

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 5th September 2022

Chairman Cllr Mrs Baines

Councillors

Mr M Hollick
Mr J Price
Mr G Farrington
Mr A Bury

Also Present: Ward Councillor David Grant and 2 members of the public

62. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Ms Birley , Cllr Mrs Seddon, Cllr Mrs Gaskell and Cllr Bell and the reasons for absence were accepted.

63. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made

64. Planning Applications.

14153/22 Holmes House

Councillors noted that the building constitutes a Grade 2 listed standard and this would be noted by Bolton Planning. Councillors otherwise offered no comment.

14345/22 4, Thursford Grove

Councillors were concerned that there appears to be no notifications being given to neighbouring properties as seen on line. Councillors offered no further comment.

14371/22 107, Station Road

Councillors were concerned that the notification on line appeared to show a futuristic plan, which may not be accurate but offered no comment on the application.

13683/22 Blackrod Primary School

Councillors noted that as this building involves the safety of children and appears to be of a wooden construction, they would suggest that the application contain an up to date fire statement.

65. Planning Decisions

Resolved.

- 1. That the list of planning decisions normally received from Bolton Council were not available for the meeting**

66. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 1st August 2022

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

Resolved

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 1st August 2022 be received and signed as a true record with the following amendment;**

Minute 55 = 2023 Council Elections.

Sentence should include the “ for the Ward” at the end of the paragraph.

67 Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters

Bolton Council

Planning Enforcement Cases

The Town Clerk provided members with a list of current enforcement cases received for the village (6) which were currently being looked at Bolton Officers.

Resolved.

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

Bolton Council

Planning validation consultation

The Town Clerk spoke in connection with the item and requested that as some members had been unable to access the information on line and others were not present at the meeting that the item be deferred to the next meeting to allow further debate to take place. The Town Clerk stated that copies of the paper would be distributed and an additional members meeting would be held to discuss the paper further. *(A subsequent meeting date was set for Tuesday 27th September at 10am)*

68. Correspondence

Local Residents (2)

**Issues with litter in village & Request
2nd Request in relation to litter in village.**

The Town Clerk brought two matters to councillors attention, both in connection with litter in the village.

The first was a request for the public playground to be tidied up. The Town Clerk had advised the resident that the playground lay under the responsibility of Bolton Council but that volunteer litter pickers do try and clear up the area as much as possible. The resident was also happy to take receipt of litter picking equipment which Councillor Price stated he would attend to.

The second matter members heard was in connection with the escalating litter along the A6 and Manchester Road and asked if the Town Council could rally residents in to increasing voluntary litter picking throughout the village.

Members discussed the situation, which Bolton Council have been made aware of and it was reiterated that there is a volunteer litter picking group in the village which meets on the last Saturday of the month coordinated by Cllr John Price, who has the necessary bags and equipment if folks want to pick litter without being part of a group but he also added that there is a need for more recruitment.

The Town Clerk added that she would include an article in an edition of the Town Council Newsletter when possible and that she would speak to the School's Youth Council in the same connection ongoingly.

Resolved.

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

69 Public Participation

A local resident informed members that the sand bags have still left in the area which members thought were in relation to icy conditions on the road and that hedges were still in need of trimming but that the bench on Dark Lane was now back in place but that the view was being restricted by earth deposits on the side of the field.

Another local resident brought up his concerns in regard to a business which was being operated by his family member and which he felt had received inappropriate attention from council officials. The Town Clerk advised the resident that his concerns had been heard but that it was a matter for discussion with Bolton Council and not a matter that the Town Council had been involved in or could comment on.

Resolved.

