

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on 29th March 2021

For the purpose of accountability and transparency, the items included in these minutes 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 .

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

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

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

199 **Apologies for Absence**

All members of the Town Council were present for the meeting

200. **Declarations of interest**

The Town Clerk declared an interest in an item included on agenda item 7 (Blackrod House)

201. Matters arising from previous minutes.

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

202. Planning Applications.

It was moved by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Farrington 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 29th March 2021, 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, it was noted that no members of the public had asked for an opportunity to speak on any particular planning application as listed on the Council noticeboard.**

10480/21	572 Manchester Road	Demolition of porch & existing side ext/ Erection of single Storey front ext with Door relocation
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Councillors considered the application and although some discussion took place in regard to extra cars within the vicinity councillors offered no comment.

10537/21	84 Greenbarn way	Erection of s/s side ext & s/s Rear ext
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Councillors offered no objection to the application

10585/21	Cherry Tree Bungalow	Change of use of dwelling Class3 to classE
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Councillors raised no objection to the application but did suggest that perhaps alternative entrances be considered off Dark Lane and time restrictions appropriate to the facility be applied.

10595/21	10, Meadow Way	Erection of single storey Front ext with canopy roof & first floor side & rear ext.
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Councillors offered no objections to the application

10613/21	Markland Farm	Variation of condition 7 (Open storage) and Removal of condition 9 (wood fuel) on app 80569/08
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Councillors considered the application carefully and voted unanimously to object to the proposal to remove conditions detailed in the application, particularly when other conditions laid down in the original application had not been met. Councillors heard letters of objection to the planning proposals from members of the public. Councillors also requested that the application should involve a site visit and heard under committee and not delegated powers.

203. **Planning Decisions**

Resolved.

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

204. **Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 1st March 2021**

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

Resolved

1. **That the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Town Council held on 1st March 2021 be received and signed as a true record.**

205 Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

Bolton Council

Highway road Closures

The Town Clerk presented members with a list of road closures (previously circulated)

Resolved

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

206. Correspondence

Letter of thanks

St Katharines's Church

(the Town Clerk also updated members on the course of action that should proceed in relation to the other parts of the clock mechanisms (previously discussed))

Resolved.

1. **That the letter of thanks be noted**

Donation Request

Blackrod House

The Town Clerk provided members with a donation request from Blackrod House for any assistance that could be offered to raise funds for works that are ongoing within the garden areas of the House that would help give support and stimulation to the residents through planting and caring for items in the garden and other items. The letter also included a note of thanks for the wonderful improvements which had been made by the Town Council to the area to the front of the Home, which had been delighting residents and carers through the ongoing process.. It was proposed by

Councillor Mrs Baines and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and voted in favour by all that a donation of £250.00 be provided to Blackrod House for the purpose of providing the residents with activities shared by them all.

Resolved.

- 1. That a donation of £250.00 be provided to the Blackrod House towards residents activities**
- 2. That the Town Clerk arrange the process ongoingly**

Royal British Legion

V E Day Communication

The Town Clerk read a letter, previously circulated, from the RBL, in relation to V E Day and celebratory collection items. A discussion took place in regard to the 'Tommy Figures' already placed throughout the village. It was the proposed by Cllr Hollick and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and voted in favour by all that the Town Council contact a variety of organisations, including those in the village, to see what may be getting planned for V E Day 2021 (8th May)

Resolved.

- 1. That the letter be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk contact various parties in the village to collate any items being planned.**

Residents Letter

BSACC (Community Centre)

The Town Clerk referred to the letter in hand and requested that due to contents contained in the letter, that the item be deferred from the public meeting. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Bell and voted by all in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the above item be deferred and arrangements made for the correspondence to be further considered at a date and time to be arranged.**

207. Public Participation

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

208 Horwich Town Centre Development Fund (incorporating Blackrod)

The Town Clerk provided members with a report that had gone through Bolton's Executive in regard to District Centre priority Key Development Proposals Phase 1. The report included an indicative figure of approx £200,000 for works in Blackrod as per Public Realm requests. Councillors again detailed concerns that Blackrod had not been given any due consideration when proposals for funding had been considered and although two of the six priority suggestions had been detailed in the Executive report, this in itself needed further debate as to the suggested funding. The Town Clerk and Cllr Bury as Blackrod Town Council's representatives on the Horwich Steering Group felt that matters concerning Blackrod were not being brought through appropriate channels and it was

Resolved.

