

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 3rd September 2018

Present

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

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

Also Present: Mrs S Lowis (**Town Clerk**) Ward Councillor Mr Pickup and 14 members of the public and 1 press officer

64 Apologies for Absence

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

65. Declarations of interest

Councillor Price	Agenda Item 1 (Planning)
Councillor Farrington	Agenda Item 14 (Finance)

66. Planning Applications.

It was moved by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Bury (SNr) 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 3rd September 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.

04051/18

11, Land adj Valynette

**demolition of existing
Buildings & erection
Of 6 residential
dwellings**

No members of the public spoke to object to this application. Councillors also voted to object to the application as the understanding is that this land is in the green belt and do not recognise the land as being Brownfield land and believe the certificate of lawfulness has been given in error, with evidence given which has not been fully explored. The area has a high flood risk with land being lower than the river bank which would cause extensive damage to nearby land, homes and businesses. The entrance to the proposed development is extremely close to the bridge, exiting on to a 60mph road. Councillors ask that a site visit to this site takes place by the planning committee to ensure that all aspects are taken in to account as to why there is strong objection to this proposal.

67. 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.**

68. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 6th August 2018

It was moved by Councillor Mr Price and seconded by Councillor Farrington
And voted in favour and

Resolved

1. **That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 6th August 2018 be received and signed as a true record with the following points noted:**

Minute 62

Two items detailed had not been included on the September agenda (Apologies for the omission)

Councillor Hollick queried if any responses had been received in connection with 77-79 Church Street

Councillor Farrington provided a quick update in regard to the site visit made on Scot lane with Councillor Price in attendance and the numbers of vehicles involved.

Following the items indicated by Councillors under acceptance of the Minutes. The Town Clerk re informed members about raising Matters arising from the minutes. A note on this subject will accompany the October agenda as information.

69. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

Horwich Branch British Legion

Street Naming

The Town Clerk asked members to comment on a letter received from the Horwich Branch of the British Legion which referred to the naming of streets within the development currently known as the 'Horwich Loco Works' by honouring those who worked at the Loco Works who sadly has lost their lives in two world wars. The Town Clerk reminded councillors that Bolton had a street naming policy, which may not include the request that was being made. However, it was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour by all and

Resolved.

- 1. That the letter be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk advise the author of the letter of the Town Council's support for such a plan.**

Daly International

Smart Metering . Station Road

The Town Clerk asked council members to consider a consultative letter received from Daly International as agents for Arquiva in regard to a proposed development on Station Road of the installation of network equipment. The Town Clerk advised that if this was a standard telecoms mast then it wouldn't require a planning application (prior notification instead) as telecom companies have permitted development rights. However it was believed that gas/ electric companies didn't have permitted development rights and therefore there would be a planning application submitted. Following consideration Councillors felt that a mast at the advertised location could impede the sight line from both the business park and motorway bridge and that the stretch of area involved was small and narrow and used frequently

throughout the day by large HGV vehicles in that close proximity. Members advised on the possibility of a more suitable stretch of land and it was

Resolved

- 1. That the consultation letter be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk write to Daly International with the comments received from council members.**

70 Public Participation

A member of the public expressed her continual concerns with both Bolton Council and developers Wiggitts and advised that her concerns were being taken up by Ward Councillor Mrs Baines following the residents conflicting messages received from Bolton Council as well as receiving assistance from members of the Town Council and that future legal action was being considered by the resident concerned.

(It was also noted that the Town Council and residents had expressed concerns at the point of application on the matters now arising and these had been blatantly ignored by Bolton Council Planning.)

Another local resident advised that she was greatly concerned in regards to the development application on land off Grimeford Lane. The resident advised that she had been in touch with the legal department of Bolton Council to advise them on matters which were not being seen as transparent and asked if the Town Council could request sight of some information which had been sent to Bolton Council Planning which the resident felt had not been honestly compiled.

(The Town Clerk advised the applicant that the Town Council would not be in a position to see any legal papers received by Bolton Council but would make the residents request on her behalf)

A third resident provided town councillors with information in regard to fracking and further implications and requested members consider the matters being raised at a future council meeting. **(Council members received the information at the end of the meeting)**

71. Correspondence

Letter of thanks

Litter Picking in village

The Town Clerk made council members aware of a delightful letter she had received in relation to the recent sessions of litter picking, organised by Cllr Price, which identified some individual members of the litter picking group who had been litter picking as individuals on the main road. Town Council members moved to receive the letter and the Town Clerk will ensure that it reaches the appropriate personnel ongoingly. Council members noted that they were delighted that the efforts of the

group and of individuals across the village were being noted in the efforts to keep their village tidy and clean.

Donation Request

Haigh, Aspull and Blackrod Ploughing

Members considered a request from the organisers of this event for a donation to assist with the costs of setting up the event, refreshments, prizes etc. Monies raised through this event goes to Bolton Mountain Rescue who deal with a variety of tasks as well as rescues such as the recent assistance with the fires on Winter Hill. It was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour by all and

Resolved.

