

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 3rd June 2019

Present

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

Councillors Mr G Farrington
Mrs S Gaskell
Mrs S Baines
Mrs I Seddon
Mr M Hollick
Mr A Bury
Mrs S Warburton

Also Present: Mrs S Lewis (**Town Clerk**) and 15 members of the public and Ward Councillor Mrs P Wright

Prior to the start of the meeting proper re-elected member of the town Council, Cllr Mrs Isabel Seddon made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and commitment to observing the Code of Conduct expected of members of Blackrod Town Council. In addition Cllr Mrs Seddon made her Declaration in the position of Deputy Mayor for 2019-2020.

1 Apologies for Absence

All councillors present.

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations were made

3. Appointment of Working Group/ Council Representatives on outside bodies.
(Deferred from the Annual Meeting on 13th May 2019)

The following appointments were made:

Popplewell Trust	Cllr John Price & Cllr Mrs Warburton
R & B Foundation Trust	Cllr Mike Hollick & Cllr Mrs Seddon
Neighbourhood Plan Chairman	Cllr Alan Bury
Blackrod Educational Trust	Cllr Mrs Seddon
LALC Representatives	Cllr John Price & Cllr Mrs Gaskell (Deputy)

N.b. Cllr Graham Farrington is a Trustee of both the Popplewell and Blackrod Educational Trusts but not through the Town Council mechanisms. The Town Clerk Mrs Stella Lewis is also a Trustee of the Blackrod Educational Trust

4. Planning Applications.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Seddon and seconded by Councillor Farrington 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 June 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.**

06103/19

20, Pennington Fold Farm

Demolish & replace Dwelling/ change of Use & conversion of Barn. Erection of 2 Garages, reposition Access point.

Councillors offered no comment to the altered planning application other than to ensure Highways are consensual to the new access point and that the sewerage system is fit for purpose..

**05910/19 2, Widford Walk Erection of single storey
Ext at side**

Councillors raised no objections to the planning application

**05950/19 52, Vicarage Rd Erection of single storey
Ext to front & rear**

Councillors noted the application and voted in favour to approve

**06036/19 77-79 Church Str Erection of single storey ext at
Front of building**

Councillors considered the application and noted some inaccuracies within the application itself. Councillors voted unanimously to object to the proposals outlined in the application due to over development of the premises in question already and within the area. The application is not in keeping with the current street scene and structural concerns were also noted. Town Councillors felt that it would be appropriate to request that Bolton Council Planning Committee visit the sit in question. Numerous concerns have also been raised by local residents in relation to the property in question and ongoing works.

**06080/19 673 Chorley Road Discharge of conditions
2,3,4 (Car Parking layout)**

Councillors spoke in connection with the application which was noted would have also been forwarded to Westhoughton town council. Councillors commented that if Highways were confident in regard to the access points on to a busy Highway in Blackrod and that the application itself was about the change to the car parking facility only, no further comment would be added to earlier considerations already given.

05953/19

Valynette Grimeford Ln

Variation of
Condition 19 on
App 4051/18 (House
Type & site plan)

Following discussions councillors repeated their concerns in regard to the permissions already given for this application which could affect the surrounding areas with flooding and that the properties had already been given planning permission by Bolton Council on land which was not previously industrial use within a green belt area. Councillors continued to object to the planning application as a whole.

5. **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. An item concerning an earlier planning application was noted in that an appeal had been lodged with the Inspector. However, it was noted that the Town Council had not been notified as an objector to this appeal.

6. **Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 29th April 2019**
Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Meeting held on 13th May 2019

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

Resolved

1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 29th April 2019 be received and signed as a true record.
2. That the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 13th May 2019 be received and signed as a true record.

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

Blackhorse Street PROW Lighting

Further Update

The Town Clerk provided an update in regard to the situation regarding the removal of street lamp and lighting from the new development area, formerly the Waste Recycling Centre. Several communications had been received in regard to the loss of street light and the Town Clerk confirmed that Bolton Council had given the developers permission to remove the lighting from that area and for it not to be

replaced as there was now no electrical supply as the cables had been disconnected at source. That Bolton Council were under no obligation to illuminate footpaths and that Bolton Council had stated that there were other routes that could be taken which were lit. Bolton Council additionally noted that the developers had approached them to provide a lighting design to implement new street lighting in the area of the development for future adoption by Bolton Council. To date it was noted by Bolton Council that no proposal review had been conducted and that if additional works were to be carried out this should be at the cost of the developer. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Bury and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the information be received and noted with concerns**
- 2. That a letter is written to Blackrod's Ward Councillors to request support for some action to take place on this lighting issue.**

8. Public Participation

A member of the public commented on the Valynette planning application. The member of the public stressed how inferences in documentation sent from the applicant to Bolton Council were not true in regard to whether or not the buildings had previously been industrial units on green belt land. The member of the public also detailed the issues that would occur with flooding and outcomes.

