

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 26th April 2021

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.(Remote)

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

Councillors

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**)

221 **Apologies for Absence**

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

222. **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Farrington declared an interest in Agenda Item 3 (Planning)
Cllr Price declared an interest in Agenda Item 12 (Financial)

223. Planning Applications.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Seddon and seconded by Councillor Hollick 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 26th April 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, no members of the public had asked for an opportunity to speak on any particular planning application as listed on the Council noticeboard.**

10702/12 20 Little Scotland

Councillors considered the application and gave no objections

10771/21 3, Newlands Drive

Councillors offered no comment on the application

10843/21 6, Cranleigh close

Councillors considered the application and offered no objections

10846/21 Makinson Barn

Councillors offered no comment on the application

10874/21

44, Ainse Road

Councillors considered the application and offered no objection to what appears to be a 'Juliet Balcony' but asked that the planning department confirm this with the applicant as there is some confusion between the applicants plans and local residents concerns.

10885/21

valynette grimeford lane

Councillors discussed the application for a change to the plans and conditions imposed on previous applications. Councillors noted that there had been several changes to the original proposals and provided no comment other than for Bolton planning to consider the loss of a carport and where this left the parking situation.

10886/21

Wilkinson Farm

Councillors noted the application and voted unanimously to object to the proposals.

Councillors asked that;-

The committee and planning should note that this is not a working farm The definition of a farm is a place where farming takes place and not a residential house, which has been the subject of several changes of use in the last few years by the applicant. The area is a narrow strip of green belt land beside a main B5408 road.

- the greenspace objection be carefully considered in relation to the newts habitat and that a survey should be carried out before any further consideration be given to any proposals.

That the planning statement contains several contradictory statements in relation to the location of the current tractor housing amongst others.

This application would be an area across from a school and next to a school crossing with the entrance almost on the corner where a main road also joins another road. The siting of the building is within 10mtrs of the main road.

The site where the building is proposed has already been turned down for an application for buildings in the area and its closeness to the school/ zebra crossing/ road junction already considered inappropriate.

The size of the building is excessive for the site and its visual appearance is out of character with surrounding properties.

The built stables in the area were turned in to holiday flats in 2017 and then residential units so any stables on the site are transitory

The application says the building would be required for storage of vintage tractors and hay. However the planning statement clearly says that these tractors are now housed in another building owned by the applicant which would seem to suggest that another building of the size suggested in the location would not be required.

The Town Council would like the application to be considered by committee and not delegated and a site visit undertaken.

224. **Planning Decisions**

Resolved.

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

225. **Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 29th March 2021**

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

Resolved

1. **That the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Town Council held on 29th March 2021 be received and signed as a true record.**

Minutes of a special meeting (closed) held on 30th March 2021

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Seddon and seconded by Councillor Bell and voted in favour by all present with the following amendment (Cllr Hollick was not present for the meeting) and

Resolved

1. **That the minutes of the special (closed) meeting of the Town Council held on 30th march with one amendment (Apologies from Cllr Hollick) be received and signed as a true record.**

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

None available for the meeting of 26th April 2021

227. Correspondence

Letter of thanks

Blackrod Scarecrow Committee

The Town Clerk read a letter from the Blackrod Scarecrow Committee thanking the Town Council for their recent donation to a children's activity within the village.

Resolved.

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

Donation Request

Blackrod Cemetery Group

The Town Clerk read a letter requesting a donation by the above volunteer group to assist with the continuation of the works the group carries out on non Town Council owned a flower displays and gardening areas. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Baines and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. **That the letter be received and noted**
2. **That a donation of £500.00 be given to the volunteer group to aid the continuation of their volunteer works across the village.**

228. Public Participation

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

229 Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Update

In the absence of Cllr Bury, the Town Clerk provided members with a copy of the Referendum Notice in relation to the forthcoming referendum on the town's Neighbourhood Plan.

Resolved.

1. **That the information be received and noted**
2. **That a record be made of the Town Council's enthusiasm for a 'yes' vote on May 6th 2021**

230. Amendments to Annual General Meeting Date

The Town Clerk presented members with updated information and proposals in connection with the forthcoming Annual General Meeting date of the Town Council, following receipt of information from central Government. The proposals were clarified and information on indoor gatherings discussed and it was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and voted in favour by all present and

Resolved

- 1. That a new date of 17th May 2021 be arranged for the Annual General Meeting, which will go ahead in keeping with Government guidance**
- 2. That the Town Clerk instruct all parties concerned and finalise arrangements for the Annual General Meeting and relevant matters.**

231 Vacant position on Town Council

The Town Clerk reminded members that there was still a vacant position on the Town Council which was required to be filled, following a co-option process. Following discussion on the outstanding matter it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Baines and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the matter in hand be resolved and the Town Clerk to commence the process for co-option in keeping with the Town Council's procedures following the 2021 local elections.**

232. Benches in the village

The Town Clerk spoke in connection with two outstanding requests which had been made by local residents which had been deferred due to the ongoing Covid situation. The requests were in regard to two benches for the village. The Town Clerk reminded members that she had spoken with Bolton Council on this matter last year in relation to type and location. Following discussion on the matter it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and seconded by Councillor Bell and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the matter in hand to be determined by Bolton Council**
- 2. That the Town Clerk liaise with those requesting the benches**

