

## **Blackrod Town Council**

### **Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018**

#### **Present**

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

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

**Also Present:** Mrs S Lewis (**Town Clerk**) Ward Councillor Mrs Baines and 9 members of the public

#### **80 Apologies for Absence**

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

#### **81. Declarations of interest**

No items were declared.

## 82. 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 1<sup>st</sup> October 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.

**04433/18**                      **5, Nightingale Road**                      **single storey to front & Rear and 2 storey side ext.**

No members of the public spoke. Councillors pointed out that the property was in keeping with many others, creating a similar street scene and voted to offer no comment.

**04542/18**                      **Yates Farm, Scot Lane**                      **Raising of ridge height By 1.2mt Incl alteration to dormers & 2 Storey ext to SW elevation**

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

**04559/18**                      **pavement station rd**                      **Prior notification app For installation of smart Meter pole/ antenna**

Councillors noted that they had already submitted comments to the developer through the consultation process and objected to the proposal in its current location. Comments included that the proposed location for the mast would most probably impede the sight line from both the business park and motorway bridge at the proposed stretch of land. The suggested site is extremely narrow and there are a considerable number of HGV vehicles in and out of the business park daily creating visibility issues from the actual mast. Councillors noted that this area was also extremely close to the motorway bridge with the possibility that this could create an unsafe situation. Councillors suggested that there was a more improved location less than 60/70 mtrs away further along the road alongside a sub station

or alternatively towards the entrance to the next industrial park which has far more open space that would not be in direct sight lines for vehicles. Councillors also indicated that at any location the mast should be erected as close to existing fencing as possible in order to avoid the issues the sight line would cause.

**04461/18**

**Land adjacent to  
104 Greenbarn Way**

**Erection of a detached  
dwelling**

Councillors voted to object to the planning application and asked committee members to note that this piece of land had not been earlier developed by developers of the estate as mining subsidence had been evident. Councillors noted that several residents would be complaining in person to Bolton Planning in connection with the application also. Equally council members objected to the planning application on the grounds that where Bolton's Core Strategy states that buildings should be compatible with current street scenes, this application did not meet that criteria as well as also being considered on green space land.

**83. 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.**

**84. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018**

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

**Resolved**

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 be received and signed as a true record with the following points noted:**

*That the Town Clerk apologised for omitting Councillor Mrs Gaskell from the attendance recorded at the previous meeting and will amend the records accordingly.*

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

The Town Clerk asked members to note a notice to divert the public footpath 008. Councillors had a discussion on the matter including the replacement of pathway 007 and it was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the letter be received and noted, with no objections raised.**

**86. Public Participation**

There was no public participation during the meeting.

**87. Correspondence**

**Copy Residents Letter**

**Request for the purchase of land off Dark Lane. (Bolton Council)**

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of a resident's letter requesting that Bolton Council purchase a piece of land on Dark Lane with the purpose of widening the junction at the end of Dark Lane and putting in a pavement from the houses numbers 8-18 to the junction of Dark Lane with Hill lane.

*Council moved out of Committee to allow the resident who was present to provide further information for council members which included that Ward Councillor Mrs Baines and the MP Chris Green had also visited the area in question. The council returned to Committee following this item and thanked the resident for the clarity.*

**88. Fracking Update**

Councillor Hollick made reference to the piece of information which had been supplied to Council members in reference to matters concerning some of the latest news regarding fracking. Councillor Hollick queried which Lake water would be used for the support of fracking industry. Councillor Mrs Seddon informed members that in certain areas of America Fracking had been noted as being quite safe. However these areas were identified as desert areas away from populated town and cities. Council members noted that they were opposed to fracking in any of the local areas and it was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Farrington 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 confirm Bolton Council's decision on fracking in the Bolton areas**
3. **That the Town Clerk contact United Utilities to ascertain which lakes would be involved in the support of fracking in the areas and how this would affect local residents with their mains water supplies.**

**89. Defibrillators in village**

Councillor Price raised the subject of availability of defibrillators within the village and councillors discussed the merits of the locations. Several locations were identified and it was suggested that the Council's noticeboards list the locations for public knowledge. It was also suggested that defibrillators would be more beneficial if they were located at strategic points which were not inside buildings that were often locked. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Bury(Snr) and voted in favour and

