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Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 7th January 2019

Present

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

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

Also Present: Mrs S Lowis (**Town Clerk**) and 7 members of the public

145 Apologies for Absence

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

147. Declarations of interest

Cllr M Hollick

Agenda Item 5

Planning

148. Planning Applications.

It was moved by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell 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 7th January 2019, 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.

**05135/18 24, Ridgeway conversion & ext of utility
To form hairdressing salon**

Members of the public presented at the meeting and informed councillors of their objections to the proposed application, which in the main revolved around the congestion already in the area with numerous vehicles parked on all sides of the road in the vicinity which would increase even more so if this application was approved. Councillors noted that currently there was such an issue with the parking in the area that should a H & S vehicle attempt to pass along the road they would find it extremely difficult to access due to the very narrow gap caused by parking of vehicles on both sides of the road in this area, including grassed areas as vehicles had nowhere else to go. Following further debate councillors voted to support the residents and object to the application for another hairdressing salon in the village due to the issues that would be brought about by the congested parking and the safety of children who live in and around the area, who play on the grassed area which traffic use to bypass the congested parking – which would only increase if customer parking increased due to the use of the proposed salon.

**04963/18 Land at Moss Lane removal of condition 15
On app no. 97291/16 &
Amendments to conditions
2,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,13,14.**

No papers were available to view due to the portal not being available to many councillors. Councillors considered the removal of conditions and voted to object to the removal of the conditions which had been put in to place for a variety of reasons. Councillors also noted that the application was shown to bring about a fundamental design change which couldn't be fully explored..

**05106/18 11, Highfield rd demolition of existing garage &
Erection of a 2 storey side ext
Together with single storey
Rear ext and porch on front.**

Councillors noted that a bat survey had been requested and was absent and whilst councillors declared they had no objections to the planning application a request for clarification was made against the information contained on drawing No 2 which stated that the information provided was for building regulation only and not detailed as part of the planning application incl dimensions/ method of construction etc which clearly was part of a planning application.

**05149/18 14, Eskdale Ave erection of 1st floor ext to front,
Side and rear, conversion of
Garage to habitable room &
Alteration of driveway to
Provide additional parking**

Councillors considered the submission and voted to raise no objections but stressed that consideration should be given to the blocking of the footpath during the construction of the extension.

04901/18 134, Greenbarn way erection of single storey ext

Following consideration of the application councillors voted to approve the application

**05057/18 191, Station Road erection of single storey ext to
Rear**

Councillors made no comment on the application.

149. 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.**
- 2. Councillors expressed concerns over the planning approval for the application at Valynette.**

150. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 3rd December 2018

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

Resolved

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 3rd December 2018 be received and signed as a true record.**

151. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

Bolton Council

**TRO locations in Blackrod (Speed limits and
Parking restrictions)**

Resolved

- 1. That the proposed draft orders be received and noted.**

152. Public Participation

A member of the public spoke in connection with the yellow line situation in the Village which will cause disruption to resident parking as well as visitor parking.
(Councillors also noted their concerns)

Another resident gave an update in regard to the promised works of clearing the gutters on Dark Lane which had only be partly completed. The resident intended to approach the Asst Director in Bolton's department in this connection and will keep council members updated.

153. Correspondence

Scope Clothing Donation

Clothes Bank

The Town Clerk read a letter of thanks from someone working alongside the charity scope who, in particular, was searching for new locations for clothes banks. The Town Clerk recommended that the Town Council make no suggestions on this matter and that as it was a query involving placing items on public land, the author of the letter should be referred to Bolton Council. Councillors agreed with this suggestion.

Resolved

- 1. That the letter be moved and received.**
- 2. That the author be informed of the decision of the Town Council.**

Bolton Council

**Update in connection with yellow lines
Suggestion.**

The Town Clerk provided members with a response from the Asst Director Highways to their query relating to a swap of location of yellow lines, which could possibly be implemented to avoid safety issues with traffic. The Asst Director informed the Council that there would be a costs associated with a TRO alone for this matter of approximately £4K and that the Town Council would have to consider paying before any consultative work begun. Members considered the response and it was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the information be received**
- 2. That this point in question should form part of the matters given in the meeting with the CEO at a future meeting.**

154. Local Council Update Papers

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of the December issue of Local Council updates . In future these papers will be attached to the Town Clerks monthly report and any item from these papers to be put on the agenda for consideration should be notified to the Town Clerk in the normal way.

