

## **Blackrod Town Council**

### **Minutes of a Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Councillor. Mrs S Baines ( **Chairman** )

Councillors Mr G Farrington  
Mr A Bury  
Mr J Price  
Mrs S Baines  
Mr M Hollick  
Mrs I Seddon

**Also Present:** Mrs S Lewis (**Town Clerk**) and Ward Councillors Peter Wright and David Grant and 3 invited guests

*Prior to the meeting proper, the retiring Mayor/ Chairperson Councillor John Price gave a speech to members and those present before investing the new Mayor/ Chairperson, Councillor Nick Bell, duly appointed at the Annual Meeting in May 2021 with the Mayors Chain of Office following Councillor Bell making the Declaration of Office.*

*The newly appointed Mayor/ Chairperson Councillor Bell, then presented the retiring Mayor, Councillor Price with a Past Mayor Civic Badge of Office and asked members present to give the retiring Mayor, Councillor Price a vote of thanks for his endeavours and leadership as both Mayor and Chairman of the Town Council over the last two years and in particular during the period of Covid restrictions.*

*The vote of thanks was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and unanimously endorsed by those members present.*

*The newly appointed Mayor and Chairman of the Town Council, Councillor Nick Bell then took his seat in order for the meeting proper to commence.*

#### 27 **Deputy Town Mayor/ Vice Chairman**

The new Mayor/ Chairman confirmed the position of Deputy Mayor/ Vice Chairperson as Councillor Mrs Baines who had been duly appointed at the Annual

Meeting in May 2021 and Councillor Mrs Baines made the Declaration of Office and accepted the Chain of Office as Deputy for the year 2021-2022

28. **Apologies for Absence**

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

29. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

30. **Appointment of Working Groups/ Committee member representatives  
(Deferred from the Annual Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021)**

The Town Clerk reminded members of the current representation of members on various committees and it was agreed that all representations be carried forward for another year with the addition of Cllr Mrs Baines becoming the additional Town Council representative on the Popplewell Trust in replacement of the retired holder.

**Resolved**

- 1. That all positions be recognised and the Town Clerk to advise any amendments to relevant organisations.**

*The full council meeting was adjourned to allow members to attend a meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee*

31. **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 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021, together with comments made be duly noted.**

**11332/21**

**9, Meadow Way**

Councillors considered the application and asked planning department to note that in keeping with the legal neighbourhood Plan document which states that alterations to houses should match and be in character and appearance of those in the street scene, they wish a condition to be applied to any planning given for this application that a white rendering is NOT consistent with nearby properties or street scenes and that the extension should not have a rendered finish but in a brick to match the existing house brick in situ.

**11361/21**

**Abbey House, Arley**

Councillors discussed the application and asked planning to note that the house is bordered by a railway track on one side and canal on the other. The application is set within grounds with an area of bio diversity close by which should be recognised and that as this is an area which is prone to flooding, drainage teams should be aware of the issue and advise accordingly.

**11438/21**

**Horwich Loco Works**

Repeated concerns have been raised on applications for any part of the Loco Works over the years and the Town Council once again is raising their objections to the application. Including all previous objections which have been given the Town Council once again state that this would be the wrong place for a road to emerge. Moss Lane area can lead to current flooding and with greater number of houses brings a greater risk of flooding in the area.

The railway bridge has NOT been recently checked by Highways and should be rechecked for weight. There is also an ongoing matter being raised under an Environmental issue regarding Air quality and pollution in this vicinity which would be increased greatly with the increase in traffic and construction in that area. The traffic congestion is currently extremely high which would be greatly increased with the avalanche of vehicles. The decision to bring a road out on to Station Road is totally unsuitable and the Town Council would urge planners to rethink the situation,.

32. **Planning Decisions**

**Resolved.**

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

*The agenda of the main council meeting resumed*

**33. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

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

**Resolved**

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 be received and signed as a true record.**

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

**Manchester Road Enforcement Update**

The Town Clerk provided members with an enforcement update in relation to the above address. Members expressed concerns that when an enforcement request is requested by Bolton Council that officers should ensure that visits are carried out to the address as well as other means of communication, which should ensure that matters are properly looked at. The Town Clerk advised that logs would still be monitored in the area ongoingly.

**Resolved**

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

**35. Correspondence**

**The Town Clerk advised that there was no external correspondence received for the meeting.**

**36. Public Participation**

*Due to the nature of the meeting there were no requests made to speak at the meeting.*

### 37 **Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Councillor Bury informed members that following on from a successful Referendum vote the Neighbourhood Plan progressed to Bolton Council for consideration of making the Plan part of their strategic Local Plan. At a full Bolton Council meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 it was unanimously carried that the Neighbourhood Plan for Blackrod be made part of the Local Plan for Bolton thus making it a legal document.

As a result of this decision and in line with the Terms of Reference, the Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was subsequently dissolved on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 as the task for compiling the Plan had been completed.

Councillor Bury requested that the Town Council send a letter to each member of the Steering Group thanking them for their hard work and commitment and this proposal was proposed by Councillor Bury and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour and

#### **Resolved.**

- 1. That a letter of thanks be sent to all members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to thank them for their time and commitment given to the work on the Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan.**

Councillor Bury also proposed that a small working group be established to determine how to proceed in implementing, monitoring and reviewing the Plan moving forward. Councillor Bury outlined that it would be the intention that this working group would have a limited term of approximately 3 months within which suggestions and recommendations would be made to the Town Council on how to proceed going forward. This proposal was proposed by Cllr Bury and seconded by Councillor Mrs Baines and voted in favour and

#### **Resolved.**

- 1. That the Town Council sanction a small working group to be established To determine how the implementation of the Plan be moved forward.**
- 2. That the recommendations for implementation be brought back to the Town Council in due course for discussion and approval where necessary**

### 38. **Children's Charter**

The Town Clerk reminded members of the presentation given by the Headteacher of Blackrod Church School at the last meeting in regard to the creation of a Children's Charter and that the item had now been placed on the current agenda for discussion.