**Resolved**

1. **That the information be noted**
2. **That the Town Clerk pursue the identification of locations where defibrillators are located and post the information on the noticeboards and council web page as well as other prominent places.**
3. **That the Town Clerk seek information as to the costs of the Town Council also providing a defibrillator and ascertain an appropriate site for its location.**

**90. Speeding along Greenbarn Way**

Councillor Bury(Snr) brought up the subject of cars speeding throughout the village and along Greenbarn Way. Councillor Bury(Snr) also commented on the volume of young people travelling along Greenbarn Way as they made their way to school. Council members commented on some of the measures that could be installed and it was proposed by Councillor Bury(Snr) and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

1. **That the concerns over speeding along this area as well as many other areas of Blackrod be received and noted**
2. **That the Town Clerk write to Bolton Council to ask what effective traffic calming measures Bolton Council could consider for this area of road.**

**91. Fly Tipping in the village.**

Councillor Price requested members consider the issue of fly tipping in the village which had begun to increase again. Several areas were mentioned including near the

Health Centre, the layby on Dark Lane/ behind the back of New Street all of which were contrary to the statement made by Bolton Council Cabinet Member Councillor Peele who has stated that there has been a reduction in the quantity of fly tipping incidents . Councillor Price stated that this was quite the reverse in Blackrod since the removal of the Waste Disposal Unit. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded By Councillor Mrs Gaskell and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the information be noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk write to Bolton again to request bins for the bus stop area on Scot Lane: Return of Waste bins on the A6 Laybys: Lay By on dark Lane amongst others.**

**92. 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 revised lists of assets of community value which had been resubmitted to Bolton Council. Councillor Bury(Snr) also made reference to the aim of getting a first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan to the Town Council by November if possible. Noted that the final tranche of Grant had been approved and that information was being looked at which considered the feasibility for housing for the over 55's amongst other items.

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the monthly update be received**
- 2. That the Town Council noted the value of the work being carried out by Councillor Bury and the Steering Group.**

**93. LALC Meeting Update**

Councillor Price provided members with an overview of a recent meeting of the LALC where he had been in attendance. Items which Councillor price listed in his report included Fly Posting: Communication between Borough and Town Councillors: Planning; and general other items such as finance and vacancies.

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the informative report be received and noted and Councillor Price thanked for his contribution.**

94. **Town Council's External Audit for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

The Town Clerk submitted the Notice of Completion of the Town Council's Annual External Audit for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 and updated members on the report's contents. There were no matters arising from the external auditors and in regard to a note made by the Auditor in regard to an administrative typing error on the matter of a date, the Town Clerk provided the response from the Auditor that the error had been noted and accepted by the Audit Team for approval. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the Annual Return and External Auditors report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 be approved and accepted by the Town Council**
- 2. That the Town Clerk be thanked for her hard work and due diligence in the preparation of the annual audit papers and work undertaken throughout the year in their connection.**

95. **Update on meeting held with Blackrod Ward Councillors including letter of communication and outcomes.**

Members discussed the recent informal meeting which had been attended by Ward Councillor Mrs Baines and Ward Councillor Pickup, with Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe offering apologies for not attending. Members outlined how they felt the meeting had gone, which appeared to be harmonious with several matters being addressed. Some of the items addressed were clearly 'unknown' to the Ward Councillors present, which required additional clarification by council members. Equally some matters were outlined which clearly had not been given to members of the Town Council. The Town Clerk presented a letter which had been sent to the Ward Councillors following the meeting summarising the meeting and which outlined the way forward with required improved standards being expected between all parties. The letter had also requested the acceptance of the standards and methods of communication by the Ward Councillors. It was noted that a response of this nature had since been received from Councillor Mrs Baines and Councillor Pickup.

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the outline given of the meeting be accepted**
- 2. That the positive response by Ward Councillor Mrs Baines and Councillor Pickup be warmly welcomed**
- 3. That the Town Clerk re contact Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe to request a response in regard to acceptance of the standards that parties would work to.**

96     **Blackrod War Memorial**

The Town Clerk provided members with a letter from Historic England confirming that the Blackrod War Memorial in Blackrod Cemetery has been awarded listed building status at Grade II. The Memorial is now listed as a building of Special Architectural or Historical Interest. Councillors noted their approval of the work which had been undertaken on behalf of the Town Council on this matter.

