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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 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020**

#### **Present**

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

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

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

#### 157. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Seddon and the reasons for absence approved..

#### 158. **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Hollick declared an interest in agenda item 9 ( donations)

**159. Planning Applications.**

There were no planning applications for the meeting.

**160. Planning Decisions**

**Councillor Farrington brought members up to date with the matter of the pumping station.**

*A request was made for members to step out of committee to hear comments in connection with another planning application. Once detailed members returned to the meeting agenda.*

**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.**

**161. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

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

**Resolved**

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 be received and signed as a true record.**

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

**Bolton Council**

**Resurfacing. Vicarage Road**

The Town Clerk provided members with an update regarding the proposed carriageway resurfacing on Vicarage Road.

**Resolved.**

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

**163. Public Participation**

A members of the public raised the matter of the cap on the top of the post box which had fallen or been broken off.

(A discussion then took place about the broken post box at the foot of Station Road outside the Rivington pub)

**Resolved**

1. **That the information be heard and that the Town Clerk contact various departments with the issues raised where required.**

**164. Correspondence**

**Liverpool Airport**

**Consultation Document**

**The Clerk provided members with information received from Liverpool Airport Involving potential changes to routes. Councillors indicated that the change to routes are already encroaching on the routes of Manchester Airport.**

**Resolved**

1. **That the information be received and noted.**
2. **That the town Clerk offer the response on behalf of the Town Council in relation to routes and Manchester Airport.**

**Blackrod History Group**

**Request for donation**

The Town Clerk provided members with a letter Blackrod's Local History Group who were requesting a donation of the council in order to support a project which would involve the wider community in regard to an archaeology event. Following financial advise given by the Town Clerk it was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour by all and

**Resolved.**

1. **That the letter and request be received and noted**
2. **That the Town Council arrange a donation of £250.00 to the local History Group for the project and**
3. **That the Town Clerk make the necessary arrangements.**

The Town Clerk provided members with a letter from a leader of the Messy Church within St Katharine's requesting the possibility of donation for the continuation of the work involved with the running of the Messy Church. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Baines and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and voted in favour and

**Resolved**

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk arrange for a donation of £250.00 to be organised for the organisation within St Katharine's Church ( Messy Church)**

**165. Local Primary School: Parking**

The Town Clerk provided members with an update in regard to a recent site visit to an area of land which may be identified as land suitable for parking. The Town Clerk conformed ownership and the discussions which had taken place with the owners.

**Resolved**

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk continue to liaise with the owners with a view to future plans**

**166. Financial Estimates 2020-2021**

The Town Clerk referred to a set of documents previously circulated containing the financial estimates for the forthcoming year April 2020 to March 2021. Members having carefully considered the estimates and examined and questioned thoroughly the proposals for increase/ decrease where applicable, debated the recommendations that would allow the Town Council to meet its financial obligations as well as carry out works to promote community cohesion and address any physical improvements to the village. It was noted that the Town Council had not increased its precept 4 years. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Baines and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and voted in favour by all and

**Resolved**

- 1. That the financial estimates as circulated and discussed be received, noted and agreed**

2. That a precept request of £69847 be made to Bolton Council
3. That the Town Clerk be thanked for the work involved in the preparation of the 2020/2021 estimates in such detail.

**167. Date of the Annual Parish Meeting**

The Town Clerk in keeping with appropriate procedures asked council members to consider the date of the next Annual Parish Assembly. It was proposed by Councillor Bell and seconded by Councillor Hollick and

**Resolved**

1. That the date of the next Annual Parish Assembly be held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020
2. That the Town Clerk proceed with the process ongoingly.

**168. Mayor Elect for 2020/2021**

Councillors considered nominations for the position of Mayor Elect for the year 2020/2021. It was moved by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and unanimously voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

1. That Councillor Mrs Seddon be duly nominated as Mayor Elect for the year 2020/2021

**169. Deputy Mayor Elect for 2020/2021**

Councillors considered nominations for the position of Mayor Elect for 2020/2021. It was moved by Councillor Bury and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and unanimously voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

1. That Councillor Nick Bell be duly nominated as Deputy Mayor Elect for the year 2020/2021

**170. Annual Meeting 2020**

In keeping with appropriate council procedures, Councillors considered the date for the Annual Meeting 2020. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour by all and

**Resolved**

- 1. That the date of the Annual Meeting be held on Monday May 11<sup>th</sup> 2020**
- 2. That the Town Clerk make the necessary arrangements.**

**171. Communication Strategy**

Prior to Councillor Bell presenting his Communication Strategy paper it was suggested that the contents of the paper and possible lengthy discussions the paper would merit be deferred to a separate meeting outside that of the council meeting.