Members indicated that they felt that this was an ambitious but achievable project but one that should be led by the schools, with support from the Town Council where necessary. Members also felt that this would be an excellent project to be undertaken by members of the Blackrod Council's Youth Councillors where appropriate. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Mrs Baines and voted in favour by those present and

**Resolved**

1. **That the Clerk liaise with the Primary School Heads to feedback the Town Council's decision on involvement moving forward.**

**39 Youth Provision in Blackrod (Area Forum spends)**

*The Town Council moved out of committee to allow Ward Councillor David Grant to update on the information which had been previously circulated to members.*

Councillor Grant updated members on the information previously provided which unfortunately had been reduced since the information had been distributed. Councillor Grant was asked to provide information on the Summer programme of events which would enable children from Blackrod to participate (*This information has now been circulated from Cllr Grant*) It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Seddon and seconded by Cllr Bury and voted in favour and

**Resolved**

1. **That the update be received by Ward Councillor David Grant and noted.**
2. **That Ward Councillor David Grant be asked to liaise ongoingly with the Town Council through the Town Clerk as other forms of engagement materialise ongoingly.**

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

Councillors were advised that 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:-**

Little Scotland, repeated areas of concern regarding road and speed  
Manchester Road pot holes  
Entrance in to the Blackrod Industrial Estate on Scot Lane (Manhole cover)  
Poor drainage in the same area with blocked gulleys

It was also reported about the bench on Dark Lane being dug out and removed as well as the waste bin and barriers being erected alongside the road area which was not done by Bolton Council.

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the information be received and noted and any communications with Bolton Council relayed as required.**

**41. Finance**

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

**Resolved**

**That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £4103.75 ( four thousand one hundred and three pounds & 75p only) dated 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

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

**42. Site Visits**

**No site visits arranged**

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

No other matters or agenda items were reported,

**43. Ward Councillor Updates.**

**Ward Councillor Mrs Baines provided updates**

- 1. Covid update – Bolton rates are continuing to rise as are Regional and National. Today's all age group rate is 285.9 / 100,00 (+ 12% on previous 7 days up to and including 26<sup>th</sup> June) There is always a 7-day lag. There have been 0 deaths at the Royal**

Bolton Hospital and 31 patients are in hospital today with a positive Covid diagnosis with 8 in critical care.

The University of Bolton Stadium is also offering vaccines (Both Pfizer and AZ).

2. Attended the launch of the Bolton BAME Maternity service at BCOM on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. The Mayor, Chief Executive of Bolton FT and the Leader also attended. The service will run from the BCOM centre in Halliwell and will offer a drop in facility for mothers receiving antenatal care.
3. Chaired the GM launch of the “Gambling Harm / Reduction “event on 24<sup>th</sup> June where local authorities across GM are being asked to scrutinise and create policy on addressing the harms associated with all forms of gambling. Children as young as 9 years in primary education are reported to be involved in gambling behaviour. I have asked our Bolton PH team to begin to map our response in line with the new launch of the Marmot report “GM a Marmot city”.
4. Currently involved in several pieces of case work- One of which is supporting a disabled Blackrod resident with her wellbeing. This is on-going and hopefully will have a good outcome which I report on in future.
5. Involved in the judging of funding via the GM Aging panel to support the ageing process through initiatives and projects across the Bolton borough.
6. Speeding is an on-going issue across the ward and particularly on the A6 near to the Adlington boundary, currently involved with residents there and have plans in place to try to get a Gatso speed camera set up.
7. Happy to report that I raised the issue of there being no GP services offered in Blackrod via Blackrod health-centre, at the recent Primary Care Commissioning Committee and have received assurances that under the Bolton Quality Contract for GP services, there has been a set percentage of face-to-face consultations formulated. This means that a service will be offered in Blackrod and further expanded upon as we hopefully come out of Covid restrictions.
8. Happy to report that Bolton Public Health team will soon start to consider Alcohol consumption and addiction across the borough and community outlets selling alcohol and working to ensure people understand the harms caused and what constitutes healthy and responsible drinking. This is under the “Healthy cities” perspective. There is a lot that residents can hopefully now do to positively affect their communities regarding their high streets and what is offered locally

### **Ward Councillor Peter Wright provided updates on**

1. That together with Cllr Grant had trimmed hedgerows in areas of village which were causing an obstruction

2. Benches ordered for Tanners Brow and Manchester Road had been delivered and awaiting installation
3. Provided information on a 3<sup>rd</sup> bench requiring updating
4. Continued to raise the matter of unacceptable dust and debris on Station Road and has requested cleaning and will continue to follow up on this matter
5. Noted the hard work carried out in regard to the Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan
6. Notified that white linings are taking place at the Crown roundabout in Horwich
7. Offered congratulations to the entrants for the 2021 Ironman Competition

**Ward Councillor David Grant**

Has been liaising with Neighbourhood Services in relation to hooped bins  
Reported that the Broken Planter had been recovered by Neighbourhood Services.

**All ward Councillors were thanked for their contributions to the meeting**

44. **The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as being on August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021 at 7pm. This meeting will be held under normal guidelines.**

**Signed.....Chairman**