

## **Blackrod Town Council**

### **Minutes of an Extraordinary special Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

*For the purpose of accountability and transparency, the items included in these minutes from the special meeting have followed the guidelines issued under the Coronavirus Act s78 in that provision has been made for members to participate in a meeting without all being together in the same place.*

#### **Present by agreed provision.**

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

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

**Also Present:** Mrs S Lowis ( **Town Clerk** )

#### **74 Apologies for Absence**

All members of the Town Council were present through their comments for the meeting

#### **75. Declarations of interest**

Cllr Bury declared an interest on Item 12 of the agenda (Planning Process Gov't consultation)

Cllr Price declared an interest on Agenda Item 3.( Planning Application.)

**76. Matters arising from previous minutes.**

The Town Clerk noted that there were no matters arising from the minutes which had been previously circulated.

**77. Planning Applications.**

It was moved by Councillor Bury and seconded by Councillor Mr Price as Chairman and agreed by all and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the following planning applications, details of which had been previously circulated and voted on at the planning section of the extraordinary meeting held for the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020, together with comments made be duly noted.**
- 2. That prior to Councillors considering each application due to the format of the meeting due to the Covid19 regulations no members of the public had asked for an opportunity to speak on any particular planning application as listed on the Council noticeboard.**

<b>08947/20</b>	<b>16, Meadow Way</b>	<b>Erection of a 1<sup>st</sup> floor side And rear ext</b>
-----------------	-----------------------	---

Councillors raised no objections to the application

<b>09101/20</b>	<b>21, Castlecroft</b>	<b>Demolition of existing Conservatory &amp; erection Of single storey ext &amp; Pitched roof to existing Flat roof dormer at rear</b>
-----------------	------------------------	--

Councillors did not object to the planning application

<b>09059/20</b>	<b>77-79 Church Street</b>	<b>change of use and conversion Of part ground floor to self Contained flat &amp; 2 self Contained flats at 1<sup>st</sup> floor Level &amp; single storey rear ext</b>
-----------------	----------------------------	---

---

***Councillors raised many concerns in relation to the planning application including***

Councillors raised many concerns in relation to the planning application including

That the comments made by Highways appear to be irresponsible

Although requested by Planning no plans have been submitted for the foul sewage connection which they have stated as N/A

There will be no adequate parking facilities as depicted by Bolton's Policy. The land that they currently park on is private property not owned by the address. According to the parking policy the application suggests that with all the extra rooms there should be parking for 4 cars – no arrangements have been made on this application and parking in this area is already a problem

It would constitute vast overdevelopment in the area

The area is already congested with limited access at the rear any further development would be a considerable over development

There are many objections made by local residents to the application both independently and through the town council and should be considered

The neighbourhood plan which has significant weight on planning applications – retail policy states

“Where planning permission is required the loss of shops cafes and takeaways and services (A1-A5 uses) will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that there is no prospect of a sale or letting for the existing use following active marketing at a realistic price for at least 12 months. Church Street is 2 individual units (Planning app01774/17) therefore to seek to change for one or both without conforming to Policy ER1 is not acceptable.

There would be major impact on neighbouring properties

Balcony and roof terraces would have a negative impact on neighbouring properties on both sides and rear

The border of the application appears to extend in to neighbouring property boundaries

Privacy would be an issue due to layout

The balcony would dominate and overlook the upper floors of neighbouring properties with a negative security beach on these properties.

***A site visit is requested by the planning committee.***

78. **Planning Decisions**

**Resolved.**

1. **That the list of planning decisions and conditions made by Bolton Council copies were received and noted.**

**79. Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 7th September 2020**

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

**Resolved**

- 1. That the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Town Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 be received and signed as a true record.**

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

**Bolton Council**

**Notification of road closures.**

**Resolved**

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

**Bolton Council**

**Planning enforcement Request**

The Town Clerk reported that an enforcement request had been made in regard to a report that a dog boarding kennel business had been set up in a domestic environment and enquiries are ongoing.

**Resolved.**

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

**Letter of complaint**

**To Bolton Planning Committee**

The Town Clerk asked members to approve the decision to send a letter (copy already received and agreed by members) to the Bolton Planning Assistant Director for Development Management in relation to the advice given to Bolton Planning

Committee which was misleading in relation to planning application 08483/20 Number 13 Boardman Street. The letter was proposed and seconded and it was

**Resolved**

- 1. That the letter and details contained be confirmed as being sent to the Bolton Council representative**

**81. Public Participation**

*Due to the nature of the extraordinary meeting there was no public participation or verbal requests for participation made by the public.*

**82. Correspondence**

No correspondence was received for the meeting.

