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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 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

#### **Present**

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

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

**Also Present:** Mrs S Lowis (**Town Clerk**) and 13 members of the public and Ward  
Councillor Mrs S Baines

#### **188 Apologies for Absence**

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

#### **189. Declarations of interest**

No declarations were made at the commencement of the meeting (See item 202)

**190. Deputy Mayor Elect for 2019/2020 (*Item deferred from the February meeting*)**

Councillors were asked to consider nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor Elect for the year 2019/2020. Councillors Mrs Seddon said that in the absence of any current nominations she would offer to stand as Deputy Mayor to the nominated Mayor Elect if required. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Mrs Warburton and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour by those present and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That Councillor Mrs Seddon be duly nominated as Deputy Mayor Elect for 2019/2020**

**191. Planning Applications.**

It was moved by Councillor Warburton and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon 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 4<sup>th</sup> March 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.

<b>05430/19</b>	<b>11, Vauze Avenue</b>	<b>Erection of single storey ext to Side and rear</b>
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Councillors offered no objections to the planning application

<b>05518/19</b>	<b>Denton Farm</b>	<b>Erection of replacement Poultry building.</b>
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Following some discussion councillors offered no comment on the application

<b>05378/19</b>	<b>Former Loco Works (full application inc re routing)</b>
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*(Although the Former Loco Works is in Horwich, Blackrod Town Council were given the opportunity to comment as there will be some portions of Blackrod detailed in the reports).*

Councillors considered the new amendments to the existing application and raised concerns in connection with:-

Road infrastructures at entrances and exits

Removal of the contaminated waste – when it is being removed and by whom and which route will it take both through Horwich & Blackrod

Drainage issues which will emerge when development commences as the Red Moss manages to absorb a quantity of water. However, when flooding happens in that area at affects the Douglas Valley, Station Road and the A6 Bypass and the identified pond that is to be on site will not contain all of the extra water that will evolve following construction around the Red Moss area. Councillors also raised concerns about proposed exits and entrances to the development in particular the proposals for Station road, which they would like answers to and the conditions placed on the previous application for the Loco Works Development.

**192. 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.**

**193. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

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 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019 be received and signed as a true record.**

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

**Wigan Council**

**Gtr Mcr Spatial Framework consultation**

**Resolved**

No comments were made in its regard in addition to previous months comments. Councillor Bury added that the public could make general comments on line prior to the closing date of 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Councillors also noted that Bolton Council had not requested Blackrod Town Council to offer comments as a public body following the new strategic plan updates across 9 Gtr Mcr Councils.

*Following a meeting with Bolton's CEO and Director of Place, where several matters were raised the Town Clerk had produced a resume of the issues being raised with Bolton Council in regard to several areas of concern on Blackrod Industrial Estate. The Town Clerk provided members with a response to that report from the Director of Place who has raised matters with the Planning Team as well as Regulatory services in regard to Environmental Enforcement. A conclusion to the matter will be forwarded when complete.*

**Resolved**

- 1. That the document and current update be received and noted**

**195. Public Participation**

Another member of the public, who is facing major concerns in connection with the issue of water damage on her land asked if this matter had been brought to the attention of the CEO during his visit with the Town Council. The Town Clerk updated the resident on the conversation which has taken place with the CEO and Director and that they had provided the name of a report that may be of benefit to the resident should she wish to avail herself of it. Councillors reiterated their support for the resident despite noting that they felt that the way forward for the resident was through civil means.

A member of the public spoke in connection with Dark Lane to state that following her concerns, improvements had been made to the roadside and that she was now pursuing the matter of additional lighting in that area and would keep the council updated..

Another resident raised his concerns on the further re development of the Loco Works and the suggested roadway alterations, of which the impact on Blackrod would be further congestion which is already at a level of concern.

A member of the public also thanked the Town Clerk for the update in connection with lighting on the Wiggitt development and both stated that the matter was still ongoing and would be pursued to a conclusion.