- 1. That the request be received and noted**
- 2. That the donation request be approved in line with finds approved for the same event in recent years.**
- 3. That the Town Clerk make the necessary arrangements for the cheque to be forwarded to the organisers in due course.**

Residents Letter

Vegetation on Dark Lane (Update from previous month)

The Town Clerk provided members with a letter which had been sent to a local land owner from a resident in relation to land off Dark Lane and which land had been the topic of concerns raised with Bolton Council over lack of care for pedestrians along the Highway. The resident stated that the letter had been sent following a visit to the area by Local Ward Councillor Mrs Baines who had visited the area together with the MP Chris Green. Cllr Mrs Baines had been in touch with the departments within Bolton Council and been advised that the land in question was not under the ownership of Bolton Council. The letter from the resident to the owner was as a result of this information. Members of the Town Council thanked the resident for her update and tenacity and asked to be informed of any further developments.

Residents Letter

Complaint to Chief Executive

The Town Clerk provided members with a letter sent from a local resident to Bolton Council's Chief Executive in relation to the lack of responses that departments in Bolton Council are providing in a timely manner to residents raising concerns. Members of the Town Council advised that they, too, acknowledged this concern in

regard to council matters taken up with departments. The copy letter referred to the Planning Department in Bolton. Council members asked to be updated in due course.

72. **Flying of Drones within the local vicinity**

Councillor Farrington asked members to consider the issues raised through the flying of drones over area in the vicinity and in particular when flying drones with attached cameras over areas occupied by children such as schools and play areas. Councillor Batchelor stated that national policy was currently being read in light of the same issues with drones. It was then proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour and

Resolved,

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk write to the current Ward Council members with a request that they table a motion to Bolton Council for them to consider implementing a ban on the flight of drones over the area, in particular over areas connected with young people playing.**

73. **Civic Regalia**

The Town Clerk provided members with draft designs and costs in regard to the Civic Mayoral Chain which following many repairs is now in need of being replaced. The Town Clerk confirmed that monies had been placed into contingency accounts for the intended purpose of eventually replacing the chain. The Town Clerk also added that the chain would include pieces from the old retiring chain. Several comments were made by members in regard to the designs and it was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Farrington and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the information be noted and action to replace agreed**
- 2. That the Town Clerk pursue the project and provide members with actual selection and finite detail and cost when complete**

74. **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 revision of some points on policies: revised lists of assets of community value and final submission of grant forms. Work continues on the draft plan.

Resolved.

1. That the monthly update be received
2. That the Town Council acknowledges the tenacity in which Cllr Bury is carrying out the working group role.

75. 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.

Dark Lane	Drains require emptying
Drains in general throughout village	
Weed control needs more diligence on pavements/ kerbs	
Station Road	Not being swept as sweeper cannot get near For overhanging vegetation
Scot lane	Road gullies
Street light reported as not working on Scot lane	
Fly tipping increases.	A caravan without windows

Councillor Farrington suggested contacting Bolton Council department to ask them for a maintenance schedule.

Resolved.

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

76. Finance

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

Resolved

1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £4526.62 (four thousand five hundred and twenty six pounds 62p) dated 3rd September 2018.
 - a. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed

77. Site Visits

Following the update from Councillor Farrington in regard to the traffic speed site visit it was decided that another would be arranged at a convenient time to suit Cllrs Farrington and Price. Further advices to follow.

78. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

The Town Clerk reported that Bolton Council had confirmed that they would look at the issue with overhanging trees on the A6

Bolton Council had asked the Ramblers Assoc to look at cutting back the footpath that was overgrown off Manchester Road

The MP for Bolton West has advised that although he would like to attend a council meeting he can no longer do Mondays for an indefinite period, which would mean that council meeting attendance had been put on hold.

The issue of play areas and Bolton Council maintenance a request for a schedule of works

Flies across the village had begun to be reported again.

That work appeared to be taking place on Station Road behind Junction Close on Greens Transport Yard but council hadn't been informed of any works to be carried out

250 bags of litter had now been collected through the organised Litter picks

Litter at bus stops. Waste bins necessary.

Agenda Items for October 1st meeting.given at meeting.

**Fly Tipping Cllr Price (given at August meeting)
Speeding Greenbarn Way Cllr Bury(Snr) (Given at August meeting)**

79. Reports from Ward Councillors

Ward Councillor Pickup Reported

**That he had attended the event at the Community centre which had been well attended Two towns area forum on 25th Sept at 6.30 for 7pm at HRMI
Been considering the Town Centre Master Plan for Bolton**

Ward Councillor Mrs Baines reported via report.

**That she is still looking to assist us with a band for the Remembrance Day Service
Has tabled a question for the Adult Health Scrutiny Committee why sirens are being used by ambulances on Scot lane at unsociable times when roads are clear.
Pursuing the issues of vegetation on Dark Lane, shrubbery and speeding and**

Dealing with several residents enquiries.

Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe reported via report

That she had proposed central government to adequately fund children with special educational needs

That she had supported a motion for central government to fund understaffed police force

Staff & children at Blackrod Primary school now expanded to take in 45 children per intake

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 1st at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed.....Chairman