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the action be agreed**
- 2. That the Town Clerk provide members with a list of dates for the meeting**
- 3. (Confirmed at 26<sup>th</sup> February 9.30-11)**

**172. Membership Vacancy**

The Town Clerk provided members with the current position in regard to the possible local Bi- Election for the council vacancy. Following the discussion it was proposed by Cllr Farrington and seconded by Cllr Hollick and voted in favour by all members present that the vacancy for a council member move to a Co-option procedure.

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the Town Clerk continue with the procedure to move to a Co-option process in due course.**

**173. Neighbourhood Plan**

Councillor Bury brought members up to date with the Plan which had been approved unanimously by Bolton Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> January and the next stage would now be the Referendum which had been advised as being held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Prior to that date the Steering group would organise the distribution of flyers throughout the village advising on the Plan and the Referendum and voting outcome. As Blackrod Council voted to approve the plan any publicity by the Town Council would state that the Town Council recommends a YES vote. The Chairman voiced the opinion of members in congratulating Cllr Bury on the works associated with the neighbourhood plan, particularly in both Cllr Bury's management of the project and the team involved in the hundreds of man hours which had gone in to the project over a number of years to bring it to this point. Cllr Bury accepted the comments on behalf of the Steering Group.

**Resolved.**

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

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

Councillors commented on works / items required for

Little Scotland area both sides of the road  
Chorley Road to Adlington  
Pot hole on Scot Lane  
Outside Rivington Pub

**Resolved.**

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

**175. Finance**

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

**Resolved**

- 1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £59879.06 ( fifty nine thousand eight hundred and seventy nine pounds 06p) dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 (*includes rectifying an error by Inland Revenue*)**
- 2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed**

**176. Site Visits**

**Site Visit to be arranged for visit to main entrances in to village with a Bolton Officer where possible. TBC**

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

**Agenda Items**

No items were given at the meeting

**Other Matters**

Councillor Farrington raised the matter of the £16 million pound payout for works for other local area and asked why Blackrod did not receive any of the funding and for it to be queried.

The Town Clerk updated on the following:-

That the light on Dark Lane had now been fixed as requested

The bin has been replaced at the bottom of Tanners brow

The ownership matter of the pumping station has been resolved

The large hole on Blundell Lane has been repaired following liaison with United Utilities

The library will be closed from 17<sup>th</sup> February for 3 to 4 weeks

Phoenix House has officially closed

Council's complaint has now been filed following further communications from the leader of Bolton Council.

178. **Reports from Ward Councillors**

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

Land adjacent to 13, Boardman St was heard at a full planning committee on 9<sup>th</sup> January and passed by a majority vote.

Dog Fouling on Dark lane and Hill lane. Dog wardens have now issued stickers on lamp posts and stencils will be detailed for late spring.

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

**The statutory wellbeing board has been established and will meet quarterly. Cllr Mrs Baines has been appointed co-chair of the JSNA which will direct the wellbeing board.**

**2 public drop in events organised by those submitting plans for the Horwich Health Centre. This was done at short notice and Cllr Mrs Baines will be speaking to others in this regard.**

**Grundy Hill Residents are welcoming all those who wish to attend a meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> feb to discuss proposed developments**

**Cllr Baines said it was a pleasure to be able to second the motion in regard to Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan at a recent bolton council meeting and congratulate Blackrod Town Council in its regard**

**Cllr Mrs Baines updated all on the statement regarding Community Meals. These are not being cut just delivered in an alternative manner**

**Town Centre Regeneration Monies (Horwich) proposals being displayed for comments at Horwich Library**

**Some slots left for groups wishing to visit the Mayor's Parlour before May. (Something Blackrod Council already do)**



**Had audited shops in Horwich Town Centre in regard to the 1995 Disability Act re accessibility at the request of an resident in a wheelchair.. Only 3 shops were accessible.Funding for drop kerbs has all been spent.  
TfGM Bolton will develop two new walking and cycling schemes developing networks in the Astley Bridge , Crompton and Westhoughton areas.  
The two finger posts will be getting repainted.**

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

**The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the Monday March 2nd 2020 at 7pm**

**The meeting closed at 9.05pm**

**Signed.....Chairman**