**196. Correspondence**

**Request for a donation**

**Blackrod ABC**

The Town Clerk read a letter from Blackrod ABC requesting the council's consideration for a donation towards the cost of a kit for youngsters from the Blackrod club who will be competing against boxers from all over the country. Following consideration and reading how the club was assisting with the development of young people in a variety of ways it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Warburton and seconded by Councillor Bury(Snr) and voted in favour and

**Resolved**

1. **That the letter and request for a donation be received and the sum of £250.00 be approved**
2. **That the Town Clerk liaise with the organisers of the club on the funding matter.**

**Letter of thanks**

**St Katharine's Church**

The Town Clerk provided members with a letter of thanks from St Katharines for the donation of the annual maintenance towards the church tower.

**Resolved**

1. **That the letter of thanks be received and noted.**

**Letter of thanks**

**Blackrod Scarecrow Festival**

The Town Clerk provided members with a letter of thanks from the Blackrod Scarecrow Festival for the Town Council's donation towards the hiring of the transport for the forthcoming festival days to assist those who needed mobility assistance.

**Resolved**

1. **That the letter of thanks be received and noted.**

**LALC**

**Annual Report for members**

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of the LALC annual report and it was noted by members that attendance at this annual meeting was considered appropriate due to the information provided bring benefit to the Blackrod Community.

**Resolved.**

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

197. **Visit by Bolton's CEO and Director of Place 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

The Town Clerk had previously circulated a letter from Bolton's Chief Executive thanking members for his visit and warm welcome which had been received. The Chairman, Councillor Batchelor provided a brief update as to how the visit had gone, which above all else had been about communication and spoke on behalf of all members when he stated that it was hoped that the exercise would prove to be beneficial across all avenues. Councillors agreed that the meeting had been carried out in an open and transparent manner and agreed with the chairman that they were looking forward to more open and improved communication amongst all parties.

198 **Warning Signs. (horses)**

The Town Clerk provided members with a response from Bolton Council in regard to the communication which had been received by a local resident in reference to making flashing signs available for fast moving roads for the safe passage of horses crossing the roads in question. The response from Bolton Council stated that the cost for such a facility would be in excess of £15000 and that a strong case as well as finances would have to be committed to the venture. The Town Clerk reminded members that this kind of funding could not be found by the Town Council but that she would forward the details and comments from Bolton to the author of the letter for her to take forward on a personal level.

**Resolved**

1. **That the letter and update from Bolton be received and noted**
2. **That the Town Clerk update the author of the request as convenient.**

199. **Local Council Update Papers.**

The Town Clerk provided members with this months latest legislative information for perusal

**Resolved.**

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

200. **Scamming**

As the Town Clerk was unable to identify the member who had requested the item for the agenda, she requested that the item be removed from the agenda. The action was agreed by all present.

201 **Litter Free Project**

Councillor Price updated members on the recent litter picking event held at the weekend, which continued to be successful and asked members to consider whether they felt it was a good idea to request a communal skip for the village, based initially on 2 days per month. Councillors debated the possibility and suggestions were made in regard to where the skip could be located/ collected/ how to avoid it becoming another dumping ground rather than a solution to current litter dumping and who could manage the project. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon that preliminary information should be gathered in relation to this possible project to bring back to a future meeting.

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the Town Clerk undertake to liaise with appropriate sources to gather information on this matter.**

202. **Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Councillor Bury(Snr) provided members with the monthly report of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for february 2019. This monthly update addressed points such as residents consultation responses and provided one or two graphs to indicate the level of support to the aims and objectives of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Bury also gave members an update on the remarks made by Jones Homes (Builders) in relation to the building of homes on land seen as suitable for housing. The representation document submitted by Jones Homes to the Neighbourhood Plan pre-submission consultation proposed a site near to the A6 bypass for housing development. They recognised that the proposed site is within the green belt but still set out a case for development and proposed that Blackrod Town Council recommend that this site be released from the Green Belt and allocated for housing. Following further discussion amongst members, it was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and voted in favour by all present and able to vote and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the monthly update be received**
- 2. That Blackrod Town Council reject the proposals made by Jones Homes in their consultative document as well as any development of the Green Belt.**
- 3. That the Town Council continue to note the value of the work being carried out by Councillor Bury and the Steering Group.**

*(N.B Councillor Bury(Snr) and Councillor Price declared an interest in the item took no part in the vote on this occasion)*

