

## **Blackrod Town Council**

### **Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

#### **Present**

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

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

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

#### **79 Apologies for Absence**

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

#### **80. Declarations of interest**

Declarations were given by Cllr Price and Cllr Bell on a planning application.

#### **81. Planning Applications.**

It was moved by Councillor Hollick 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 7<sup>th</sup> October 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.**

**06952/19                      Huyton Fold                      Improvement to existing access track**

Councillors discussed the current situation and some concerns were raised in relation to a Public Right of Way. Following clarification from Bolton that there is no PROW across this land, Councillors offered no comment to the application.

**06951/19                      93, Greenbarn way                      Erection of front porch &  
Single Storey ext at side**

Councillors offered no comment on the planning application

**06923/19                      673 Chorley Road W/H                      Notification. Change of use  
From an agricultural building  
To research & development  
Of products or processes/ light  
Industry (Class Use B1(b) B1(c))**

Councillors noted that this application was actually under a Westhoughton address but as a neighbouring town council asked for it to be noted that the address is not on a main sewer line and clarification should be sought by Bolton as to the disposal of trade wastes if applicable and Westhoughton Council be informed.

**06941/19                      78 Eskdale Ave                      Erection of 1<sup>st</sup> floor balcony  
At rear**

Councillors voted in favour to object to the proposed planning application on the grounds of inappropriate development and invasion of privacy to neighbouring properties. It was noted that a previous application in the same area had been turned down by Bolton Planning as inappropriate development. Additionally, Councillors raised concerns from a H & S point of view when referring to the installation of outward opening patio doors which had already been installed in replacement to a bedroom window without protective structures in place on the outside of the property. It was requested that this application go before the planning committee and a site visit to a neighbouring property take place.

**06836/19**                      **18, Nightingale Gdns**                      **Erection of single storey  
Ext at side.**

Councillors considered the application, which they felt needed clarifying as the application identified a plan for a conservatory at the rear and a carport of brick structure on the side up to the boundary fence. The property owner on the other side of the fence is Bolton Council where a PROW is located. Councillors indicated that no part of the car port should encroach over the boundary fence on to the PROW.

**06887/19**                      **The Cherry Tree**                      **Erection of retractable  
Awning over external  
Seating area.**

Councillors offered no comment

**06744/19**                      **27 Coniston Road**                      **Erection of part 2 storey  
Part single storey/ rear  
ext & single storey ext at  
Front**

Councillors offered no comment

**06746/19**                      **11, Harrison Cresc**                      **Erection of single storey  
Ext with dormers**

Councillors offered no comment

06777/19

53 Castlecroft

**Erection of single storey  
Porch ext at front &  
Alterations top roof incl  
Replacement of all dormers  
& flat roof glazing to rear**

Councillors offered no comment other than to raise the matter that the extensions would therefore create a lack of parking spaces within the property area, where parking is of a premium.

**82. 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.**

**83. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019**

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

**Resolved**

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 be received and signed as a true record with the following amendment noted due to typing error.; Minute No 75 should read as Proposed by Cllr Bury and seconded by Cllr Hollick. Minutes amended in the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> October and accepted.**

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

**There were no planning correspondence or items in relation to planning matters at the time of the meeting.**

**85. Public Participation**

A local resident mentioned a large number of pot holes and uneven surfaces at Blackrod Cricket Club and asked if the Town Council were able to get things improved. (*Following conversations with Bolton Council the Town Clerk can confirm that temporary fixings have been made at the location*)

A Councillor from a neighbouring Town Council spoke in connection with the matter of an increase in numbers of Skips that had been applied for through a Horwich based business as he felt it may be relevant to Agenda Item 14 . Councillors noted the remarks and the Town Clerk advised those present that Item 14 was in relation to matters elsewhere.