9. Correspondence

Request for donation

Blackrod Luncheon Club

The Town Clerk provided members with a donation request for the Blackrod Luncheon Club held at the Methodist Church. The Town Clerk indicated that donations identified at the review of Estimates for the year 2019-2020 had made allowance for a donation to the work of the Luncheon Club. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and seconded by Councillor Bury and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the request be received and noted.**
- 2. That a sum of £250.00 be donated to the Luncheon Club**
- 3. That the Town Clerk make the necessary arrangements for the payment of the donation.**

Residents Letter

Parking along Manchester Road (Owls (Nursery)

(This item was also requested for the agenda by Cllr Farrington)

The Chairman requested that the Town Council go out of Committee in order to receive information regarding this item by members of the public present)

The residents present outlined the issue of parking by those dropping children off and collecting them at the nursery and the problems this was causing both for other motorists journeying through the village and for the parking on both sides of the road on pavements and outside other properties and asked for the Town Council to hear their concerns.

The Chairman requested that the Town Council meeting return to Committee in order for the meeting to re commence.

Members discussed the concerns and ways in which matters could be improved. Suggestions included a debate in regard to the implementation of yellow lines and the associated problems yellow lines brings to the village as a whole: the involvement of the nursery owner in regard to staff parking and notification to parents to use the facility provided on the Nursery Car Park for drop off and collection. Members also noted that a knock on effect appears to be creating parking problems at The Cheethams a little further up the main road. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk arrange a site visit with members and members of the public. Date to be advised.**

10. Parking issues at Scot Lane and Junction Close

Councillor Farrington asked members to further consider the issue of parking in the area of the cul de sac off Scot lane: parking on the pavement at the top of Scot Lane and parking within Junction Close. The volume of irresponsible parking had grown and access in to Junction Close can be impossible at times Cllr Farrington also spoke in connection with the cul de sac off Scot lane where vehicles were parking, not belonging to residents, making access impossible at times in that area. The top of Scot Lane was also spoken about again in connection with inappropriate on pavement parking. Members discussed the possibility of a request for yellow lines but acknowledged that this would also cause a parking problem further up the village. It

was proposed by Cllr Farrington and seconded by Cllr Mrs Warburton and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. **That the information regarding residents concerns in these areas be received**
2. **That the Town Clerk arrange site visits for these area, with the possibility of including members of GMP and local residents as well as officers from Bolton Council.TBA**

11 Signage for Blackrod Town Council Car Park

Councillor Farrington spoke in connection with the proposed signage for the Town Council's new car park area on Blackhorse Street. Cllr Bury also indicated that he had been approached by local shop owners in regard to the new parking areas. It was noted that the Town Council hoped that the parking area would be of benefit to all residents and visitors to Blackrod but also noted that several vehicles were parking on the facility for many hours. Suggestions for the time limits were discussed and it was proposed that a one hour stay with no return within two hours be deemed appropriate for the type of car park in question. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Hollick and seconded by Cllr Mrs Seddon and voted in favour and

Resolved

1. **That the proposals for signage be received**
2. **That the length of stay be deemed appropriate**
3. **That the Town Clerk move to purchase the necessary signage with a view to erection as soon as possible, following the legal completion.**

12. Illegal Camping (Cleaning up process)

Councillor Farrington brought up the issue of the recent illegal camping at the top of Scot lane and the process of the clean up which followed. Discussions took place as to how to try to prevent a reoccurrence of a similar issue in the future. Cllr Farrington spoke in connection with the action taken by a neighbouring council where a trench had been placed around the field area to prevent passage on to the field. Council members felt this would be a good idea and it was noted that this could be readily organised. The Town Clerk reminded members that the land in question as under the ownership of Bolton Council and that permission to dig the trench should be applied for and an offer to provide Bolton with the assistance required if they agreed to the proposal. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Warburton and voted in favour by all and

Resolved.

