

Blackrod Town Council

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

Present

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

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

Also Present: Mrs S Lowis (**Town Clerk**) Ward Councillor Mrs Baines: Ward Councillor
Pickup and 19 members of the public

105 Apologies for Absence

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

106. Declarations of interest

No items were declared.

107. Planning Applications.

It was moved by Councillor Farrington 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 5th November 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.

**04591/18 15, Fryent Close Erection of balcony with
Glass balustrade to rear**

No members of the public spoke. Following discussion on the application members offered no comment other than to ask the Planning Committee to note that there is a disused mine shaft at the bottom of the garden of the property which should require a report from the Coal Authority as to the safety of the property and surrounding area.

**04621/18 673 Chorley Road change of use class B1 B2 B8
Landscaping contractor
Vehicle & machinery storage to
Indl storage**

As a portion of the pathway actually falls within the Blackrod boundary Councillors offered the following comments as nearby neighbours to the application.

That consideration should be given to the number of possible HGV vehicles Which may be entering and leaving the facility. Additionally that a check should be made in regard to the mains sewerage/ foul sewerage (Point 13) as rules in regard to Cesspits may be applicable.

108. 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.**

109. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 1st October 2018

It was moved by Councillor Hollick 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 1st October 2018 be received and signed as a true record with the following points noted:**

Minute 88 should record the name of Councillor Bury (jnr) and not Councillor Mrs Seddon

(Minute 91 -addition should include the recent Litter Pick collected 19/20 bags of rubbish on the A6)

110. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

There was no planning correspondence for the meeting.

111. Public Participation

A member of the public raised her concerns that the works along the PROW through Nightingale Gardens had lost the use of a street light. Additional concerns were the uneven pathway where one half had been tarmacked leaving the pathway at different levels.

An additional resident raised the matter of the continuation of fly tipping along Dark Lane.

A local resident informed the Council that the drains along Dark Lane had been cleaned and were working at long last.

A number of residents came to raise the issue of the works connected with Spekes Pharmacy. The complaints raised included the volume of traffic associated with the development: the uneven ground at the rear of the property which had been cemented over and was causing issues with the flow of water: the manner in which those responsible for the shop were conducting themselves which residents felt was threatening and abusive.

The Chairman of the Council thanked the public for the points they had indicated which would be raised with the appropriate sources as soon as possible.

112. **Correspondence**

Copy Residents Letter

**Bus Shelters in Blackrod
(Blackhorse Street)**

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of a resident's letter requesting that new bus shelters were required for the areas on Blackhorse Street. The letter gave information as to the type of bus shelter which would be more use due to their locations. It was proposed by Councillor Bury(Snr) and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the letter and contents be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk pass the relevant information in regard to a request for bus shelters and type to the appropriate sources at TfGM**

Residents Letter

Junction Close Parking

(Several residents were in attendance for this item and Councillors voted to move out of committee in order to take on the views of the residents at this time)

The Clerk provided members with a communication from a resident of the above address in regard to the inappropriate parking taking place in the area of Junction Close. The letter contained pictures of cars on pavements, together with the letter conveying that driveways were often blocked and local residents being unable to get parked at their own homes. Several residents also spoke in its connection adding further incidents of inappropriate parking in the area. It was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk liaise with the author of the letter and assist where possible**
- 3. That the Town Clerk look in to how parking permits can be allocated**
- 4. That the Town Clerk speak or advise GM Fire Service to conduct a visit to the area in the interests of Health and Safety.**

(Update: The Town Clerk advised that she would look in to the matter and advise the resident ongoingly. Following communications with Bolton Parking Services in regard to parking permits and inappropriate parking in the area the Town Clerk forwarded relevant information to one of the residents concerned in addition to providing contact numbers regarding the additional sources of assistance)

113. **Fracking Update**

Following concerns and a request for clarification in relation to the position Bolton Council takes on fracking Ward Councillor Pickup and Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe both responded

Ward Councillor Pickup:

That Bolton Council had stated that it would not allow drilling on land it owns and no applications for fracking had been received to date. Bolton Council have stated that they are against fracking in principle but would consider future applications on their merits as required legally to do so.

Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe

Stated that in 2015 that Bolton would not allow any exploratory drilling on land that it owns and oppose fracking proposals from the Government in principle.

Resolved.

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

114. **Motion in regard to the Flying of Drones in the area.**

Following a request by the Town Council for a motion to be raised through the appropriate channels in Bolton Council. Ward Councillor Pickup provided a response to members of the Town Council which stated that a school or recreational space where children play would fall under the legislation effective from July 2018 that the flying of drones at a height over 120m above ground level or within 150m of crowds and congested areas would be an offence.

Resolved

1. **That the information be noted**
2. **That ward Councillor Pickup be thanked for taking the subject through to Bolton Council and the Executive member.**

115. **Speeding along Greenbarn Way**

Following a request by Councillor Bury(Snr) on the the subject of cars speeding throughout the village and along Greenbarn Way, The Town Clerk provided members with a response from Bolton Council which concluded that Bolton council would be unable to offer any additional road safety measures along Greenbarn way based on observations and financial constraints. The response also provided information on how schemes are implemented should funding be available which included accident and injury records for the area. The report also stated that Greenbarn Way is classed as a low priority road. Councillor Bury(Snr) asked if the information provided could be made available to residents who had requested the intervention if asked, to which the Town Clerk provided the necessary confirmation.

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted, with continued concerns.**

116. Clarification on Bulky Bob Service provided in Bolton.

Following a request for clarification on cost of the above service, The Town Clerk provided members with associated costs for this form of collection service and additional items.

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be noted**

117. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Councillor Bury(Snr) provided members with the monthly report of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. This monthly update addressed points including A meeting which had been held regarding Living Space for the over 55's and that several photographs had been taken which would be part of the work involving artists impressions for the Neighbourhood Plan documents.

Resolved.

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

118. Milestones within the Village

Councillor Farrington spoke in connection with the 3 milestones in the village and brought one in particular to the attention of members where it was felt that the stone may be in danger of removal if additional building works continue.(Red Lion Wall) Councillor Farrington also mentioned another possible 'monument' which had been sited in the village which it was felt may now be in the grounds of the former Town Council offices, together with a set of mounting steps also located in the same area. Councillor Bury (Snr) agreed with Councillor Farrington that these items were of historic importance and that the additional work being carried out by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group were currently addressing these ageing stones as part of their planned processes.

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That Councillor Farrington to see if the additional items mentioned could be located in the former Town Council Offices**
- 3. That once located , the Town Clerk to pursue the matter of Ancient Monument Status with those involved in preparing the list for the Village.**

119. Pre Submission Draft of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Town Clerk provided members with packs of Draft documents relating to the works of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Neighbourhood Plan with a request that members consider the draft documents and offer further comments where required in addition to offering approval of the drafts that had been prepared. The Town Clerk asked that members return the documents with any amendments/ additions where required and sign them off to the Town Clerk by 12th November 2018 where the additions / amendments would be returned to the Steering Group for action/ consideration as outlined by the Town Council. Full voting approval to be documented at the next meeting of the Town Council on 3rd December 2018

Resolved.

- 1. That the packs be distributed for comment/ approval and return to the Town Clerk by 12th November 2018**

120. Poppy Sponsorship

The Town Clerk provided members with information contained in an email from the Blackrod Sports and Community Centre Group. The information detailed the costs of the poppies for the lamp posts at a sponsorship cost of £5 each. Following clarification from the Town Clerk with the member of the Sports and Community Centre Group the information given was just to keep the Town Council updated on what was happening. However, it was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Farrington that a donation of £100 be given directly to the Poppy Appeal on behalf of the Town Council. The Town Clerk reminded members that the Town Council currently covers the costs of the public Remembrance Day Service and refreshments afterwards but agreed that there was sufficient funds available in order to make this rewarding donation. Therefore the proposal was unanimously voted for approval and upheld

Resolved

- 1. That the information be received**
- 2. That the Town Clerk make arrangements to dispense the donation to those representing the Blackrod Poppy Appeal.**

121. 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.