**83. 2020 National Salary Award & Contractual changes to Town Clerk's Contract of Employment**

The Town Clerk presented a paper to members in relation to the recent agreements reached in relation to NJC Government Services Award for 2020-2021 and new salary scales. It was propped by Councillor Mrs Seddon and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and voted unanimously in favour and

**Resolved**

- 1. That the information on all matters be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk implement the 2020-2021 annual salary award as directed by the NALC and NJC and additionally note the inclusion of the new salary scales changes to the current contract of employment.**
- 3. That the Chairman on behalf of the Town Council sign the agendum to the Town Clerks Contract of Employment.**

**84. Area Forum Funding/ Spend**

The Town Clerk advised members that she had forwarded the collated list of suggested items to be included within the Area Forum Funding Spend to the Ward

Councillors which had been duly noted. The Town Clerk also advised that she had requested Ward Councillors to re submit the items if agreed by themselves, to the Town Council so their order of completion can be confirmed.

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the item be received and noted by all.**

**85. Remembrance Day Parade 2020 Update**

The Town Clerk provided members with an update on the current situation surrounding the Annual Service of Remembrance and Parade and asked for members to forward any suggestions they may have as to how this annual event could be carried out in light of no current advice on the matter from Central Government.

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the information and new quotation be received, noted and accepted.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk continue to monitor the situation and make all arrangement as they arise or are required.**

*(It should also be noted that the Town Clerk had received confirmation that there will be no costs to the Town Council should no road traffic safety arrangements be required).*

**86. Town Centre Regeneration Funds.**

The Town Clerk brought members up to date with the current situation involving members of Blackrod Town Council becoming part of the Steering Group in Horwich in regard to the above item, representing Blackrod's interests. (It had been noted and approved earlier that Cllr Bury would represent Blackrod Town Council on the Steering Group alongside the Town Clerk as invited.) The Town Clerk advised that attending the Steering Group meetings had been put on hold by the Town Clerk and Cllr Bury until such time appropriate advices had been received from the Chairman of the Steering Group in Horwich and other parties.

**Resolved**

- 1. That the information and update be received and approved.**

87. **Planning Process Government Consultation.**

The Town Clerk reminded members that previous information received from the LALC had been forwarded on the above matter and feedback had been requested where appropriate. The Town Clerk also spoke on the matter to indicate that a letter should be sent to MP Chris Green on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in regard to the impact of proposed Government reforms on planning. Additionally, the Town Clerk pointed out the documents previously circulated on Transparency and Competition data and land control Changes to the current planning system White Paper. Planning for the future. Which contained various summaries. It was proposed by Cllr Hollick and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

1. **That all information be received and noted**
2. **That a letter to the MP be composed and sent on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.**
3. **That any responses on the above consultation papers be forwarded to the Town Clerk for inclusion in the response from the Town Council. Individual responses would also be acceptable and sent directly by members themselves.**

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

Councillors advised that due to the current circumstances they had made their own arrangements to advise Bolton Council of repairs required for roads. However, some maintenance issues had been raised including grass cutting: pathways through the village to be cleared: Overhanging Trees requiring action.

**Resolved.**

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

89. **Finance**

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

## **Resolved**

1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £3646.39 ( three thousand six hundred and forty six pounds 39p) dated 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020
2. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members authorise the transfer of £10,000.00 from the Deposit Account to the Main Account and £5000.00 from the deposit account to the community project account.
3. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed

## 90. **Site Visits**

No site visit were arranged other than those in connection with ongoing works at Blackhorse Street (Garden area) which are continuing to be constructed and developed.

*(Councillors were also requested to examine themselves any planning application areas on-going to aid feedback as required on applications)*

## 91. **Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration**

No agenda items were reported

### **Other Matters.**

The Town Clerk informed members that she had received up to date information in regard to the siting of seats in the village but would prefer to defer this matter until such time all councillors could consider the locations and requests in a physical form. The Town Clerk stated that the matter would be placed on the October agenda.

**The Town Clerk also updated members that the railings alongside the works on Blackhorse Street had now been completed and that meetings would be held with those other organisations who would be taking the next steps on the project including hedging plants and improvements to the visual aspects of the car park area itself.**

**92. Ward Councillor Updates.**

As previously agreed in the current climate Ward Councillor updates will be circulated as and when they are received to enable information to reach members as soon as is convenient. As they have not been read at the extraordinary meeting they are not included in the minutes but are noted as received and circulated and a copy kept within the Town Clerk's papers from

Cllr Mrs Baines

- 73. The next extraordinary special meeting of matters of the Town Council was confirmed as being conducted by 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 unless otherwise informed and the Town Clerk will advise members of any Agenda items or matters for discussion in the week prior to that date.**

**Signed.....Chairman**