- 1. That the information and update be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk and Cllr Bury continue to seek clarity from Bolton personnel and through the Chairperson of the Horwich Steering Group.**

209. Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan (Update)

Cllr Bury brought members up to date with the forthcoming neighbourhood Plan Referendum Vote which will go ahead on 6th May 2021 alongside other elections. Information on the Plan has been updated on various web sites and Cllr Bury asked that in view of the impending retirement of the Bolton Officer Mr Simon Godley, that a letter from the Town Council be sent to thank Mr Godley for all the assistance he had given in the role to the Plan. Cllr Bury also updated members that additional information would be provided for residents of Blackrod once guidance had been provided by Bolton.

Resolved

- 1. That the update be received and noted**
- 2. That a letter be sent to the retiring officer to thank him for the support the Town Council/ work on the Plan had received.**

210 Annual Assembly date

The Town Clerk raised concerns with members that due to the ongoing Covid restrictions it was felt that the Annual Assembly be postponed again for the 2nd year running. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Mrs Seddon and seconded by Councillor Mrs Baines and voted in favour by all and a decision to postpone regretfully taken and

Resolved

- 1. That the Blackrod Annual Assembly date be postponed for 2021**
- 2. That the action be recorded on the Town Council website in the appropriate manner.**
- 3. That the Town Clerk look in to the proposed dates for the AGM and liaise ongoingly with various parties involved.**

211. Horwich Health Centre Consultation

The Town Clerk referred to a consultation communication which had been received by residents in Horwich regarding proposals for the new Health and Wellness Hub next to the Horwich Leisure Centre. Councillors noted that the centre, if constructed, would also be of interest to residents of Blackrod and noted that there was an online questionnaire for anyone to complete if they required on www.investinbolton.com/horwichhealthhub

Resolved

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

212. Deputy Mayor Elect 2021-2022

(Deferred from February meeting)

The Town Clerk outlined that nominations had been received for the above position for the forthcoming year. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Mrs Gaskell and seconded by Councillor Hollick and unanimously voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That Councillor Mrs Baines be nominated to serve as Deputy Mayor for Blackrod for the 2021-2022**

213. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues

Councillors were advised that due to the current circumstances they should continue to make their own arrangements to advise Bolton Council of repairs required for roads in addition to those reported through the office of the Town Clerk

Other reports included the lack of lines being seen outside Blackrod Primary School.

The continuing situation of Station Road, which due to the disgraceful conditions of the road required a schedule of cleaning to be operating. (*Ward Councillors to pick up this issue*)

Lymbridge Drive where deep pot holes had arisen

Damage to the kerb on Ainese Road footpath

Councillor Mrs Gaskell also advised on the condition of benches on Station Road and Manchester Road. Following discussion it was proposed that the Town Clerk contact Ward Councillors for Blackrod to enquire whether funding was available to replace the named benches. Councillors were also reminded that residents had also approached the Town Council with a view to self funding two other benches in the area and that enquiries had been made to Bolton Council on this matter.

Resolved.

1. **That the Town Clerk make enquiries through the Ward Councillors for the provision of bench replacements**
2. **That the Town Clerk continue to liaise with the families who had approached the Town Council in regard to buying benches for the village.**
3. **That the relevant departments within Bolton Council be contacted on other matters.**

214. Finance

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Baines 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 £3653.75 (three thousand six hundred and fifty three pounds & 75p only) dated 29th March 2021**
2. **That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed**

215. **Site Visits**

None advised.

Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

No additional agenda items were reported

Other Matters.

The Town Clerk updated members on the up to date position of the works at Blackhorse Street

Cllr Mrs Gaskell informed those present on the current works at Wilkinson Farm

Councillor Farrington brought members up to date on the incident on Scot Lane, which had involved a vehicle and live animal. Members were advised that one of the aspects of the collision had involved the erection of unnecessary signage which had contributed to a lack of sight and clear run for the live animal, which in turn had led to the collision. (*The Town Clerk was asked to continue to pursue matters with the necessary department within Bolton in connection with the signage*)

216. **Ward Councillor Updates.**

Councillor Mrs Baines (Emailed to members)

Information from Cllr Mrs Baines included

Covid Rates for the borough
Horwich Health Hub
Bolton Town Fund
Emergency Active Travel Fund
Rivington Chase Development

Static
Consultation open
Pocket Park Plans in Bolton
Cycle Lanes from Horwich to Bolton
Spine Road completed by March 2023
Heritage work commenced
Improvements to Beehive Roundabout
Station Road exit works

Unemployment rises due to covid

Bolton Community Champions
Highway resurfacing areas

funding will allow opportunities to
ESOL qualification

- 217. The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as being conducted on April 26th 2021 (in lieu of the bank holiday date of 3rd May) 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