

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 3rd October 2022

Chairman Cllr Mrs Baines

Councillors

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

Also Present: Ward Councillor David Grant and 3 members of the public

80. Apologies for Absence

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

81. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made

82. Planning Applications.

14652/22

1, Sibbering Fold

Councillors considered the proposals and offered no comment

83. Planning Decisions

Resolved.

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

The Town Clerk also provided members with an update in relation to a recent approved planning application for notification.

84. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 5th September 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 5th September 2022 be received and signed as a true record with the following amendment;**

85 Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters

Bolton Council

Planning validation consultation

The Town Clerk updated members on a meeting which had been held on Tuesday 27th September in regard to discussing Bolton Council's consultation on the proposed checklist for planning applications. The Town Clerk stated that there had been a number of proposed changes/ queries from members to the proposals, which would be submitted to Bolton Council.

Resolved

- 1. That the items identified be forwarded as part of the consultation process to Bolton Council.**

86. Correspondence

The Town Clerk stated that there had been no correspondence at the time of preparation of papers for the meeting.

87 Public Participation

A local resident informed members that works were taking place on fields behind Dark Lane, which should be monitored

That there were concerns in regard to overgrowth on to pathways of bushes and trees at an address on Greenbarn way (*Subsequently reported to Bolton Council Street Scene*)

That marks had been placed round the uneven tarmac area at Little Scotland which made assumptions that UU would be carrying out the repairs.

Resolved.

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

88. Civility & Respect Pledge

The Town Clerk referred again to the national initiative which had been brought previously to the attention of members, which is about improving standards of conduct for all that are involved in local and borough councils. The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council had now received a certificate acknowledging the pledge that they had taken as well as a logo which could be used on various communication tools owned by the Town Council and it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Seddon and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour by all present and

Resolved

- 1. That the new information be received**
- 2. That the Town Council agree to sharing their pledge through various mediums which will be noted nationally**
- 3. That the Town Clerk arrange for items to be included on official documentation**

89 Civility & Respect Policy

The Town Clerk provided members with a Civility & Respect Policy (formerly noted as a Dignity at Work Policy and asked members to accept the policy as part of their Governance. It was proposed by Cllr Hollick and seconded by Cllr Price and voted in favour by those present and

Resolved.

- 1. That the policy be received and agreed and accepted as part of the Town Council's Governance**

90. Town Council's External Audit for year ending 31st March 2022

The Town Clerk submitted the findings of the external audit procedure for the year ending 31st March 2022 which provided members with an update. The certificate identified that there were no matters arising from all internal and external audits and that the report outlined that management is effective with sound systems of internal and external controls, with all parts of the audit process being in accordance with proper control and practice. Council members offered thanks to the Town Clerk for her hard work and diligence. It was then proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Bury and voted unanimously by those present and

Resolved

- 1. That the Audit report for the period ending 31st March 2022 be fully approved and accepted by the Town Council.**

91. Roads and Footpaths

It was noted that matters had been raised by others present under public participation.

92. 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 £7276.21 (seven thousand two hundred and seventy six pounds & 21p only) 3rd October 2022**
- 2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed**

93. Site Visits

A site visit was re discussed for those who would be able to attend for the areas of Dark lane/ A6/Grimeford Lane but no date agreed for action and will be revisited when all members of the council are present including Cllr Farrington as the matter had been raised by the member.

94. 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) 10am on 2nd November. (Councillors to arrange a pre meeting)

The Town Clerk reminded members of the first meeting for the youth council being held on Wednesday 19th October at 1.30pm in the chamber.

Cllr Farrington advised members through the Town Clerk, that the street light situation on Scot Lane had been rectified

A matter concerning the Georgian House Hotel was brought up but in light of the information not being given from an identified source, the Town Clerk informed members that it was best left until such time identifiable information had been given.

The Bolton Gritting schedule was raised as not having been sent to the Town Council and had been seen on social media. The Town Clerk informed members that she had spoken with Bolton on the matter and the 22/23 gritting process was as had been in place for previous years and that once the financial limitations had been identified that affected Blackrod from the Bolton Officers for 23/24 a discussion could take place.

The Town Clerk also advised members of an act of immense importance that had taken place within the Blackrod Library area that weekend, which had been reported to the Town Council by a member of the public. A member of the Library staff had provided effective first aid as a matter of urgency to a resident visiting the library and her swift appropriate life saving actions had resulted in essential care being given prior to attendance of the emergency services. The Town Clerk informed members that she had emailed the member of the library staff concerned as well as her immediate line management offering grateful thanks on behalf of the elected members of Blackrod. Members agreed wholeheartedly that an official letter from the Town Council should be sent to the Library staff member which is in hand with the Town Clerk.

Agenda Item given at the meeting.

None given at the meeting

95. Ward Councillor Updates.

Cllr Grant reported:-

That a permanent bin had been sourced and placed on the community orchard
Confirmed that the winter gritting programme had been raised with the Bolton Council's scrutiny committee.

Councillor Mrs Baines updated on:-

Has contacted environmental services re the issue with dog fouling and litter
Contacting Bolton officers in regard to the continuous issue with speeding on Scot Lane and traffic issues
Bolton University has trebled its intake this year of students and looking for anyone with a spare room to house them
Horwich healthy centre vehicle parking issues still remain to be sorted
Winter gritting programme – talks taking place

Asylum placements has become another issue and Bolton Council are having urgent talks on the matter

Covid infections rising again but hospital admissions remain low

Malnutrition Week commences on 10th October

Local police officers joining Cllr Baines at her surgery on 15th October.

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as being held on 7th November 2022 at 7pm

Signed.....Chairman