97.     **Press Release: Blackrod War Memorial**

The Town Clerk presented Council members with a draft copy of an intended press release in connection with the War Memorial. Following discussion on content it was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour and

**Resolved**

1. **That the press release in its amended state be forwarded to the local newspaper as an item of interest.**

98     **Proposed signage in Blackrod**

Following an item of concern being raised about possible signage in the village which had not been discussed with the Town Council, the Town Clerk gave members an update as to how the signage being discussed had arisen: The update was that Ward Councillors for Blackrod were looking to fund the signage from District Funds and include symbols which related the history/ heritage of Blackrod. members stressed that no consultation had taken place with the Town Council on this venture or more importantly the public and that decisions on this project should not be taken by those who may not be familiar with the Town and its heritage. The Town Clerk confirmed that the proposed signage may not be the same as that already being considered through project work with various organisations. It was also identified that not all ward Councillors were aware of the project and projected spends from public money. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

1. **That the information be received with concern**
2. **That the Town Clerk liaise with individuals in Bolton Council to ascertain the exact positioning or not of these signs and request a hold on all matters for now.**
3. **That the Town Clerk also request consultation on the matter with the Town Council before any further work is undertaken.**

99.     **Town Map**

The Town Clerk provided members with a proposal for consideration for the production of a Town Map to be placed in a central area of the village. Following discussion amongst members it was proposed by Councillor Bury(Snr) and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

1. **That the information be received**
2. **That the Town Clerk contact the company to look at costs and proposed illustration for further consideration.**

**100. 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.

**A number of public footpaths were identified as requiring maintenance  
Uneven footpaths at the junction of Coniston and Nightingale Rd**

**Resolved.**

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

**101. 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 £4503.14 ( four thousand five hundred and three pounds 14p) dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018.**
  - a. **That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed**

**102. Site Visits**

No site visits were allocated,.

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

**Councillor Farrington gave an update on the recent ploughing event which had raised approx. £590 donation which would be made to the Bolton Mountain Rescue. Councillor Farrington thanked those who had supported the event and hopes the weather won't deter the event next year.**

**Councillor Mrs Gaskell gave an update on complaints of cars being parked at the entrance / regress on the lane along from the cemetery**

**Councillor Price provided an update on the 2 Town forum meeting and a future request that more council members try to attend whenever possible**

**Councillor Price also commented on the continued state of the playground off Vicarage Road**

**Councillor Hollick commented on the parking lines being placed on Hill lane which had been received from Bolton.**

**Councillor Hollick also commented on a car which appeared to have been dumped in the car park alongside the Health Centre.**

**Agenda Items for November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting given at meeting.**

<b>Bulky Bobs</b>	<b>Councillor Hollick</b>
<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b>	<b>Councillor Bury(Snr)</b>

**104. Reports from Ward Councillors**

**Ward Councillor Pickup written report**

**He had asked officers to look at the request in regard to drones  
He had attended a recent scrutiny committee where automated external defibrillators had been discussed as well as local care organisational development.**

**Detailed that residents had been invited to take part in the GM Culture Strategy**

**Ward Councillor Mrs Baines reported**

**The 521 Bus service where Cllr Baines had confirmed to residents that there was no plans to stop this service**

**Speeding on Scot Lane = she had spoken to Highways in this connection and would now liaise with police**

**Commented on salubrious comments being placed on social media and referring to herself by name. The Borough Solicitor had been informed as had facebook which was now monitoring the situation**

**Footpath on Dark Lane. Highways had confirmed that any future sale of the land could be subject to an order to create a walkable and safe footpath  
She has liaised with the police and Town Clerk in regard to the police attendance on Remembrance Day**

**2 Town Forum two presentations had been given one on 2030 and a second on the Health centre proposals in Horwich**

**Repainting of two signposts in Blackrod. This request is being followed up.**

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**Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe reported via report**

**Bulky Bobs had successfully bid to collect large waste items £30 for 5 items remain but now includes fridges and freezers and small electrical items can also be handed over at no charge when a large item is being collected.**

**Bolton Egypt has opened at Bolton Museum**

**There is a power of Partnership Health and Care workshop being held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

**Residents of Blackrod and Horwich have recently forwarded numerous areas for the possible inclusion of dropped kerbs following a social media request. Most areas of Blackrod have been included as per the requests and all forwarded to Highways for possible inclusion on possible future works.**

**The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

**The meeting closed at 9.50 pm**

**Signed.....Chairman**