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## **Blackrod Town Council**

### **Minutes of an Extraordinary special Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 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**)

#### **94 Apologies for Absence**

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

#### **95. Declarations of interest**

Cllr Farrington declared an interest in Item 3 on the agenda ( planning)

**96. Matters arising from previous minutes.**

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

**97. Planning Applications.**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Seddon 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 5<sup>th</sup> October 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.**

**09158/20**

**34 Meadow Way**

**Erection of agricultural  
Building for machinery  
Storage & animal shelter**

Overall council members voted to object to the proposal. Comments included that the application was for within a residential area. There is no current access to the land in question. The access shown on Station Road does not give access to the field which is marked. Access would then be through Meadow Way which has proved to be unsuitable previously. It is noted that the erection of an agricultural building would be a permitted exception under the national Policy Framework but if the planning application should go ahead then a condition must be placed that the substantial building of 36 x 8 metres should not become a house at a future point. It is also noted that as this application states that it is to shelter animals then no water/ drainage or sewerage connections have been detailed. There is also a question of whether or not the land which has been detailed is totally owned by the applicant for this development and does not form part of Blackrod Primary school lands and the question has been raised as to whether or not the school has been consulted.

**09175/20**

**48 The Cheethams**

**Erection of a 2 storey side  
Extension & basement incl  
Juliet balcony at rear  
Together with detached gge**

Councillors considered the application and voted to offer no comments other than overdevelopment of the area and concerns that the balcony would infringe on the privacy of the neighbouring properties. Additional comments include that the basement groundworks at the rear are suitable for the development.

**09196/20**                      **13, The Cheethams**                      **Erection of single storey  
Side & rear ext**

Councillors offered no comment to the application

**09328/20**                      **Blackrod Industrial Estate**                      **variation of condition 9 & 10  
On appl 01615/17**

Councillors voted to offer no comment in the main but asked planning committee to note that the application included the reduction in the number of parking bays which had previously been the subject of enforcement action where open storage had taken place on the parking spaces. The description that the area is spacious is misleading and the proposed area for open storage is also the access point to Unit 14. Councillors suggested that a site visit in regard to the removal of conditions should be undertaken.

**09362/20**                      **16, Newlands Drive**                      **conversion of detached garage  
To granny annex incl  
Alterations to elevations,  
Raising roof height and roof  
Lights & assoc works to  
Car parking**

Councillors discussed the proposal with some concerns. Although the application is to convert a detached garage, The garage is still currently being constructed and appears to raise roof elevations in such a way that would lead to the property being converted to a house in due course. There was also some question of the boundary wall and ensuing access from Eskdale Road. The council has received objections from local residents to the overdevelopment.

**09397/20**                      **Unit 1 Rivington View Business Park**                      **removal of  
Condition 5, 6 &  
7**

It was noted that the conditions imposed have been discharged and therefore councillors offered no further comment.

98. **Planning Decisions**

**Resolved.**

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

99. **Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 5th October 2020**

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

**Resolved**

1. **That the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Town Council held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 be received and signed as a true record.**

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

There were no papers present for the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Resolved**

101. **Correspondence**

**There was no correspondence received for the October meeting.**

102. **Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order**

The Town Clerk advised members that the official PSPO was due to expire after three years on 20<sup>th</sup> October and Officers are seeking to review and extend the orders and were consulting with the council as part of the review. Comments were received from members predominantly in support of proposals. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Baines and seconded by Councillor Bury and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the information be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk forward all collated comments on the proposals for extension to the Senior Enforcement Officer within Bolton Council.**

**103. Public Participation**

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

**104. Town Centre Regeneration Fund (Horwich/ Blackrod)**

The Town Clerk provided members with a paper outlining the progress on the above item following conversations with Bolton Council's Deputy Leader that confirmed Blackrod Town Council's position in regard to the regeneration funds. Confirmation had been received that Blackrod will receive some of the funding going forward and that suggestions should be forwarded to the Steering Group relating to Public Realm items. A list of items was circulated to council members for comments and additions/deletions which would then be forwarded to the Steering Group.

**Resolved**

- 1. That the update be received and noted**
- 2. That any suggestions for additions or deletions be forwarded to the Town Clerk for collation**
- 3. That Cllr Bury as the nominated council representative liaise with the Town Clerk on the decisions made by members and forward on to the Chair of the Town Centre Steering Group in due course.**

**105. Remembrance Day Parade 2020 Further Update**

The Town Clerk provided members with a further update on the current situation surrounding the Annual Service of Remembrance and Parade. No communications had been received from the Borough Solicitor at the time of the meeting. Initial Details of the proposals were given to members for the service should the Annual Parade not be allowed due to Covid Guidance. It was proposed by Councillor Bury and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the information provided be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk arrange a meeting with all external parties involved to formulate a plan for the event**
- 3. That the Town Clerk and Chairman assume responsibility for the event planning and notification to the Borough Council and nominated personnel, whilst awaiting the official Guidance re Covid Regulations.**

**106. Planning Process Government Consultation.**

. The Town Clerk advised members that following their Resolution to send a communication to Mr Chris Green MP on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in regard to the impact of proposed Government reforms on planning. This had been carried out and the copy letter circulated and agreed.

**Resolved.**

- 1. That all information and notification of contents of the letter to the MP be received**

**107. Town Council's External Audit for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

The Town Clerk submitted the external audit papers for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 which provided members with an update and findings. It was identified that

there were no matters arising from the external auditors and that the report outlined that financial management is effective with a sound system of internal and external control, with all parts of the auditable procedures being in accordance with proper control and practices. Councillors detailed their thanks to the Town Clerk for her continued hard work and diligence, particular through the current circumstances (Covid 19) It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and seconded by Councillor Bury and unanimously voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the Auditors Report for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 be approved and accepted by the Town Council**

**108. 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 pot holes, blocked gulleys and broken signage.

**Resolved.**

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

**109. Finance**

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

**Resolved**

- 1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £5215.46 ( five thousand two hundred and fifteen pounds 46p) dated 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020**
- 2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed**

110. **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)*

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

No agenda items were reported

**Other Matters.**

The Town **Clerk informed** members that she had deferred the matter of seating again 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 November agenda.

**The Town Clerk also updated members that the next steps on the project including hedging plants and improvements to the visual aspects of the car park area itself would take place during October.**

**The Town Clerk also shared a communication from Ward Councillor Peter Wright who informed members that a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme had been set up at the Hill lane Area of Blackrod to assist with dealing with unsocial behaviour.**

111. **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



- 112. The next extraordinary special meeting of matters of the Town Council was confirmed as being conducted by 2<sup>nd</sup> November 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**