

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 7th June 2021

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

(Continuation until the Declaration of Oath is taken by the incoming new Mayor/ Chairman)

Councillors

Mr N Bell
Mrs S Baines
Mrs S Gaskell
Mr M Hollick
Mrs I Seddon

Also Present: Mrs S Lewis (**Town Clerk**) and Ward Councillors Peter Wright and David Grant and 2 members of the public.

- 1. Prior to the meeting proper Mr James Royal Headteacher at Blackrod Church School gave a short confidential presentation to members entitled 'Re-focussing the Blackrod Community after the pandemic a safe and happy place to be'(the item will form an agenda item at a future meeting).*

2 Apologies for Absence

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

3. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

The Town Clerk asked that the item be deferred until a future meeting to allow for full attendance of members. It was proposed by Cllr Price as Chairman and seconded by Cllr Bell and voted in favour by those present and

Resolved

1. That the item be deferred to a future meeting of the Town Council

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

5. **Planning Applications.**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Baines 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 7th June 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, one members of the public had asked for an opportunity to speak on a particular planning application as listed on the Council noticeboard. This had been agreed.

11043/21

Adjacent Valynette

Councillors considered the application and noted that the application form wording did not tally with the main proposals to vary Condition 19 on previously approved plans as at point 5 these also included changes to elevations / window arrangements that affect internal layout.

Equally in the new proposed layouts there is now the inclusion of a sun lounge on the application proposals which did not form part of the original application. The application and variation of requests need to be confirmed by Bolton Council planning authority and adjustments/ or new applications forwarded dealing with the condition 19.

11276/21 **1, Chilgrove Avenue**

Councillors offered no comment on the application

11245/21 **land adjacent to Chapel Street**

Councillors heard from a member of the public who voiced strong objections to the application. Councillors the debated the application and reiterated many concerns already given to Bolton Planning in connection with applications for this street, prior to approval for permission in principle. The application design and access statement clearly ignores section 4.5 when referring to Bolton Council's strategy for dwellings as the Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan clearly states that following gathering of local evidence there is an over supply of 3 bedroomed dwellings in Blackrod, clearly identified within the Plan. Access to this street and plot is extremely limited and as indicated by Bolton Highways use of the curtilage will impact on the ability to turn which was a condition imposed on previous consents. There is no additional information as part of the application to show how this would be achieved. The design of the dwelling is not in keeping with those on the street, which is not in keeping with local distinctiveness and is not respecting of street patterns. Councillors also heard from the public who raised concerns of the proximity of the proposed structure to other properties within the vicinity. The Town Council request that a site visit take place by members of the planning committee in person now that restrictions in regard to Covid guidance are being lifted and will seek the support of Borough Councillors to address this request

6. **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

7. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 26th April 2021 and Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on May 17th 2021

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

Resolved

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 26th April 2021 be received and signed as a true record.**
- 2. That the minutes of the Annual meeting held on 17th May 2021 be received and approved as a true record.**

8. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

Station Road Update.

The Town Clerk spoke in connection with an update regarding a premises on Station Road, where no enforcement issues had been found.

Resolved

- 1. That the letter and information received and circulated to members be noted.**

Manchester Road Update

The Town Clerk informed members that an enforcement matter had been logged and would be investigated, with further advices to follow.

Resolved

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

9. Correspondence

Family Fun Day

The Town Clerk provided members with a letter which had been received in connection with a proposal to provide a family fun day in the area. The Clerk advised that she had already given the promoters details of various organisations within Blackrod who may wish to take the matter forward.

Resolved.

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

Wigan Council

Health Planning Document Consultation

The Town Clerk provided members with information in regard to a consultation exercise taking place by Wigan Council. Members were advised to access the portal and complete the survey individually if required.

Resolved.

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

10. Public Participation

Due to the nature of the extraordinary meeting there was 2 public participation requests made to speak at the meeting.

A member of the public spoke in connection with the speed of vehicles that drive through the area of Little Scotland. The resident detailed a recent crash on that area and asked if there were any actions that could take place. Councillors indicated that they had asked several times for speed reduction matters. It was therefore

Resolved.

