

## **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> July 2019**

#### **Present**

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

Councillors Mr G Farrington  
Mrs S Baines  
Mrs I Seddon  
Mr M Hollick  
Mr N Bell

**Also Present:** Mrs S Lowis (**Town Clerk**) and 11 members of the public

*Prior to the start of the meeting proper newly elected member of the town Council, Cllr Mr Nick Bell made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and commitment to observing the Code of Conduct expected of members of Blackrod Town Council and took his seat within the council meetig.*

#### **23 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Bury, Cllr Mrs Warburton and Cllr Mrs Gaskell and the reasons for absence accepted.

#### **24. Declarations of interest**

No declarations were made

## **25. Planning Applications.**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Baines 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 1<sup>st</sup> July 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.**

**06233/19**

**Horwich Loco Works**

**Creation of new  
Access to Station rd  
& assoc works to serve  
Site.**

Councillors voted unanimously to object to the creation of an access point on Station Road for access to the Loco Works Site. Councillors voiced concerns with several findings listed in the reports which included the high level of capacity use available for traffic. The bulk of the traffic on to that area does not come from Crown Lane where the traffic readings were taken from. The majority of traffic comes out of Mason Street or off the A6 Bypass on to Station Road – apart from all the traffic which comes from the various industrial areas off Station Road and current traffic delays on that road at peak times bring the traffic to a standstill. With development taking place in that area this route would become impassable for long periods of time due to traffic flow practically bringing Blackrod and Horwich to an even greater standstill that is already is.

The narrowness of the turning points on Station Road for large HGV vehicles turning in to various business outlets on Station Road mean that the vehicles need to cross to the other side of the road, stopping on coming traffic, to enable the vehicles to

manoeuvre in to the various roads/ lanes and business addresses off Station road. An uncontrolled zebra crossing at the location suggested in the planning documents with safety islands would only further narrow the road making it impossible for vehicles to turn .This would affect local businesses and traffic flow. In the event of an ambulance or fire engine being required for both Blackrod and Horwich ,or in reverse, would also render the route impossible due to the traffic flow being at a standstill and possibly endanger life.

The bridge weight is stated at 40ton. Passing vehicles cannot access the main bridge together, due to the narrowness of the road and with the possibility of even larger construction vehicles also being on the bridge and area at the same time would result in the weight capacity becoming overloaded causing safety issues.

One of the reasons the bridge couldn't be made wider in the past was due to a very large high pressured gas main in the proposed development area, together with mains cables. What will happen to these items when a roadway is under construction which would be approx. 30 feet down from Station Road itself and which could cause the water levels to come back towards the Douglas Valley area, causing flooding, as the water would have no way to go once the area had been developed. There is current flooding in that area. The Pearl Brook tunnel for excess water would not take additional waters from this area.

It has been advised that Highways do not have the funds available to improve road network in that area and as stated in the reports the development when complete would create thousands of new jobs and homes and with it a substantial percentage increase in the volume of cars accessing the public highway. Has Highways been consulted on this application?

It is noted that currently United Utilities and other businesses who also operate in that area and access Station Road have not been consulted. The map on the papers has excluded the United Utilities facilities. Is this an omission?

Equally there is an environment issue to consider as part of the objection, as the area contains many trees and wildlife which would be impacted upon. Has a survey of this issue been carried out?

It is noted other businesses such as Vision Bus and Blackrod Mill and other premises on the Blackrod Industrial Estate are not listed as consultees for the application. What is the reason for the omission?. There are hundreds of HGv and other such vehicles accessing Station Road every single day who would also substantiate the claims that this is not an appropriate access for the Loco Works development.

**06243/19**                      **674 Manchester Rd**                      **Erection of part 2 storey  
Part 1<sup>st</sup> Floor ext incl  
Alterations to roof,doors  
& windows.**

Councillors offered no comment on the planning application

**06293/19**                      **Wilkinson Farm Mcr Rd**                      **outline app for the erection  
Of 4 dwellings (Access &  
Layout details only)**

Councillors voted to object to the application on the grounds of possible over development of the area. Councillors commented on the access facility being almost on top of the school crossing and splays and asked Highways to consider the proposals in the interest of safety. As no proposals were present for the size and type of properties being outlined councillors were reminded about the development of the Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan , which is almost complete and with it the limits in height and type of homes that are outlined for future developments in the Plan.

**26. 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.**

**27. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019**

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

**Resolved**

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 be received and signed as a true record with amendments against Agenda**

**Item 14 (N/Plan Update) should read at the end of paragraph (a)  
“Ratification of the submission will start the 6 week consultation process by  
Bolton which will be followed by the engagement of an Independent  
Examiner”.**

- 2. (b) the Regulation number should read as 15 and not 1**

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

**Bolton Council**

**Dark Lane Speed Limit Order  
(Change of speed to 30mph)**

Following an urgent email from officers in Bolton this item had been directed to all council members to note and receive prior to the deadline date. It was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and voted in favour by all and

**Resolved**

- 1. That the information had been received and noted.**

**29. Public Participation**

A member of the public asked that clarification be sought as to the speed limit for Dark Lane and whether this was to be continued the full length of Dark Lane or on only a portion.

**30. Correspondence**

**Request for donation**

**Blackrod Church School**

The Town Clerk provided members with a donation request for Blackrod Church School in regard to the hire of the Blackrod Sports & Community Centre for school rehearsals and summer shows to help cover the costs as in previous year. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour by all and

**Resolved.**

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

2. That a sum of £250.00 be donated to Blackrod Church School for the hire of Blackrod Community Centre for the summer concert show.
3. That the Town Clerk make the necessary arrangements for the payment of the donation.

