

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 4th October 2021

Councillor. Mr Nick Bell (**Chairman**)

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

Also Present: Mrs S Lewis (**Town Clerk**) and Ward Councillor Peter Wright and 13 members of the public

79. **Apologies for Absence**

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

80. **Declarations of interest**

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

81. **Planning Applications.**

11946/21

Whitehill House

Prior approval for a change
Of use of agricultural build
To 1 x building

Councillors considered the application and as the application is on the existing footprint of the current building, they offered no comment.

11898/21 **adjacent valynette** **variation of conditions of
P/app 08851/21**

Councillors considered the application and objected to the removal of conditions and asked Bolton Planning to note that when conditions are put on an application in the first instance, these conditions should be adhered to and not changed frequently when an application chooses to do so if they are still relevant.

11971/21 **land adjacent to 596 Mcr Road** **Erection of 1 x detached
Dwelling**

Councillors raised no objections to the application in hand.

82. **Planning Decisions**

Resolved.

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

83. **Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 6th September 2021**

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

Resolved

1. **That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 6th September 2021 be received and signed as a true record.**

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

There was no correspondence relating to planning available for the meeting.

85. Correspondence

The Town Clerk advised members that she had received complaint letters in relation to an organisation within Blackrod which have been redirected by the Town Clerk to the appropriate sources.

86. Public Participation

A member of the public brought up the subject of parking at the top of Vicarage Road. The resident stated that she had been in touch with Bolton Highways and GMP who appeared not to be interested in the problem being caused by inconsiderate parking, as the vehicles were both taxed and insured and entitled to park on the Highway. The matter had now become a H & S risk for those in cars as well as children and adults walking along the pavements in that area on their way to school. The resident knew that members of the Town Council had tried to assist and had also contacted Ward Councillors to get the matter resolved. On request a name was provided for the resident as a contact within Bolton at Home, to see if matters can be resolved through this additional avenue.

Another resident shared concerns on the situation with the Doctors practice in the village, to which the Town Council was also experiencing several complaints on the same subject. *(The Town Clerk informed the resident that a meeting had been arranged for later in the week for the clinicians to meet with members of the Town Council to try and work out a way forward. Item 13 on the agenda brought approval for the meeting time and date)*

87. Town Council's External Audit for the year ending 31st March 2021

The Town Clerk submitted the findings of the external audit procedure and papers for the year ending 31st March 2021, which provided members with an update and findings. It was identified that there were no matters arising from internal and external auditors and that the report outlined that financial management is effective with a sound system of internal and external controls, with all parts of the auditable procedures being in accordance with proper control and practices. Councillors offered their thanks to the Town Clerk for her continued hard work and diligence, particularly as part of the year had been particularly trying due to the circumstances (Covid 19). It was therefore proposed by Councillor Mrs Baines and seconded by Councillor Hollick and unanimously voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the Audit report for the period ending 31st March 2021 be approved and accepted by the Town Council.**

88 Bolton Samp (2)

Councillor Price brought members up to date with a recent meeting that had taken place between Robertsons, Bolton Council Officers, Ward Councillors and representation from the Town Council in regard to the land identified at the top of Ridgeway/ New Street, which the Town Council was asking to be donated to Blackrod Town Council. Members of the Town Council had also requested that the land on the corner of Greenbarn way with Manchester Road be also considered under the same donation request. These pieces of land feature in the Neighbourhood Plan and before any consideration is given to a Samp 2 list by Bolton Council it was requested that the Town Council be informed prior to any decisions being made on its future. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Bury and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the update be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk contact the appropriate sources in Bolton Council and Ward Councillors to request sight of any lists going forward as part of a consultative process on pockets of land in Blackrod**
- 3. That the Town Clerk contact the appropriate officers within Bolton to**
- 4. Ascertain when a decision on the pieces of land already identified will be made.**

89. 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:-

The signpost at the exit side of the car park beside Rivington Street had fell down
Hole outside the Spa Shop
Problems on Nightingale Road
50mph sign on the layby on Chorley Road down
Dark Lane bin, bench and continued rubbish. (ward Councillor to request an update from Bolton Council)

Resolved.

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

90. Finance

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

Resolved

That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £5104.55 (five thousand one hundred and four pounds & 55p only) dated 4th October 2021

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

91. Site Visits

None planned for the immediate future..

Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

The Town Clerk advised members that a request had been made for a planning officer to meet with members to discuss a way forward with the planning processes. This unfortunately would not go ahead due to lack of resources.

The Town Clerk also advised members on the request to Bolton Planning to be included in the same processes as Ward members when it came to notifications on planning applications. The advice being given is that a new process is to be introduced to Ward members which may enable members to avail themselves of the same processes, though this was not confirmed.

The Town Clerk advised members of the costs associated with having poppy designs placed on the highway and the associated costs. Councillors advised that they would not be pursuing this matter currently.

Agenda Item (not already noted)

Monitoring and Review of planning applications against the Neighbourhood Plan (Councillor Bury).

Horwich & Blackrod Town Centre Regeneration (Councillor Bury)

92. Ward Councillor Updates.

Ward Councillor David Grant updated on:-

That the hedgerows East of the Primary School had now been cut back following departmental issues in Bolton as to responsibility level.

That he would be speaking at the planning meeting in relation to the Chapel Street application

Gave an update on the wall of the cemetery which may receive remedial work only in this financial year whereas funds for a full rebuild may be considered within a future financial year should funds become available

Ward Councillor Peter Wright updated on

The meeting in regard to the Samp list

Had contacted Highways in relation to several issues relating to boundary rights, waste bin removal, bench removal on dark Lane

Had contacted several folks including the P Chris Green in regard to the lamentable state of the train services in Blackrod.

Advised that Nightingale had been patched up

That the bin was back outside the Spa Shop.

Ward Councillor Mrs Susan Baines

Provided a covid update for Bolton including immunisation information

Horwich Health Centre the business care for development beside Horwich Leisure has been agreed and detailed plans will be provided to Cllr Mrs Baines in due course within her Health & Wellbeing role.

Gave an update that the new Chief Constable for GM will be attending a meeting at Bolton Council to provide an update on plans to the elected members.

Has asked for the responsible officer for Bolton CCG to attend a meeting to provide an update in regard to the borough GP situation

Bolton has now submitted its locality plan for the GM Health response to a Governments white paper. She also advised that Bolton CCG will be disbanded in April 2022 with a new GM CCG being created

Awaiting actions on missing signage

Dealing with freehold and leasehold issues of Blackrod residents

Will be part of the interview process for the new Asst Director of Public Health

Met with fellow councillors and officers from RBL to drive forward new ideas for Bolton

All ward Councillors were thanked for their contributions to the meeting

The Town Clerk requested that the final item on the agenda be heard without the presence of public and press and other officials.

93. Collated correspondence item relating to provision within the village.

Members discussed several items of legal correspondence which had been received by the Town Council. It was proposed by the Chairman Cllr Bell and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour by all and

Resolved.

- 1. That all correspondence relating to a letter dated 25th August 2021 be received and noted**
- 2. That an agreed response be sent to the authors of the letter dated 25th August 2021**

94. The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as being on November 1st 2021 at 7pm. This meeting will be held under normal guidelines.

Signed.....Chairman