- 1. That the information by all local residents be received and noted on all matters**

(N.B. The Town Clerk will send out an update to members for future reference as to what type of appropriate matters can be raised during Public Participation)

70. Civility & Respect Pledge

The Town Clerk brought a national initiative to the attention of members which is about improving standards for all that are involved in local and borough councils. The Town Clerk explained that whilst in the minority it is significant that bullying and harassment can have a serious impact on those involved and that by taking the pledge the Town Council would be standing up to poor behaviour across the sector and demonstrating positive changes to support civil and respectful conduct to all. The Town Clerk provided members with a list of several statements that they read and agreed on and the Town Clerk advised that she would work on Civility and Respect Policy in due course. It was proposed by Cllr Bury and seconded by Cllr Price and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the information be received**
- 2. That the Town Council agree to sign up to the Pledge, which will be noted nationally**
- 3. That the Town Clerk prepare a statement for the Town Council web site and policy in due course.**

71. General Maintenance in village

Cllr Farrington spoke in relation to various issues within the village including street lighting, which does not get repaired; excessive street lighting; gulleys which overflow and don't get cleaned out causing flooding and other maintenance problems not being adhered to by Bolton Council and other services. Cllr Farrington stated that Blackrod were not getting fair representation for their residents and something needed

to be done. Councillors agreed and said that this was something that needed to be discussed with the new Bolton CEO when appointed as well as officers and it would form part of the agenda at the meeting planned with the Leader of the Council and CEO in early November.

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk continue to report ongoing issues, whilst waiting For the visit by Bolton to the Town Council.**

72. Council Chamber improvements. Motorised monitor screen. Update.

Cllr Bury gave further updates in relation to the proposals for a motorised monitor in the council chamber. The updates included more specific technical data and logistics around the location of the monitor as well as associated costs. As several members were absent from the meeting Cllr Price requested that the decision should be deferred until their return. Cllr Bury advised that an approval in principle for the project had been given already and that it was only the matter of costs that needed to be decided and that the meeting was quorate in relation to decision making. An open vote was therefore called for by members, with the result noted as 3 to 2 in favour of the proposal. (Cllr Farrington requested that his vote be noted against going ahead without full council approval through absence.) It was therefore

Resolved

- 1. That the improvements and purchase be approved**
- 2. That Cllr Bury proceed with further actions relating to the proposal and to liaise with the Town Clerk in keeping with good financial matters.**

73. Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Update

Cllr Bury brought members up to date with a variety of matters relating to the Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan. These included the Community Orchard, which is now being looked after by a residents community group, who now have the use of machinery for grass cutting; The Blackrod Scarecrow Committee have also donated funds to the project, and discussions are taking place as to what these funds will be used for; Following consultation with residents close to Whitehall Lane, a number of improvements have been suggested for the land in that area. These include a stone maze, log stepping stones and a simple log walk, fencing, dog walking areas, hedges and other planting. These items are now being costed

by Bolton Council Neighbourhood Services for future implementation as part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Resolved.

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

74. First Quarter Financial Reconciliation

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of the audited accounts reconciliation for the first quarter 2022-2023 up to the end of June 2022. It was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour by those present and

Resolved

- 1. That the information be duly received, noted and approved with no matters arising.**

75. Roads and Footpaths

Fire hydrant lid and base dropping away at Little Scotland
Tree roots in the ginnel from Latham to nightingale Road and footpaths need cleaning
United Utility work at Little Scotland not completed properly
Uneven road outside Pennington fold farm
Top surface at the works on Victoria Road/ Manchester Road not satisfactorily completed

76. Finance

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

Resolved

- 1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £4137.01 (four thousand one hundred and thirty seven pounds & 01p only) dated 5th September 2022**
- 2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed**

77. Site Visits

A site visit was agreed for those able to attend for the areas of Dark lane/
A6/Grimeford Lane for 12th September.
(the visit was postponed due to the announcement of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and council business activity)

78. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

Other Matters

The Town Clerk reminded members of the date agreed for the visit by the Leader of Bolton Council and newly appointed CEO (if appointed)

The Town Clerk also updated members on works starting on the Trees on Blackhorse Street w/c/ 5th September, which should be completed within couple of days.

Agenda Item given at the meeting.

None given at the meeting

79. Ward Councillor Updates.

Cllr Grant reported:-

On various emergency repairs being undertaken in the area.

Councillor Mrs Baines updated on:-

Tree works to a house on Blackhorse Close which have not been agreed
The cobbled sets on Anderton Foot Bridge
Current vaccination uptake
Thousands of visitors to the recent Bolton Food Fayre with over 180 stalls.

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as being held on 3rd October 2022 at 7pm

Signed.....Chairman