#### **Residents Letter**

#### **Speed Deterrent. Chorley Road**

The Town Clerk read a communication from a local resident, previously circulated, in regard to the issue of speeding down Chorley Road which asked if there were any available measures that could be provided to help reduce the speed. The subject was debated and it was

#### **Resolved.**

1. That the information be received and noted
2. That the Town Clerk write to the Ward Councillors for Blackrod in this regard to see if there is anything available.

#### **31. Local Council Update**

The Town Clerk provided members with the latest edition of the Local Council Update Briefings.(Green Paper)

#### **Resolved**

1. That the information be received and noted.

#### **32. Passenger Bus Shelter. Blackhorse Street**

The Town Clerk provided members with the latest communication from TfGM about the proposed new bus shelter for Blackhorse Street. The letter outlined the joint work between TfGM and Blackrod Town Council and the identification of the suitable location for the shelter, taking in to account correspondence from members of the public and proposals submitted by the Town Council. The Town Clerk confirmed that local residents would now be consulted on the proposal by TfGM and a date set in due course for the implementation of the bus stop. Councillors thanked the Town Clerk for her diligence with this initiative.

#### **Resolved**

1. That the information be received and noted.

### **33. Neighbourhood Plan Update**

At the time of the meeting and in Cllr Bury's absence it was noted that no definitive items were given other than that a meeting had been held to consider the appointment of the Independent Examiner for the Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

#### **Resolved.**

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

### **34. a). 2019 Remembrance Day Service**

The Town Clerk requested that councillors make the decision as to the 2019 Remembrance Day Service timings. The Town Clerk stated that she had spoken to the church and to the British Legion representatives and all had requested that the Blackrod Service revert back to the normal Service times of 2.15pm on the Sunday closest to the 11<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **Resolved.**

- 1. That the 2019 Service revert to previous years as a service in the afternoon**
- 2. That the Town Clerk proceed to make the annual arrangements.**

### **b) VE Day 2020**

The Town Clerk spoke to members in regard to any proposals for VE day in 2020 and suggested that the Blackrod Community Group and Church be involved in any arrangements that Blackrod may consider. Following debate it was

#### **Resolved.**

- 1. That the Town Clerk arrange a meeting with various parties to consider the matter further.**

### **35. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues**

Councillors commented on works required for

Scot Lane ( half completed)

Possible Japanese knotweed in behind the Red Lion (BLA 078)

Public footpath requiring attention on Chorley Road

#### **Resolved.**

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

36. **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 £3238.58 ( three thousand two hundred and thirty eight pounds 58p) dated 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019
2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed
3. That the chairman clerk and two members authorise the transfer of funds from the Deposit Account to Main Account of £30,000 (Thirty thousand pounds) and from the Deposit account to the civic account £2000 (Two thousand pounds)

37. **Site Visits**

Visit to Manchester Road/ Scot Lane 3<sup>rd</sup> July 8am

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

The Town Clerk commented on some financial aspects which she had been speaking to the Director of Place about more of which will be brought back at a future date.

The Town Clerk advised councillors that an acknowledgement of the Town Council's contribution to the Scarecrow Festival for the purpose of transport had been received.

The Town Clerk advised members that she had agreed to the flag being flown on Lancashire Day on 27<sup>th</sup> November in order to celebrate the town's Lancastrian heritage. Bolton Council have also agreed to flying the flag in Bolton.

Bolton Officers had confirmed that pathways in the village will be cut back in July

**No Agenda Items were given for the next meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> August.**

39. **Reports from Ward Councillors**

**Cllr Peter Wright reported**

Reported that the new administration in Bolton have released £500K to each of the 20 wards in Bolton for resurfacing work on roads and pavements. Any roads to be reported to any of the 3 Ward Councillors

Reported that work due on Greenbarn way had been postponed until w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> July

**Ward Councillor Mrs Baines commented:-**

CVS had been awarded a continuing 3 year contract  
Public Realms monies for the Town Centre of Horwich. Cllr Mrs Baines has also pointed out to the Exec Member that there needs to be a look at Blackrod's needs as well.

Attending a 'Clean Air' presentation. Findings to be released later in the year  
Armed forces day 29<sup>th</sup> June had been a success

Multi million pound state of the art centre and community pool to be on the site of the former Firwood School for the use of disabled folks in Bolton, replacing the Jubilee Centre.

Bolton Mayor had held a coffee morning and award ceremony for long standing foster carers in Bolton to thank them for the valuable work they do for children in the borough.

The Bolton Visioning Event took place on 21<sup>st</sup> June with over 170 people attending

The Youth vision conference was held on 26<sup>th</sup> June and had been another success  
Life expectancy data had been released and Horwich and Blackrod appear to be better off than some areas of Bolton

The GM Health Partnership is developing

GM Bed at Night scheme has been published aiming to stop folks sleeping on the streets and offering support.

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**Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe reported**

Dropped kerb programme well received

A recent fire at Dickinsons had been well contained

Due to an increase in flies in parts of Blackrod Cllr Mrs Cunliffe was liaising with the relevant officers in Bolton with relevant information being passed to those most affected

**The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the Monday August 5<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 7pm**

**The meeting closed at 9.20pm**

**Signed.....Chairman**