233 **Floral displays in village.**

The Town Clerk presented a paper to members on several items in connection with floral displays throughout the village including:-

A). **Street Lamp post baskets**

The Town Clerk advised members that Bolton Council had advised that for the 36 lamp post baskets throughout the village the Town Council had been advised by Bolton Council that there would be a cost this year of £9324.00 to the Town Council. The Town Clerk advised that this figure had not been included in recent estimates, arriving several months late, and that the costs of this project were prohibitive. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour by all present and

Resolved

1. That the Town Council would have to decline the costs of the Bolton owned lamp post flowers for the 2021 season.

B). **Town Council owned land/ Blackhorse Street Development & Town Council owned flower troughs and containers.**

The Town Clerk summarised the project works that had now been completed on the area of Blackhorse Street (former old toilet block) which included but not limited to:-
The removal of dead trees and shrubs
New rendered stone walling and replacement wooden fences
New stone flower troughs and blocked paving flooring
New railings replacing old together with continuation railings around the new car park area
New Seating set on the site
New rockery areas created with ornamental stone depicting the works
New gravelled areas
Planting in all areas including various hedging plants, shrubbery, and an array of colourful plants and bushes.

The Town Clerk advised members that this had been an expensive project to undertake and complete but annual costs would be included in future estimates of expenditure to ensure the continuity of the project for the village.

The Town Clerk also detailed that for many years works on the flower displays within the council owned troughs and containers through the village had been undertaken by the Town Council's nominated person, Councillor Farrington and Mrs Farrington and guided on resource management by the Town Clerk/ RFO. Over the last 12 months the works on these displays had also included the support of 2/3

volunteer residents to whom both Councillor Farrington and the Town Clerk as well as the Town Council themselves were immensely grateful.

It is proposed that in moving forward Councillor Farrington and the Town Clerk remain the nominated individuals for works involving the Town Council owned flower troughs/ gardening areas with their associated costs in order to take control and responsibility for decisions made. Works would now also include volunteers who would assist Councillor Farrington completing these annual projects.

Non Town Council owned flower displays and other works.

The Town Clerk's report also included the work of another successful volunteer group within the village who not only cover additional flower containers but additional areas of gardening and cemetery works. The Town Clerk requested that these volunteers should receive a formal thankyou for all the hard work they too put in to making the village attractive for all. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Mrs Seddon and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the report be received and approved with Cllr Farrington and the Town Clerk continuing to take overall responsibility for all Town Council owned flower areas and troughs.**
- 2. That a letter of thanks be sent to the volunteer individuals and groups for all the works that they undertake to make Blackrod a delightful and attractive village**
- 3. That Cllr Farrington and the Town Clerk organise a meeting with volunteers who undertake work on the Town Council owned flower areas ongoingly.**

234. Signage in village

The Town Clerk updated members on a recent fly tipping incident in the village along Blundell Lane, where a prosecution had successfully been undertaken. Following this incident there had been a request made to the Town Council to see if it was possible for signage to be placed in various areas throughout the village that would convey the message that litter should be taken home and not dumped and that consideration should be given to the use of 'green disposable litter bags' to be erected at various locations throughout the village. Councillor Price also suggested that the schools could be involved in creating the 'No Litter' signage, which was met with members approval. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and seconded by Councillor Bell and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the recent fly tipping and prosecution incident be received and noted**

2. That thanks be given to the prompt actions of both the public and Bolton Council on the matter
3. That Cllr Price look in to the situation regarding the disposable green litter containers
4. That the Town Clerk liaise with Bolton in regard to costs to signage prior to Cllr Price liaising with the schools on the future project.

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

Councillors were advised that due to the current circumstances they can 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.

Reports included:-

Spillage on Blackhorse Street near to the bus stop from line marking vehicle
Road outside Pennington Farm now has a large bump in the tarmac requiring attention
Speeding marks left on zebra crossings

Resolved.

1. That the information be received and noted.

236. **Finance**

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

Resolved

That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £5397.27 (five thousand three hundred and ninety seven pounds & 27p only) dated 26th April 2021

1. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed

237. **Site Visits**

None advised.

Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

No agenda items were reported, other than the matters already deferred.

Other Matters.

That concerns are being raised in regard to the local Doctor's surgery and residents having to travel to Westhoughton.

(This is being looked in to by Cllr Mrs Baines)

238. Ward Councillor Updates.

As previously agreed in the current climate Ward Councillor updates will be received by members and circulated to enable information to reach members as soon as is convenient. From the next meeting of the Town Council these will be reinstated at the meeting and noted in members minutes.

Updates circulated from Cllr Mrs Baines and cover

Covid Update

Damp in residential homes

Lack of safe footpath on Station Road

Police Update

Flooding on Grimeford Lane

Station Road dust and grime

Fly posting on railings and roads.

239. The next item on the Agenda (Item 19) was received and discussed in a closed confidential portion of the meeting with councillors noting the contents and actions taken.

Resolved.

- 1. That communications and updates be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk respond to the actions as discussed.**

240. **The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as being on June 7th 2021 at 7pm. This meeting will be held under normal guidelines.**

Signed.....Chairman