Resolved,

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

155 Date for meeting with Bolton CEO and others

The Town Clerk asked members to note the date for the meeting with the Chief Executive of Bolton Council, which will be held in a closed meeting.

Resolved

- 1. That the date for the meeting be added to the council calendar.**

156. NALC Employment briefing & Salary Awards 2019

The Town Clerk provided members with information received from the NALC/SLCC relating to NJC agreement that has been reached on new pay spine structures for Town Clerks from April 2019 amounting to a 2% pay increase. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Bury(Snr) and voted in favour by all and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk implement the new salary structure and payments in due course.**

157. a. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Councillor Bury(Snr) provided members with the monthly report of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for December 2018 This monthly update addressed points such as Assets of Community Value: Preparation for the drop in and consultation flyers.

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.**

(b) The Town Clerk also brought to members attention a piece of correspondence which had been handed in for members attention in regard to an item which formed part of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan. The correspondence loosely referred to Blackrod's need for housing for the elderly (Information taken from the consultation questionnaire which went to over 2500 homes in Blackrod) and made reference to grazing land and stables adjacent to Blackrod Church School. The authors of the correspondence stated that in their opinion this housing was not required. Members confirmed that Authors of the correspondence had been informed by several members that despite incorrect information being circulated, there was currently no application to build houses on the area in question and that steps would be taken to contact relevant sources to advise them of the current situation.

Resolved.

- 1. That the documentation received in relation to the above Point (b) be received and noted**

2. **and steps taken to confirm to those concerned that there was currently no application for housing of any sort on the area in question but that their points had been noted.**

158. Financial Accounts Reconciliation

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of the interim auditable review of the current financial half yearly reconciliation dated to 30th September 2018. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. **That the timely reconciled accounts to the 30th September be received, noted and approved.**

159. Missing signage on Scot Lane and Station Road

Councillor Farrington brought to members attention that signage to Horwich from Blackrod appeared to have gone missing. This missing information was at the T.Junction of Scot Lane with Manchester Road (a main route through the village) and additionally at the junction of Manchester Road with Station Road. Councillors agreed that notification should be given to Bolton in regard to these omissions.

Resolved.

1. **That the Town Clerk advise Bolton in this regard**

160. Double Yellow lines and White Lining

Councillor Farrington spoke again in connection with the continuing parking along Scot Lane which was constantly blocking the pavements in the area. Councillor Farrington stated that initial requests through appropriate channels had failed to received any long term action from the appropriate channels. Additionally, following discussion, councillors noted that as costs could be incurred for requests for yellow lines and other road traffic orders, that several areas of concerns be sent together to Bolton Council with a request that they all be logged under one traffic order in order to avoid additional expense of frequent requests to Bolton.

Resolved

- 1. That the information be noted**
- 2. That a letter be sent to the appropriate authority (GMP) in relation to the continued parking along Scot Lane with a further request for enforcement action.**

161. Wiggitts Development.

Councillor Price reminded members that the issue of flooding had still not been resolved in areas of Rydal Close and surround and despite advice that this could now be a civil matter, asked for the Town Council's continued support for the resident(s) in question in regard to this matter. Councillors confirmed that they would offer any support that was in their capacity to do so for any resident in the area who had become affected by flooding, though it was also noted that as far as legal proceedings were concerned this would be a matter for the affected residents, developers and those that had been involved in the selling and purchase of the land.

Resolved.

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

162. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues

The Town Clerk confirmed that bollards had been put in to place at the entrance to the PROW off Blackhorse Street to the satisfaction of local residents and that a note of thanks had been given to the tenacious work carried out on their behalf by the Town Council.

Resolved.

