

## **Blackrod Town Council**

### **Minutes of a Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

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

Councillors

Mr G Farrington  
Mr J Price  
Mrs S Gaskell  
Mrs S Baines  
Mr M Hollick  
Mrs I Seddon  
Ms N Birley  
Mr A Bury

**Also Present:** Mrs S Lowis (**Town Clerk**) Ward Councillors David Grant and Peter Wright and 15 members of the public

*Prior to the meeting proper, the Declaration of Oath Ceremony took place with the newly appointed Co-opted Councillor taking the Oath, followed by taking her seat at the council table*

*Cllr Ms N Birley was welcomed to the meeting by the Town Clerk and fellow members of the Town Council.*

#### 152. **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies as all members were present..

153. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest in items on the Agenda

154. **Planning Applications.**

12318/21                      19 Balmoral Drive

**Councillors raised no objections to the application**

12438/21                      12, Blackhorse Avenue

**Councillors made no comment in relation to the plan**

12642/21                      15, Kenmore Close

**Councillors raised no objections to the application**

12653/21                      56 Scot Lane

**Councillors raised no objections to the application**

12673/21                      60 Station Road

**Councillors offered no comments on the application**

12806/21                      225 Chorley Road

**Councillors offered no comment on the application**

12823/21 43, Greenbarn Way

**Councillors offered no comment to the application**

12841/21 72, Harrison cres

**Councillors offered no comment on the application**

12862/21 Land off chorley Road

**Councillors stated that this should have been a retrospective planning application as the lighting column is already in situ. Councillors raised no objections providing that a condition is placed on the planning agreement that the lights should have a defined time and not left on all night.**

12786/21 land north of 13, Boardman Street

**Councillors heard from a number of residents who each raised issues with the planning application. Out of the addresses listed for consultation no household had received a letter of consultation.**

**Councillors stated that a number of points on the application do not fit with the Neighbourhood Plan as no such table detailed in the application report actually exists within the Neighbourhood Plan itself and the report attached to the planning application lists a number of other misleading statements which should be checked by Bolton Planning Team.**

**Councillors requested that the planning application should be removed from the process until a site visit takes place by the planning committee to understand for themselves what issues the development would cause for Neighbouring properties and H & S issues.**

**Councillors also noted that the boundary line on the application is also misleading as it includes the pavement area outside the boundary of the property.**

**155. Planning Decisions**

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the list of planning decisions received from Bolton Council be received and noted.**

Other observations included an item against Planning application 11438/21 which made reference to Japanese Knotweed and which is to be verified by Bolton Council

**156. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

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 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 be received and signed as a true record with the following amendments.**

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

The Town Clerk provided members with an update from Bolton Planning in relation to a December planning application which had been received and anomalies identified(12509/21) The Planning development officer advised that as there were several errors on the planning application that it had been rendered invalid and the applicant advised to submit a new application with the correct information

**Resolved.**

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

**158. Correspondence**

There was no external correspondence at the time of the meeting.

**159. Public Participation**

There were no items raised through the public participation section of the meeting.

**160. Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan (Update)**

Councillor Bury provided members with an update on the Neighbourhood in relation to work that is to be carried out on 4 projects from the priority list. In addition, Councillor Bury stressed that there is no financial responsibility by Blackrod Town Council for these projects and that all funding is supported through Bolton Council. The first project will be the creation of a community orchard with trees, signage, and seating, all provided through Bolton Council. (A further update is included with the February minutes for your update.)

**Resolved**

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

**161. Financial Estimates 2022-2023**

The Town Clerk referred to a set of documents previously circulated containing the financial estimates for the forthcoming year April 2022 to March 2023. Members having carefully considered the estimates, considered the proposals presented by the Town Clerk, and members confirmed that in order for the Town Council to meet its estimated financial obligations as well as carry out works and promote community cohesion, it was therefore proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour by all.

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the financial estimates be received, noted and approved.**
- 2. That the precept request be made to Bolton Council.**
- 3. That the Town Clerk be thanked for her work on bringing the financial estimates in full details to the Town Council.**

**162. Date of the Annual Parish Meeting**

The Town Clerk, in keeping with appropriate procedures, asked council members to consider the date of the next Annual Parish Assembly, now that Covid legislation has been lifted. It was proposed by Councillors Farrington and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour.

**Resolved**

- 1. That the date arranged for the next Annual Parish Assembly be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022**
- 2. That the Town Clerk proceed with the process ongoingly.**

**163 Mayor Elect 2022/2023**

Councillors considered nominations for the position of Mayor Elect for the year 2022/2023. Following nomination process, It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted unanimously in favour by all present and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That Councillor Mrs Baines be duly nominated to serve as Mayor elect for Blackrod for the year commencing 2022/2023**

**164. Deputy Mayor Elect**

Councillors considered nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor Elect for the year 2022/2023 and it was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and voted unanimously in favour by all and

**Resolved**

- 1. That Councillor Mrs Gaskell be nominated to serve as Deputy Mayor Elect for Blackrod for the year 2022-2023**

