

## **Blackrod Town Council**

### **Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018**

#### **Present**

Councillor. Mr S Batchelor( **Chairman**)

Councillors Mr M Hollick  
Mr J Price  
Mrs S Warburton  
Mr A Bury (Snr)  
Mrs I Seddon

**Also Present:** Mrs S Lowis (**Town Clerk**) Ward Councillor Mrs Baines and Ward Councillor Mr Stephen Pickup and 17 members of the public

Ward Councillor Mrs Susan Baines introduced herself as a newly elected ward Councillor for the Blackrod and Horwich Ward and spoke informally about how keen she was to work with Blackrod Town Council and the other 2 Ward Councillors for the benefit of the area and said she was keen to support local events and offer alternative strategies to problems that residents may face. Councillor Mrs Baines provided some funding information including the £30K capital budget for 17/18 and the Two Towns flat rate budget of £3750 and identified areas where she was keen to be involved such as Youth Forums and the development of new Councillors. Councillors Mrs Baines spoke about some points she had already begun to look in to such as GMP and the recent spate of burglaries in the area and spoke with Highways in connection with Chorley Road where an urgent need for an assessment was required. Councillor Mrs Baines concluded that she would work to get to know what people identified as needing or wanting in order to aid good use of resources and hoped to involve all levels of councillor support whenever required.

*)Town Council members and local residents thanked Ward Councillor Mrs Baines and welcomed her openness and transparency.)*

**23 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Bury and Councillor Mrs Gaskell and the reasons for absence accepted.

**24. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest. However, at point 10 of the agenda Councillor Bury (Snr) took no part in the vote regarding funding.

**25. Appointment of Working Groups/ Committee members/ representatives on outside bodies (Deferred from Annual Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018)**

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

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the appointments of working groups/ membership and representation be again deferred to the next meeting of the Town Council on 6<sup>th</sup> August but with a stipulation that decisions will be reached on appointments on that date by members present.**

**26. Planning Applications.**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Seddon and seconded by Councillor Price 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 2<sup>nd</sup> July 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.

**03743/18**

**52, Meadow Way**

**Erection of single storey  
Ext to rear and front and infill**

No member of the public spoke and councillors voted to offer no comment.

**27. 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.**

**28. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

**It was moved by Councillor Mrs Seddon 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 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018 be received and signed as a true record with the following approved amendment.**

**Minute No 18 should read Footpath down Ridgeway and not road.**

**29. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.**

**There was no planning correspondence available for this meeting.**

**30 Public Participation**

A member of the public spoke in connection with an item that Ward Councillor Mrs Baines had mentioned of the flat rate budget of £3750 given to Ward Councillors and what this could be spent on and how accessed. It was suggested that requests could be received through the Town Clerk and directly to Ward Councillors themselves. (Councillor Pickup provided an update on the funds which had been allocated to date, namely poppies for road lampposts and new kitchen equipment for the Blackrod Community Centre.)

Another resident mentioned the overgrown vegetation along Dark Lane, making pavements inaccessible, causing residents to step out on to dangerous road.

31. **Correspondence**

**Request for a donation**

**Blackrod Church School**

The Town Clerk provided details of a request for a donation which had been received from Blackrod Church School. The Town Clerk provided an update as to the status of the request and clarified how the request had arisen. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Seddon and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour by all present and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the information in connection with the donation be received**
- 2. That the sum of £300.00 be donated to the school towards the cost of the community centre hire for the children's end of term performances.**

**Resident letter**

**Little Scotland (Motorists)**

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of a letter received from a local resident in connection with concerns regarding the traffic speed in the area of Little Scotland. The Town Clerk also provided an update in regard to a verbal conversation which had taken place with another resident over the same matter, which had also included some verbal abuse by a motorist travelling along the area. The Town Clerk informed members that she had been in touch with GMP and provided them with details of the incidents and it was noted that a member of GMP would be in touch with the residents concerned on the matter. Members also noted their concerns regarding the speed limit in that area.

32. **Parking facilities outside the shops on Blackhorse Street**

In the absence of Councillor Farrington the above item was deferred to the next meeting of the Town Council.

