

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 6th December 2021

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

Councillors

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

Also Present: Mrs S Lowis (**Town Clerk**) and 11 members of the public

116. **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies were given for the meeting.

117. **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Hollick declared an interest in Agenda Item 9

118. **Planning Applications.**

12161/21

1, Whitehill Valley

Councillors are seeking clarification as to whether this application is connected to the applications and developments already identified as Valynette or similar in the Grimeford Lane area of Blackrod. which have undergone several changes to date and would request a deferment on the application until the matter has been cleared up and an appropriate

application be submitted with full details. As this is an application for an extension on a previously granted application, The application makes no reference to that application. Additionally, the quoted address is misleading as there is no Whitehill Valley off Grimeford Lane. Councillors await clarification so that the application can be reheard in January.

12309/21 Horwich Wastewater Works

Councillors looked at the application and would comment that the address of the United Utilities area, if in Blackrod is not on Crown Lane, Horwich. Clarification should therefore be given if this is on the lane off Station Road, Blackrod and an amended application form with correct details should be provided and clarified. Therefore a request for deferment is made until appropriate changes have been made to the planning application in time to be heard at the January meeting.

12373/21 Huyton Fold

Councillors offered no comment on this application

12383/21 land between 92 and 104 Greenbarn Way

Councillors noted that this application had already been approved and the application was due to as time limited matter. Councillors asked that there was no clear information provided in connection with the line of trees which lay on the border area of these two areas of land and would therefore expect clarification by Bolton Planning Officer on the matter.

12509/21 Blackrod Sports & Community Centre

Councillors heard from members of the public on the application who raised several concerns. Councillors noted that that there appeared to be a number of inconsistencies with the application. The first being that the application states that this is for the resiting of a metal shipping container and an identification of a container location is provided on the outline papers. Councillors noted this container is already in situ and clarification is therefore required as to whether or not this is a resiting of an additional container which is currently in another part of the landscape, not identified on the application papers, which would clearly impact on neighbouring properties if it was the case. Additionally there is a copy of the internal structure of the Sports and Community Centre and its significance was

questioned. Details on the application form are also queried as there appears to be several errors. The building is owned by Bolton Council as is the land and the current tenants are there with a tenancy at Will which does not have 7 years to run as suggested on item number 25. The applicant is not the owner of the building or land, Bolton Council is. Additionally at point 10 it has been identified that there is a hedge alongside the area identified as the resiting, together with a stream within 20 metres which the applicant has not identified. Being a community centre there are a number of parking spaces available at the front of the building. Councillors request that the applicant resubmit a correctly completed application form, as well as clearly identifying which container of the two which are already in situ is being moved.

119. **Planning Decisions**

Resolved.

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

120. **Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 1st November 2021**

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

Resolved

1. **That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 1st November 2021 be received and signed as a true record with the following amendments.**

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

The Town Clerk provided members with an email, previously circulated, from Ward Cllr Grant in relation to an area of land situated in Blackrod. Councillors noted that the email contained an agreement in principle with regard to an asset transfer which also noted that Ward Councillor Grant advised that he would keep the Town Council fully informed on any progress on this matter.

Resolved.

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

122. Correspondence

Bolton Council

Library

The Town Clerk provided members with a further update in relation to the use of Blackrod Library going forward, which suggested that it had been agreed by Bolton Library Section that the Blackrod Library building would be used by Blackrod Primary School when the Library is not open. The Town Clerk again confirmed that she had responded to the Bolton Officer and shared copies of that communication with members to keep them fully informed. Councillors expressed their commitment to supporting the Town Clerk decisions and working environment.

(Following the council meeting the Town Clerk received an email from Blackrod Primary School inviting her to a meeting in regard to events at the school and in relation to the school's usage of the library. This offer will be taken up in the New Year.)