**165. Annual Meeting 2022**

In keeping with appropriate procedures , councillors considered the date for the Annual Meeting 2022. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon and voted in favour by all present and

**Resolved**

- 1. That the date of the Annual Meeting 2022 be held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022**
- 2. That the Town Clerk proceed with Making the appropriate arrangements.**

**166. Scot Lane Industrial Estate**

Councillor Farrington enlisted the support of members in revisiting the issue of Scot lane Industrial Estate, where there appears to be no planning permission for some of the businesses which keep springing up: dangerous areas with pallet storage; Motor Homes parked in varying areas as well as the ongoing issue that there are uncapped coal mines on the area of land which have clearly not been fenced off. Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour by all and

**Resolved**

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That a letter be written to Bolton Council, Environment Services, GM Fire, the NFU and the Health and Safety Executive in relation to councillors concerns**
- 3. That the Town Clerk request assistance from ward Councillors in relation to obtaining a list of Business Rates for the area and how many businesses are actually operating from that area.**

**167 Deteriorating yellow lines in the village**

Councillor Hollick detailed areas of deteriorating yellow road lines in the village as well as an area in question where it was felt that yellow lines had once been but which had disappeared through roadwork repairs.

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the ongoing concerns in relation to road markings in general be received and noted.**

**168. Illuminated signage Concerns**

Councillor Mrs Gaskell invited discussion from members in relation to a change in tenancy at a local shop and complaints about illuminated signage. The Town Clerk advised Councillor Mrs Gaskell that she had been in touch with Bolton Planning Officers and had it confirmed that changing a local business from one class of business to another would require permission as it would be sui generis (a unique class of its own) use to Class E use. The Town Clerk also pointed out that illuminated signage would also require permission of advertisement consent. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour by all and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the concerns of residents and members be noted**
- 2. That an enforcement request be activated through the Town Council ongoingly.**

**169. 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:-**

-loose grids outside a property on New Street  
-state of roads along Manchester Road and Vicarage Road and Chorley Brow to the A6  
Roots of trees through the tarmac along pathway near to the Cherry Tree

**Resolved.**

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

**170. Finance**

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

**Resolved**

- 1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £4573.41 ( four thousand five hundred and seventy three pounds & 41p only) dated 7<sup>th</sup> february 2022**
- 2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed**

**171. Site Visits**

*No site visit were proposed at the time of the meeting but a subsequent request from residents to a site in the village was actioned*



## **172. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration**

### **Other Matters**

The issue of uncovered transport vehicles where covers were missing and suggested that the office where licences were given be contacted to give out a polite reminder to drivers.

The Town Clerk advised members that having requested consideration for land transfer on property owned by Electricity North West had unfortunately been turned down

The Town Clerk gave an update on a meeting she had had with the BYB Co Ordinator from Blackrod Primary School and will be requesting that an update at a future council meeting be requested.

The Town Clerk provided members with an update received from a resident from Dark Lane where items had been brought to the attention of Bolton Council and their responses.

The Town Clerk provided members with an update from the local police on the parking situation outside the Blackrod Primary School, which members noted and expressed concerns about the safety of children, which they felt were being ignored.

### **Agenda Item given at the meeting.**

Relationships and service by Bolton Council (Councillor Price)

Parking issues beside flats on Boardman Street (Councillor Hollick)

## **173. Ward Councillor Updates.**

### **Councillor Peter Wright**

Reported that he had had it confirmed about the replacement bench on Dark Lane which would be carried out in the better weather

The reinstatement of the black bin is a work in progress

He is organising a meeting with CVS in relation to funding opportunities for various groups.

That there are some small pots of money available for small gardening groups and these rounds will be held in middle of March.

### **Councillor Mrs Baines**

Covid update are dropping

GM Integrated Care System new Board changes postponed until July Bolton's CCG will continue to operate as normal

A6 speeding still an issue which the police are still looking at

Lymbridge Drive pathway issue Bolton Council has confirmed that the walkway will be pruned on a regular basis

Cllr Baines will be operating a regular slot on Bolton FM radio focusing on public health issues

There will be a workshop on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> feb looking at Bolton's mental health and wellbeing in the community

Resident concern raised by town Clerk has been scaled up to intervention team

Academy Way flooding. Developer has cleared drains and gulley's as Council has not adopted full length of road yet.

### **Cllr David Grant**

The dangerous parts of the cemetery wall has been repointed, further works to be completed as available and a 4inch spike removed

Traffic enforcement has been outside the school to deter parking on the yellow lines, with a few issues with blue badge holders

Land on New Street Community Asset transfer. Currently some issues with various departments in Bolton Council on this matter with further updates to come

Cllr Grant is dealing with upset residents in Horwich regarding leasehold of properties and complaints in relation to financial demands being made. Should this matter escalate in to Blackrod please contact Cllr Grant.

*The following item took place within the confidential part of the meeting.*

174. A confidential item was discussed with members by the Town Clerk who provided recommendations on the matter. All members voted in favour to accept the Town Clerk's recommendations.

**The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as being held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7pm.**

**Signed.....Chairman**