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

163. Finance

It was moved by Councillor Price and seconded 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 £3510.28(three thousand five hundred and ten pounds 28p) dated 7th January 2019**

2. **That the chairman, clerk and two members sign a transfer request of funds from the Deposit Account to the Main Account of £15,000(Fifteen thousand pounds) .**
 - a. **That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed**

164. **Site Visits**

An update was given on the site visit that took place to Station Road in order to view the state of the pavements and roads in the area. Following the visit a request for cleaning had taken place with Bolton Council and it had been duly cleaned. However, this was an area which would continue to be of concern in regard to the conditions of the roads and obvious lack of cleaning. It was also noted that the fault for the conditions did not lie with one source in the area but was a mixture of many different components. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Bury(Snr) and voted in favour by all and

Resolved

1. **That the Town Clerk write to Bolton Council to confirm the details provided of dates for cleaning in the area**
2. **That confirmation of the works carried out by a local firm are either contractual or done on a voluntary basis.**

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

The Town Clerk provided members with information regarding the annual invitation to Buckingham Palace Garden Party where nominations could be provided to the LALC. (*Councillors undertook a ballot and Councillor Hollick was chosen to go forward to the ballot stages as a nominee from Blackrod Town Council.*)

The Town Clerk reminded members that there would be a meeting of the Youth Council on January 30th 2019 at 1.30pm

Members were also reminded of the new date for the meeting with Bolton's CEO as 11th February 2019

A request was made for contact to be made to the RTA to carry out spot checks on vehicle overloading in various areas of Blackrod.

Members raised concerns with the cars parking outside the flats on the corner of Blackhorse Street with Hill lane.

A councillor requested sight of the GM Spatial Framework when available.

The Town Clerk provided members with an update from the Coal Authority, in regard to coal mines in the area, which members present felt was not in agreement with maps and local knowledge. (*work to be continued*)

Agenda Items for February 4th meeting - given at meeting.

None given at meeting.

166. **Reports from Ward Councillors**

Ward Councillor Pickup reported:

Bolton Council had launched a public consultation on its 2019-2021 budget proposals. Since 2011 the council has had £155 million less to spend due to central government cuts. Consultation will run to 14th January 2019 as to how to make a further £31.5 million savings over next two years. (£8 million will be used from reserves) Final report to go to cabinet on 11th Feb and to full council on Feb 20th.

No housing sites have been allocated on the green belt in the borough of Bolton in the latest spatial framework plan.

Gtr Mcr vision for homes, jobs and the environment from 2018-2037 has been published. Bolton have become the only council so far to remove proposed green belt sites identified for housing.

Horwich Golf Course and Ditchers Farm in Westhoughton are to be reclassified as green belt land, giving additional protection for unwanted housing development.

Gtr Mcr proposed housing has now reduced from 227 thousand to 201 thousand with Bolton's figures reducing from 16800 new homes to be built down to 13940 solely on urban sites.

Ward Councillor Mrs Baines (left a report having left early due to illness)

Added to the news above on Greater Manchester vision that there would be two consultation drop in events at the Carnegie Hall in Westhoughton 25th February 2-7pm and Friends Meeting House 6th March 2-7pm

That she has applied for some funding for the commemorative garden works in Blackrod and for the Methodist Luncheon Club and looking for additional ideas.

Commented on the various TRO's around the village

Commented on ongoing enforcement requests around the village

Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe reported via report

Reminded those present on the Bulky Bobs item from earlier reports and also reiterated the comments made by the other two ward Councillors in regard to Green Spaces, and the Spatial Framework.

167. **Communication Issues and Actions.**

Members of the Town Council considered an outstanding matter on the subject of collaboration and communication with the Blackrod & Horwich Ward Councillors. Council members felt that the continued show of disrespect being given to the Town Council, by a particular Ward Councillor, could no longer be tolerated and voted unanimously to pursue a vote of no confidence in that Ward Councillor as well as raise the matter of a Standards Complaint against the same Ward Councillor.

Resolved.

- 1. That the Town Clerk pursue through the appropriate channels the necessary information, documentation and procedure required to bring about the vote of no confidence and complaint to the Standards Authority.**

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 4th February 2019 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed.....Chairman