**86. Correspondence**

**Residents Letter**

**Road safety & Yellow line request**

The Town Clerk read a letter, previously distributed, from a local resident in connection with dangerous parking in the area of the Blackrod Primary School which also addressed a request from the resident to Highways for the implementation of yellow lines in the same section of road in order to improve dangerous and illegal parking. Councillors debated the correspondence and it was proposed by Cllr Farrington and seconded by Councillor Bell and voted in favour and

**Resolved**

- 1. That council members confirmed their support for the residents request to Bolton and write to Bolton to confirm their support for this matter.**
- 2. That the local police be contacted and asked to monitor the issue on-going in relation to obstruction of pavements and illegal parking.**

**Residents Letter**

**Dark Lane. Layby Issues**

**The Town Clerk advised members that the author of the letter , previously circulated, was present who would present the letter himself.**

*Members voted to leave committee to allow the resident to do so.*

**The local resident addressed his communication and the issue of**

- 1. Ownership of the land in question**
- 2. The continuous damage to his property in the area and continued fly tipping and asked for the Town Council to support him on the matter.**

**Councillors noted the concerns by the resident and as they were out of committee asked Ward Councillors present to see what could be done by themselves in Bolton on the matter of land ownership and fly tipping. Contact details to be sent to Ward Councillors regarding the matter.**

*Council members moved back in to committee.*

**87. 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.**

**88 LALC AGM and Resolutions.**

The Town Clerk gave members details of the forthcoming Annual general Meeting of the LALC and asked if any member had any resolutions they had considered and would like to bring forward for discussion and decision for submission to the LALC by the given date.

**Resolved**

- 1. That the matter be deferred to the following meeting to allow time for members to submit resolutions for discussion. (*Members will be reminded on the matter when next months papers are released*)**

**89. Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Councillor Bury gave his monthly update in regard to the Neighbourhood Plan and provided members with a copy of the papers requesting assistance from the nominated Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group that had been received in its connection from the local examiner. Cllr Bury also provided a copy of where the requests for assistance had been provided to the local examiner by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Councillor Mrs Seddon asked members to note that the quality and depth of the work and responses by the Steering Group. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Seddon and seconded by Cllr Bell and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the quality of responses to the Inspector's questions be received and noted**

**Neighbourhood Plan Information Clarification for residents and newly appointed Council members.**

*In order to avoid further confusion it has been established that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had been appointed by the Blackrod Town Council to work on their behalf through Cllr Bury their nominated Chairman of this group. (Councillor Bury was appointed to the role in September 2015 Minute No 75 and subsequently, through various channels, including the Town Council and recorded in various council minutes over the last three years, a full working party Steering Group came to fruition in August 2016 as detailed in council minutes, to work on the project in the name of the Town Council on behalf of the village of Blackrod. (Town Clerk)*

**90. Update in regard to meeting with Next Stage Management Team**

Cllr Price provided a report following a second meeting with Next Stage Ltd, which had been facilitated by the Town Council for local residents and themselves in order to address a series of complaints which had been received. Cllr Price outlined that the Town Council members and local residents had discussed recent events with the Management in attendance and put forward several areas of concerns which they asked the Company to address going forward. The Town Clerk also provided members with a copy of an Action Plan produced by the Company which had been requested by the Town Council. It was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Mrs Baines and `

**Resolved**

- 1. That the update and information be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk liaise with management at Next Stage in order to facilitate a further meeting with both members of the Town Council, Next Stage and members of the public who had previously attended.**

**91. Report in regard to the fly infestation during the Summer**

The Town Clerk provided members with a report from a Bolton Projects Officer (Environment) in regard to the query the Town Council had raised in regard to reports of fly infestation within the village. The report detailed that visits and serving of enforcement notices had taken place by the department with the owner of a local business as well as visits taking place from the farming industry body associated with the business and that the situation had been noted as improving. Local residents have had Red Top Fly catchers installed in their gardens and Further visits have been planned in order to ensure full compliance by the business owner.

**Resolved**

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

**92. Update: Parking Problems Manchester Road.**

The Chairman gave members an update on a meeting which had taken place with the Owls Nursery, following a recent site visit to look at the issues over parking in the area. The Town Clerk also provided a copy of a letter which had been sent to the management of the Owls, following that meeting. The meeting had been productive and a measurement of improvement on the parking will be ongoing.