Blocked drains on the A6
Dark Lane – bottom of hill
Overgrown grass verges on Little Scotland
Blocked drains Scot Lane
Several lights needing reported as not working

Resolved.

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

122. Finance

It was moved by Councillor Farrington 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 £3144.06 (three thousand one hundred and forty four pounds 06p) dated 5th November 2018.**
- 2. That the chairman, Clerk and two members authorise a transfer from the Deposit Account to the Main Account for £10.000 (Ten thousand pounds only)**
 - a. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed**

123. Site Visits

No site visits were allocated,.

124. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

The Town Clerk provided members with information regarding the funeral of Councillor Barbara Ronson and members advised of their attendance.

The Town Clerk informed members that she had received a communication in regard to the proposed Gateway Signs for areas of Blackrod. It had been pointed out to Bolton that a couple of the signs were not even on the borders of the entrances to the village and that, following concerns by councillors previously a letter had been sent to the Chief Executive of Bolton Council to ask for an immediate hold on this project which had had no consultation with the Town Council and to which several communications had already been written. Councillors stated that Blackrod had not asked for these signs and it was a matter of record that the Town Council had not been consulted with and did not want the proposed signs. Additionally it was pointed out that when Westhoughton and Horwich had obtained similar signs they had been paid for by the Township themselves and funding had not been taken from Town Centre Funds. The matter is ongoing.

The Town Clerk provided confirmation from Bolton Council that following enquiries in response to an item posted on Social Media, the dropped kerb scheme is for pedestrian crossing points and not for vehicle access to driveways. Contrary to social media reports, Blackrod will currently only receive two addresses of dropped kerbs namely, Nightingale Road and Whitehall Lane.

The Town Clerk updated members on the question of yellow lining on Nightingale Gardens: Once the developer is in the position of carrying out the final surfacing Bolton Council will look to issuing a Part 2 certificate and once this is achieved lining will be implemented. *(This information is in relation to the query as to the outcome of a TRO for this area and concerns raised by residents, Town Council and the developer)*

Agenda Items for December 3rd meeting - given at meeting.

**Bulky Bobs
Draft Neighbourhood Plan**

**Councillor Hollick
Councillor Bury(Snr)**

125. **Reports from Ward Councillors**

Ward Councillor Pickup reported:

Bolton Council has released capital funding of £50,000 per ward for minor highway improvements and further monies for Neighbourhood Improvements and to promote behavioural change.

Motions at the last Council meeting in Bolton included Highways Funding, assistance for businesses with the impact of Brexit and Tampon Tax

Electrification of the railway line through Blackrod is now complete and weekend closures ended. However a full service at the weekend will not commence until the end of December due to strike action by the RMT Unions

Ward Councillor Mrs Baines reported

That she is looking in to the funding for the painting of 2 signposts in Blackrod

Two Towns Budget- There is no allocated highways budget this year and enquiries are being made with Bolton Chief Executive how the Two Town Forum monies is spent. An urgent review has been commissioned on this matter

Roads Allocation.- Horwich and Blackrod are amongst several areas to receive the least funding from the 2.6million investment for Bolton Council to start to repair Bolton's roads. This is because Blackrod and Horwich are seen as affluent areas. Conservative members are stating that all roads are the same and none should be classified as more deprived than others. Inner Labour Wards are to receive £100,000 whilst wards such as Blackrod will receive £7000.

Concerns are raised over the former Speke's Shop which is being looked in to. Ambulance Sirens along Scot Lane

Awaiting confirmation of Blackrod and Horwich allocated budget for 2018/2019

Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe reported via report

Installation of new zebra crossing to the front of Blackrod Primary School in December

Horwich and Blackrod to be allocated £50,000 for roads and pavements but for use on those already costed.

White lines being repainted due to deterioration in the area

Network Rail have laid 1.1km of high voltage cable needed to supply all the newly installed overhead wires with electricity and better fencing has been installed at Agecroft/ Blackrod and North Adlington.

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as December 4th December at 7pm and the Chairman extends a warm welcome to those attending who may wish to join Council members for seasonal refreshment.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed.....Chairman