 Junction with Manchester Rd Traffic lights.

The Town Clerk provided members with a response from Blackrod & Horwich Ward Councillor Pickup who detailed in his communication that all the re-a Forum Budget for the last financial year had been allocated and detailed some spending items such as poppies and a new oven and that any further finances would be minimal and suggestions for its use would face strong competition. Town Councillors spoke again in connection with funds that get spent on Blackrod and their disappointment again that the Town Council's concerns over Health and Safety at junctions were being ignored and aligned with lack of funding.

Resolved.

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

9 & 10 Public Participation

A member of the public spoke in connection with the continued issue with recent flooding in the area of Rydal Close. The resident updated members on her communications with the Director of Wiggitt Homes and a Bolton Enforcement Officer. The resident identified that there seemed to be a lack of agreement between Bolton Council departments as to the issues that were being identified and the resident wanted to keep the Town Council in the loop. The Town Council thanked the resident for her tenacity over the matter.

Linked to Agenda Item 10- correspondence.

Another local resident brought the matter of fly tipping along Dark lane to the Town Council's attention, where complaints to Bolton Council were being ignored. The resident had identified a number of points which had been sent to Bolton Planning in regard to issues along Dark Lane and cited that she would evoke a Freedom Of information request to Bolton Council if they failed to respond to her concerns. Councillors thanked the resident for her continued work in connection with the issues along dark Lane.

11. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Councillor Bury(Snr) provided members with the monthly report of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. This monthly update addressed points including the work of topic groups, Draft Housing policies, SEA Screening and other general work and meetings in connection with the ongoing work of the Steering Group.

Resolved.

- 1. That the monthly update be received**

12. Extraordinary Meeting date

Council members were asked to commit to a meeting date between themselves where the majority of members could attend, in order to discuss the issues arising both past and present in connection with the work and action of the Ward Councillors. It was proposed by the Deputy Chairman that the Town Clerk liaise with all council members to find an appropriate date for this extraordinary meeting.

Resolved.

- 1. That the Town Clerk liaise with council members and facilitate a meeting date for the extraordinary meeting. Date to be circulated amongst members ongoingly.**

13. Council Employee National Salary Awards.2018-2019

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of the SLCC/ ALCC 2018-2019 agreement on new pay scales to be adopted for Clerks from April 2018 and April 2019 It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Seddon and seconded By Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

Resolved.

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

- 2. That the Town Clerk implement the new salary scales in accordance with proper employment practice.**

14. End of year Quarter. Audited Financial Accounts Reconciliation

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of the current financial accounts/ audited position, previously circulated for the period ending 31st March 2018. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Seddon and seconded by Councillor Bury(Snr) and voted in favour by all and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received, noted and approved with no matters arising.**

15. Councillors to approve the audited Town Council's statement of Accounts and Annual return for the financial year 2017-2018

Members considered the Annual Statement of Accounts audited report for the year ending 31st March 2018, copies of which had been previously circulated following the completion of the final stage internal audit, which had found no issues to comment upon. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon in keeping with appropriate practice voted in favour by all and

Resolved.

- 1. That the Annual Governance Statement be approved and completed and signed.**

- 16. Members considered the Annual Accounting Statement for the year ending 31st March 2018 copies of which had been previously circulated following completion of the final stage internal audit, which had found no issues. It was proposed By Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Bury(Snr) and in keeping with appropriate practice voted in favour by all and**

Resolved.

- 1. That the Annual Accounting Statement be approved, completed and signed.**

17. LALC Discussion Paper. Shaping the Future.

The Town Clerk provided members with a paper forwarded from the LALC, previously circulated, and asked if any member wished to contribute to a discussion in its regard. Council members felt that they were not in a position to make suggestions at this time but felt that by the time of the Annual conference representatives would be able to discuss and debate further. The Town Clerk stated that if any councillor wished to let her have any other personal points for forwarding to the Association then to do so in time for the closing date.

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted with possible return at a later date.**

18. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues

Council members detailed areas of concern, which included previously identified issues as well as new areas including- The Town Clerk reminded members that they could report these issues directly themselves to Bolton Council.

Road down Ridgeway slippery, pot holed and dangerous
Scot lane Pathway from Industrial Estate to boundary all broken up
Road sweeper had been but not the pavement sweeper and road gulleys full of debris.
Small cul de sac off Scot lane garden wall knocked down.
footpath getting grassed over as not cleaned properly. (Scot Lane area)

Resolved.

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

19. Finance

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Seddon 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 £4787.73 (four thousand seven hundred and eighty seven pounds 73p) dated 4th June 2018.**
 - a. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.**
 - b. That the Chairman Clerk and two members authorise a transfer of funds from the Deposit Account to the Main Account for £20,000.00 (twenty thousand pounds)**

20. **Site Visits**

No site visits were identified at the meeting.

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

The Town Clerk confirmed the pieces of land which were to be transferred to the ownership of the Town Council from developers.

The Town Council, confirmed that the MP would try to visit with the town council at their August meeting, arrangements to follow.

The Town Clerk provided some information on no waiting areas for traffic.

Councillor Farrington made members aware that once again information regarding vehicle operators licences were identifying the wrong address within Blackrod for the industrial estate.

Councillor Farrington also updated that both he and his wife had completed the planting within the council baskets on the railings and council troughs in the village. (It was also noted that the other flower containers had also been completed).

Agenda Items for July 2nd meeting.

None given at the meeting

22. **Reports from Ward Councillors**

Ward Councillor Pickup Written Report

He had made representation to Northern Rail regarding the poor level of service of late, with an emergency interim timetable being introduced in July

Councillor Elaine Sherrington recently taken over as Mayor of Bolton

A new 30mph sign and arm has been reinstated at the south end of the village through area for monies

Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe. Written Report

-Supplied information on Highways allocation of funding for repairs (circulated)

-Indicated that a project to create and fund 5 road signs to be positioned at entry points to Blackrod payable from Town Centre funding had been requested from Blackrod Art Group without any reference to the Town Council, who represented the whole of Blackrod.

(On this point it was noted that the Town Council had already begun negotiations on this same venture , which was well documented and that the Ward Councillor was aware of this from her time serving as a Town Councillor and that they had concerns that items were being duplicated.). Additionally it was noted that when it suited the Ward Councillor, Town centre funds were suddenly available for roads well off the Town Centre, for example the border with Haigh/, Scot Lane/ Chorley road and that requested items nearer to the town centre had, in the past, been disregarded as they did not fall under the Town Centre remit. Councillors requested that clarification should be given on this matter as a matter of urgency and requested that the Town Clerk report back on the matter at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 2nd July at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed.....Chairman