- 1. That the request made by a resident should be forwarded to Ward Councillors to request that a form of action be considered in regard to speeding deterrants.**

A member of the public brought the issue of a planning application forward for members to receive. The members of the public's comments reiterated the same comments that members had already made in its connection and it was proposed by

Councillor Bell and seconded by Councillors Mrs Gaskell and voted in favour by those present and

Resolved

- 1. That a request be made to Ward Councillors for a site visit and motion to speak be requested in connection with the application in question.**

11 Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Update

In the absence of Cllr Bury, the Town Clerk provided members with an update on the details behind the YES vote for the Neighbourhood Plan as provided by Councillor Bury and where the item was up to before it can be considered MADE. Councillor Mrs Baines spoke to commend the work which had been undertaken and completed to a satisfactory outcome and all council members present agreed that Cllr Bury and his team had carried out an extremely valuable piece of work which was a credit to the group.

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted and thanks be given through the Chair of the Steering Group for all members of the Steering Group who had Worked to achieve the outcome.**

12. Signage on Town Council owned Car park

The Town Clerk asked members to consider additional signage for the car park which would indicate that there would be a penalty for inappropriate parking. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the Clerk look in to various signage which could be positioned in this area.**

13 Healthcare in Blackrod

Councillor Price brought the matter of the provision of Healthcare in Blackrod to members attention. This included the lack of current provision and the issue of residents being informed that they must attend Westhoughton practice to have their current needs met. Councillors stated that this solution did not meet the needs of the local residents and that the information should be forwarded to Bolton's Executive member for Health for an urgent update on the matter. Councillor Mrs Baines advised

that she had been given assurances that the current situation was temporary and should be resolved shortly but that she would track the position ongoingly.

Resolved

1. That the update be received by Councillor Mrs Baines and noted.

14. End of year Financial Quarter. Audited accounts reconciliation

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of the current year end audited financial accounts for the period ending 31st March 2021. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Gaskell and seconded by Councillor Mrs Baines and voted in favour by all and

Resolved.

1. That the information be received , noted and approved with no matters arising
2. That the Town Clerk receive thanks for her due diligence and tenacity in the work involved in bringing the year end accounts and audit report to the appropriate conclusion, particularly during the current climate.

15. Area Forum Funding Strategy

Councillor Price spoke in connection with the amount of Area Forum Funding payments which had been given to Blackrod over a number of years, which had been extremely low representing only a small portion of the budget allowance.(less than 1% of the overall budget figures. Councillor Price stated that this was not including those Ward Councillors who are responsible for the spend of the Area Forum funds during the current administration. Councillor Price stated that funding allowances and consideration of spends should be discussed with the Town Council in the first instance whilst the overall decision for the spend stay with the Ward Councillor themselves and members agreed. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Bell and voted in favour and

Resolved

1. That in the first instance the Town Clerk write to Ward Councillors for Blackrod with the Town Council's request for inclusion in allocation requests.

16. Approval of the Audited Town Council's Statement of Accounts and Annual Return (AGAR) for the financial year 2020-2021 ending on 31st march 2021

Part 1 Annual Governance Statement.

Members considered the Annual Statement of Accounts Auditors report for the year ending 31st March 2021. Copies of which had been previously circulated following the completion of the final stage internal audit. Audit found that there were sound systems for internal controls in place including preparation of accounting statements and that there were no issues to comment upon. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour by all present and

Resolved

- 1. That the Annual Governance statement be approved by all and completed and signed by the Chairman and the Town Clerk.**

17. Part 2 Annual Accounting Statement

Members considered the Annual Accounting Statement for the year ending 31st March 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated following completion of the final stage audit, which had found no issues. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Bell and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and voted in favour by all and

Resolved.