**Resolved**

- 1. That the update and copy letter be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk advise local neighbours on the way forward.**

**93. Training Offer. Code of Conduct.**

The Town Clerk provided members with details of the above training offer to be held at both Horwich and Westhoughton Town Councils, primarily for new council members or those requesting a refresher course. Members were asked to advise the Town Clerk if they wished to avail themselves of the opportunity as soon as possible.

**Resolved.**

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

**94. Town Council's External Audit for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

The Town Clerk submitted the Notice of Completion of the Town Council's Annual External Audit for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and provided members with an update on the report's contents and findings. There were no matters arising from the external auditors. The report outlined that the financial management is adequate and effective and there is a sound system of internal and external control with all parts of the auditable procedures being in accordance with proper practices. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Mrs Baines and voted in favour by all present and

**Resolved**

- 1. That the Annual Return and External Auditors Report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 be approved and accepted by the Town Council**
- 2. That the Town Clerk be commended for her hard work and due diligence to all matters relating to financial affairs both internally and externally throughout the year.**



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

Councillors commented on works / items required for

Various areas of flooding in recent weeks including Scot Lane/ A6 Bypass/ Station Road / Entrance to Lostock Skip Hire./ Drains in the cemetery blocked.

It was noted that some drains were higher than pavement which caused problems  
Grids and Gulleys had not been cleaned out causing blockages  
Notices of flooding erected but no work putting anything right

**Resolved.**

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

**96. Finance**

It was moved by Councillor Bury 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 £4664.73 ( four thousand six hundred and sixty four pounds 73p) dated 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019**
- 2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed**

**97. Site Visits**

**Zebra Crossing meeting to be held with Ward Councillors and Town Councillors on 10<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30pm**

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

The Town Clerk gave an update in relation to queries relating to public footpaths and overgrown hedges and blocked routes

That the new bus shelter on Blackhorse Street had progressed and the site confirmed. Work to commence shortly once initial undertaking by Bolton Highways had been completed.. The type and position of the new bus shelter will be welcomed by all residents and the Town Clerk also stated that she had sent a further request for a bus shelter on the opposite side of the road but to date has yet to hear back.

## Agenda Items

None given at the meeting.

### 99. Reports from Ward Councillors

#### Ward Councillor Peter Wright reported that:-

That he had asked for the newly acquired 'Gulley sucker' to make its way through to Blackrod  
Gave details of the forthcoming 2 Towns Forum meeting

#### Ward Councillor Mrs Baines reported that:-

A definitive list of roads for resurfacing had been agreed and includes St Katharines Drive and Vicarage Road

As Bolton Highways are unable to assist with inappropriate parking in the areas of Station Road and Moss Lane Cllr Baines has asked Network rail to be notified to see if they can assist in any way.

The house sign on the corner of the A6 is a road traffic distraction and she has asked the developer to remove and resite it.

The spine road application has gone to Homes England for 12 million due diligence works to commence . This is expected in May 2020

Cllr Baines is awaiting information from NHS England about the Horwich Health Centre Update.

She has submitted a petition regarding speeding on the A6 near to the Adlington Border and awaiting feedback from Bolton Officers.

The Two black finger posts are now scheduled to be repainted black and white in the spring.

Cllr Baines had attended a neighbourhood policing event with the local MP where the community sergeant was able to listen to residents issues and advised that they were trying their best to patrol both Horwich and Blackrod

They are looking at the neighbourhood management budget and a fairer way of apportioning funds. Its hoped Horwich and Blackrod could see a higher percentage of funding.

She had attended the Bolton Active Awards to hear the many marvellous ways others try to help voluntarily.

15h October is Baby Loss Awareness Week and the Town Hall will be lit up pink and blue to raise awareness

The Town Centre development plan is gaining momentum with lost to be excited about.

**It was requested that it be noted that there has been no Ward Councillors report from Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe for the third meeting in a row.**

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

**The meeting closed at 9.40pm**

**Signed.....Chairman**