203. **Neighbouring Town Council Communication**

The Town Clerk asked members to note the contents of a letter which had been received from a member of Horwich Town Council in regard to a newly created political party, namely Horwich and Blackrod First Independent Party. The

documentation explained why there had been a need to create a new party through the Electoral Commission and what their future guiding principles would be and how they hoped that they could work together with other councillors across the Ward. Councillor Farrington queried an announcement which had appeared in the local press which he felt indicated that Independent Councillors in Blackrod were being seen as members of this new Independent Party. The Town Clerk issued a number of statements in order to clarify this point which included;-

- that Horwich & Blackrod Independent Party are a different group to any council members in Blackrod who stands and exists as an Independent Councillor
- Being an independent Councillor in Blackrod does NOT mean that you are a member of this newly formed group nor does it require anyone to do so
- The newly formed group will have its own constitution and be recognised as a political party going forward
- the naming of the group as the Horwich & Blackrod First Independent Party is named as such to replicate that of the current named Ward area.

**Resolved.**

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

**204. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues**

Manchester Road	Exposed cabling on top of utility flap
A6/ Mcr Rd Junction	Nasty Accident
Station Road	Continued mess
Starr lane	no wheel washing of vehicles taking place
Dropped kerbs	Nightingale Rd and Carlton close need checking
Flower areas	Destroyed plants by random weed spraying
Hedge Cutting	Station Road

**Resolved.**

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

**205. Finance**

It was moved by Councillor Price 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 £5374.32( five thousand three hundred and seventy four pounds 32p) dated 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019**
- 2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed**



206. **Site Visits**

No site visits were requested at the meeting.

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

The lighting on the Wiggitts Development was raised again from a H & S matter

The Town Clerk provided dates in relation to the forthcoming Election process.

A response was given from the local PCSO in regard the HGV vehicle parked on Scot Lane/ the inappropriate parking along Scot lane

Works on the A6 carriageway taking place from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March as posted with council papers

An update from TfGM in regard to the bus stop on Blackhorse Street where a patronage count had taken place which had been successful and further information had been requested from the Town Clerk in regard to siting of the bus shelter

Information from Bolton Council in relation to footpath 078, which was still being pursued on behalf of residents.

The Labour Party Leaflet middle pages which appeared to provide some inaccurate or misguided statements regarding items of investment in Blackrod.

**Agenda Items for April meeting - given at meeting.**

**Speeding                      Councillor Hollick**

208. **Reports from Ward Councillors**

**Ward Councillor Pickup reported:**

**IN terms of the Ward, Bolton Council had approved a 2 year budget for 2019-2021, following proposals to make £31.5 million of savings. £8 million will be used from reserves to balance the 2019-2021 budget but saving will still have to be made.**

**Council tax to rise by 2.2% (1& adult social care/ 1.25% other services plus Gtr Mcr Mayoral precept)**

**One off allocation of £2 million to be spent on residential roads and pavements  
£4 million allocated for investment in town centres.**

**Resurfacing on the A6 will commence from 18<sup>th</sup> March with temporary lights in operation**

**Electric trains are now operating through Blackrod.**

**Ward Councillor Mrs Baines reported:-**

**Highways had given notice of repairs to Manchester Road and Greenbarn Way commencing on 5<sup>th</sup> March**

**Hedge Trimming to commence 4<sup>th</sup> March**

**Bus shelters being requested for Blackhorse Street ( in hand via the Town Clerk)**

**Fair Trade fortnight in place up to 10<sup>th</sup> March**

**Support being given to Horwich Cricket Club against a threat of closure**

**Local residents being supported with several issues**

**The Rivington Chase Liaison Committee to meet on 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm**

**New Waste disposal contract for Gtr Mcr has had 9 bids received with the preferred bidder being SUEZ- further information to be reported**

**The CCG have moved in to the Town hall**

**Very successful PACT meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb**

**Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe written report**

**Indicated again the works on the A6 carriageway ( as above)**

**Spatial Framework consultation meeting to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> March at Friends Meeting House**

**Roadworks to include Mcr Rd junction with Greenbarn way 5/3 to 8/3 for Electricity NW**

**Station Road, at the Industrial Estate temporary off peak lights ongoing from 5<sup>th</sup> march**

**The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the Monday April 1st 2019 at 7pm**

**The meeting closed at 9.20pm**

**Signed.....Chairman**