- 1. That the Annual Accounting Statement be approved, completed and signed by the Chairman and the Town Clerk.**

18 Horwich & Blackrod Town Centre Funding (update)

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of an Executive paper recently presented to Bolton Council in regard to Phase 1 Implementation of District Centre Priority Key Development Proposals. This document was accompanied by an update from the Town Clerk on behalf of herself as a representative member on the above Steering Group and commentary from Cllr Bury presented in his absence. On behalf of both members the Town Clerk reiterated their concerns in regard to the lack of progress being made with communications either from the Chair of the above Steering Group or the Bolton Council project officers. The concerns included that it appeared that Blackrod Town Council were not being consulted on matters for their own Town themselves but being dealt with by a Steering Group based in Horwich and Bolton Council Project Officers, with matters being endorsed by a Steering Group primarily focused on Horwich. Whilst not wanting to appear ungrateful for any funding for projects that would be of benefit to Blackrod residents, it was suggested to members that the Town Council request that as part of the project Blackrod be dealt with as an individual group, whose own focus groups decisions had formed the basis of the projects submitted in regard to any funding opportunities. Members acknowledged the

basis on which these recommendations were being made and it was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Gaskell and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. **That the Town Clerk write to the chair of the Horwich & Blackrod Steering Group advising of the Town Council's concerns and requesting the formation of a sub group for Blackrod that would deal with the matters sin hand for Blackrod and its community.**

19. Train Services within Blackrod

The Town Clerk provided members with information in regard to the reduction in Train services at Blackrod Train Station. Members agreed that the proposals being outlined were totally inappropriate and it was

Resolved

1. **That the information be received**
2. **That the Town Clerk write to the officer dealing with the concerns within Bolton Council and Ward Councillors for the Ward to request an update on the matter.**

20. European Regional Development Funds

The Town Clerk provided members with details on the above awards and requested ideas that could be put forward for application for funds to be submitted to the Town Clerk's office by 11th June 2021 to allow time for them to be submitted to project officers in Bolton.

Resolved

1. **That the information be received and noted**
2. **That the Town Clerk collate all ideas for funding for projects and submit in due course to Bolton Council.**

21. 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
Private land areas along the A6

Resolved.

1. That the information be received and noted.

22. Finance

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

Resolved

That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £5322.08 (five thousand three hundred and twenty two pounds & 08p only) dated 7th June 2021

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

23. Site Visits

Chapel Street on an individual basis

Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

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

Other Matters.

The Town Clerk advised that there was a consultation exercise taking place on Libraries and Museums between the 7th June and 21st July and asked members to send their own advices in regard to this matter on an individual basis.

The Town Clerk advised that she had been in contact with the owners of the shops/ flats on Blackhorse Street to advise on the condition of the bins in situ and that the owner had provided some guarantees in relation to action being taken

The Town Clerk advised members that she had written to the Chief Executive of Bolton in regard to the disappointment that had been felt when the Referendum on Blackrod's Neighbourhood Plan had been announced on Elections day as Horwich's Masterplan. The Clerk confirmed she had received a short apology from the CEO which included a list of aspects which had caused the wrong town, wrong item to be announced to a public audience.

The Town Clerk advised that the matter of stakes being erected on a field behind Vicarage Road were not part of some building development work but in connection with the planting of trees as part of a national Defra project.

24. Ward Councillor Updates.

Ward Councillor Mrs Baines provided updates on

Covid Update

Rigby Taylor House/ Station Road

Benches

Drain and home flooding on Grimeford Lane

GP provision in Blackrod

Disabled access in village

Armed forces week dates 21-26th June raising of the flag. At the Town Hall (The Town Council's is already up)

Ward Councillor Peter Wright provided updates on

Collapsed manhole cover on Chorley Road which was repaired on 17th May

The replacement and addition of several benches in the village

Ward Councillor David Grant

Introduced himself to the Town Council

Gave some advise requested on the Community Hoops which were available

All ward Councillors were thanked for their contributions to the meeting

The Chairman then requested that the chamber be cleared of all other than members of the Town Council for the next item

25. The next item on the Agenda (Item 26) was received and updates given in a closed confidential portion of the meeting with councillors noting the contents and actions take

Resolved.

1. That communications and updates be received and noted.

26. The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as being on July||||||||||||||||| 5th 2021 at 7pm. This meeting will be held under normal guidelines and include deferred items from previous meetings.

Signed.....Chairman