33. **Extraordinary Meeting Update.**

Council members discussed the reasons behind the meeting they had held on 25<sup>th</sup> June in regard to communications with Ward Councillors for the Ward and it was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Mrs Warburton and voted in favour by all present and

**Resolved.**

1. **That the Town Clerk write to the Ward Councillors to request a meeting to discuss matters which have been arising ongoingly**
2. **That for the case of transparency in the request for a meeting, a copy of the invitation be addressed to the Leader of Bolton Council: Leader of the Conservative Party Bolton and Chief Executive of Bolton Council.**

**34. Blackrod War memorial**

The Town Clerk provided members with an update in regard to the Blackrod War Memorial and the application to request that the building be noted as an item of special architectural or Historic Interest. The Town Clerk conveyed that the application had been noted as received and that a preliminary assessment would be carried out in its regard.

**Resolved.**

1. **That the information be received and noted and updates to follow.**

**35. Bolton Council : Concerns regarding lack of responses.**

The Town Clerk asked members to note her concerns that when various subjects had raised questions from a variety of Bolton Council departments that many answers and information had still not been forthcoming after 6 months in some cases. Council members also added several areas of concern where they had also not received responses in a timely manner. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Bury(Snr) and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour by all and

**Resolved.**

1. **That the concerns over this lack of responses be noted.**
2. **That the Town Clerk contact the Chief Executive of Bolton and raise the matter of the outstanding requests for information.**

**36. Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Councillor Bury(Snr) provided members with the monthly report of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. This monthly update addressed points including, Draft Housing policies, Land Lease; Affordable Housing and Visit to Cottam Meadows development and other general work and meetings in connection with the ongoing work of the Steering Group.

**Resolved.**

1. That the monthly update be received and Cllr Bury thanked for his ongoing due diligence on the work of the Neighbourhood Plan.

**37. 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.**

Little Scotland	still no work done on pot holes
Vicarage Rd	will be repaired at long last
Grimeford Lane	Overgrown and folks noted as having to walk in road
Sylvestor Street	This area will ne actioned

Councillors again expressed concern in regard to various areas of Blackrod where undergrowth was blocking paths and pedestrians were having to walk in roadways which was entirely unsatisfactory and a request was made for any information which could detail when public pathways were inspected in the Blackrod area.

**Resolved.**

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

**38. Finance**

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

**Resolved**

1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £3346.30 ( three thousand three hundred and forty six pounds 30p) dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July2018.
  - 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 Mayors Account for £580.00 (five hundred and eighty pounds)

**39. Site Visits**

No site visits were identified at the meeting.

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

The Town Clerk updated members on the meeting she had had with representation from Phoenix House and matters that had been raised.

Councillor Price updated members in regard to the yellow lines outlined for Vauze House Close and the possible impact on Castlecroft Avenue areas and queried if it was a possibility for yellow lines to be put down just one side of the road.

Councillor Hollick asked for it to be noted that certain areas allocated a 30mph speed limit were simply not being enforced.

The current round of traffic counts which were being carried out in the west of the borough but which hadn't included the one for the A6/ Manchester road where costs had been requested from the town council to do so.

**Agenda Items for August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

None given at the meeting other than those deferred from this meeting.

41. **Reports from Ward Councillors**

**Ward Councillor Pickup Reported**

That the missing sign on Station Road was to be replaced  
That he had moved a motion to lobby Government for more funding for local schools  
Bolton Council and Bolton CCG and Bolton Royal Hospital Foundation had formalised a new health and social care partnership

**Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe. Written Report**

Bolton Childrens Social Care service had received a judgement of good in recent inspection  
Bolton Borough Youth Vision being held on 4<sup>th</sup> July  
Compensation for customers affected by recent rail disruption to be announced  
Civil Contingencies team is involved with other agencies to deal with the fire on Winter Hill

**Councillor Mrs Baines reported:**

**(In addition to Cllr Mrs Baines introduction at beginning of meeting)**

That the Bolton News had reported that Refuse Collectors were being asked to report pot holes they see on their journeys

Rivington chase development in Horwich where 50% of the tree corridor had been felled causing excessive noise to be heard from the development to the concern of local elderly residents. In addition the pollution from this site was also a concern for St Catherine's school which borders the area and it be noted that air pollution can travel.

**The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 6<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm.**

**The meeting closed at 8.50 pm**

**Signed.....Chairman**