Unsworth Practice

Update with newsletter link

The Town Clerk asked members to note the newsletter which had been forwarded from the Unsworth Group (Previously sent to all members by email)

Resolved

1. **That papers and update be accepted.**

Donation Approval

St Katharine's Church

The Town Clerk asked members to consider a request made in relation to the Town Council's commitment to use local facilities whenever they could and to provide a donation for the use of facilities/ services when the occasion allowed. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Cllr Mrs Gaskell and voted in favour by all and

Resolved

1. **That the request be noted by all**
2. **That the sum of £75 be donated to St Katharine's Church by way of payment towards services given on behalf of Town Council business/ events.**

123. Public Participation

Rev Swithenbank provided members and public present with an update in relation to The ongoing repairs to the Blackrod Methodist Church building which had had a flood, with some additional minor aspects to finish prior to the building being reopened. Rev Swithenbank also indicated that at some point there was to be a public meeting held on the future of the building and other points for the church's trustees to discuss but that he would keep the Town Council updated and informed ongoingly. The Chairman thanked Rev Swithenbank for his update and invited him to stay for the meeting should he wish to do so.

124. Council vacancy Update

The Town Clerk brought members up to date with the vacant position of council member for the South Ward. A date was set in January for the interview process for the co opted role

Resolved

- 1. For the information to be received and noted.**

125 Community Opportunity

The Town Clerk asked that the item was too lengthy for the agenda and for it to be deferred to that of an extraordinary meeting. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and voted in favour by all and

Resolved.

- 1. That the proposal be deferred to an extraordinary meeting**
- 2. That a date be set of December 15th at 6pm for the meeting to be held**

126. Approval of change of meeting date.

The Town Clerk requested that the meeting date in February of Monday 7th be changed to Tuesday 8th to accommodate a non council related occasion . It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Mrs Baines and voted in favour by all and

Resolved

- 1. That the request be approved for the change of the meeting of the Town Council from 7th February 2022 to 8th February 2022.**

(Following this approval, The Town Clerk advised members that the change of date was no longer required and will be fully re-diaried and noted at the meeting on 10th January 2022)

127 Horwich & Blackrod Town Centre Regeneration Fund

Councillor Bury brought members up to date with the situation regarding the project outcomes that had been submitted through the Town Centre Steering Group some time ago and reminded members that Bolton Council had provided feedback against all 6 items, which was felt by members to be unsatisfactory. It was noted by members that there had still been no correspondence received from either Bolton Council on the matters raised by the Town Council against the project items. It was therefore proposed that this item should appear on the January Agenda in order that a decision on the future of the Town Council's involvement be made.

Resolved.

1. That the item for consideration be detailed for the meeting in January 2022

128. 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:-

Dark Lane bin, bench and continued rubbish. (ward Councillor to request an update from Bolton Council)

Little Scotland repair status

Various manholes and pot holes.

Resolved.

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

129. Finance

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

Resolved

- 1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £5041.66 (five thousand and forty one pounds & 66p only) dated 6th December 2021**
- 2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed**

130. Site Visits

None planned for the immediate future..

131. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

Other Matters

A request was heard from St Katharine's about someone from the Town Council to carry out a reading at the church's Carol Service. (Councillor Hollick was nominated by those present)

The Town Clerk provided an update from Chris Green MP, in regard to Ward Councillor Wright's continued concerns in relation to the train services in Blackrod

Councillor Mrs Gaskell asked if the illuminated signs on the new Barbers shop had received approval

The Town Clerk provided an update from a Bolton Officer to members in relation to the question raised regarding whether or not a controlled crossing could replace the current provision outside the Primary School. The costs appeared to be prohibitive but questions regarding electricity need to be raised to see if this could lower the suggested figures.

Agenda Item

Bridge and roadway on Station Road (Councillor Price)

132. Ward Councillor Updates.

Ward Councillor David Grant updated on:-

The yellow lines outside the primary school update
Post Covid funds
Sunken carriageway at Little Scotland
Access path for the park at Half Acre being of poor standard being queried
That Ward Councillors have contributed £100 to the Scarecrow Committee
That a number of developments for enforcement have been reported.

Ward Councillor Mrs Susan Baines updated on:-

Covid Update for Bolton
GM integrated Care Board
Horwich Health Centre
The appointment of new Asst Director of Public Health
Road at Little Scotland
A6 speeding and link to clean air agenda
Pathway issues in village
The endeavour AGM
The Inspire Awards
Christmas Markets in Bolton
Regular radio sessions on Covid/ Domestic Abuse being scheduled for Radio 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.

- 133. The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as being held on 10th January 2021 at 7pm. This meeting will be held under normal guidelines.**

The Town Mayor and Town Clerk wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year and following the meeting invited guests to stay with members for seasonal refreshments.

Signed.....Chairman