- 1. That the update be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk write to Bolton Council with the suggestion and possible outcome and advise the Town Council ongoingly.**

13. End of year quarter . Audited Financial Accounts Reconciliation.

A) The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of the current year end financial accounts audited position, previously circulated for the period ending 31st March 2019. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Seddon and seconded by Cllr Farrington and voted in favour by all and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received, noted and approved with no matters arising.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk be thanked for her due diligence and tenacity in the work involved in bringing together the year end figures and audit report to the appropriate conclusions.**

14. Neighbourhood Plan Update

- a) Councillor Bury(Snr) provided members with the monthly report of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for May 2019. This monthly update addressed points such as the submission of documents to Bolton Council in accordance to Part 5 Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulation 2012) The above documents are submitted in order that a compliance check through Bolton Legal Services can take place. Rattification of the submission will start the 6 week consultation process by Bolton following the engagement of an independent examiner.
- b) The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of the official letter to be sent to Bolton Council, which enclosed the copy of the Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents and asked for approval from the Town Council on its submission under Regulation 1 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. It was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the monthly update be received**
- 2. That the Town Council noted the latest updates and progress being carried out in the name of the Town Council.**
- 3. That the Town Council formerly approve the submission of the Neighbourhood Plan Documentation to Bolton Council.**
- 4. That Cllr Bury and members of the Steering Group be thanked for their outstanding contribution and diligence to the task they had readily undertaken.**

15. Local Council Updates (green Paper)

The Town Clerk provided copies of the monthly edition of the Local Council Update (Green Paper) for perusal.

Resolved.

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

16. Approval of the audited Town Council's Statement of Accounts and Annual Return for the financial year 2018-2019 ending 31st March 2019

Members considered the Annual Statement of Accounts Auditors report for the year ending 31st March 2019, copies of which had been previously circulated following the completion of the final stage internal audit, which had found no issues to comment upon. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Hollick and in keeping with appropriate practice voted in favour by all and

Resolved.

- 1. That the Annual Governance statement be approved and completed and signed by the Chairman and Town Clerk.**

Resolved.

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

- 17.** Members considered the Annual Accounting Statement for the year ending 31st March 2019 copies of which had been previously circulated following completion of the final stage audit, which had found no issues. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and in keeping with appropriate practice voted in favour by all and

Resolved.

- 1. That the Annual Accounting Statement be approved, completed and signed by the Chairman and Town Clerk.**

18. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues

Councillors commented on works required for

Scot Lane
Miller Street
Newlands Drive
The bend at Blackhorse Street
Little Scotland

Resolved.

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

19. Finance

It was moved by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Bury and voted in favour by all and

Resolved

- 1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £4022.58 (four thousand and twenty two pounds 58p) dated 3rd June 2019**
- 2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed**

20. Site Visits

No site visit dates were given but councillors to note that site visits will be arranged in due course to Scot lane (Pavement): Cul de sac off Scot Lane (Inappropriate parking) Manchester Road (Parking issues) TBA

21. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

Other matters

Cllr Farrington reported the damage to bus shelters on Scot Lane which have been reported
Cllr Price reported the further damage to Vicarage Road playing Fields.

Agenda Item for next meeting on 1st July.

Zebra Crossings

Cllr Hollick

22. **Reports from Ward Councillors**

Cllr Peter Wright

Newly appointed Ward Councillor Peter Wright gave an introduction to both members and the residents in attendance and spoke of how pleased he was to be representing the Blackrod & Horwich Ward and how he looked forward to assisting the Town Council and residents with issue they may have.

(Members of the Town Council welcomed Cllr Peter Wright)

Ward Councillor Mrs Baines commented:-

Highways – 10 million pounds have been found for highway repairs. Approx. £500,000 for each of the 20 borough wards, shared equally. The money is in addition to any previously found and allocated. Repairs are not to simply fill in the pot holes but repairs will take place to entire lengths of roads/ pavements. W/c to allocate the funding and submission to be forwarded to Executive Member for Highways. Lists of roads to be generated in the next 4 weeks.

(Consideration on road location and traffic volumes)

6th June Bolton Museum staging a 2019 Art Award evening

A clean air report being compiled across GM findings to be presented later in the year

Blundell Lane issue is still ongoing. Emails have been received which require discussion with the Town Council and fellow WC

Rumours concerning parking charges being brought in to Horwich Car Parks. This is unfounded and nothing but a rumour.

Horwich Festival of Racing 11th and 16th June

Comments are being left for Big Bolton Campaign (why Bolton is loved)

Fostering Request Over 600LAC in Bolton and too few fostering households

Bolton Council asking anyone interested to get in touch.

Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe reported

Tour of Britain coming through Blackrod later this year

Resurfacing of Miller St/ Scot Lane and Newlands Drive will commence from 17th June

Whitehall lane also to be resurfaced as well as Greenbarn way and Vicarage Road

**Dropped kerb programme well received
Neighbourhood Services will program a grass cutting exercise in time for the
Scarecrow Festival
The light column between Half Acre and Vicarage Rd programmed to be
replaced in next few weeks.**

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

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed.....Chairman