

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 7th November 2022

Chairman Cllr Mrs Baines

Councillors

Mr M Hollick
Mr J Price
Mr A Bury
Mrs I Seddon
Mr G Farrington
Mrs S Gaskell
Mr N Bell

Also Present: Ward Councillors David Grant and Peter Wright and 12 members of the public

96. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Ms Birley and the reason for absence was accepted.

97. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made

98. Planning Applications.

14811/22

6 Barn Acre

Following a discussion councillors offered no comment on the application

14460/22

Clairvaux, Little Scotland

Councillors heard from the public on the application and following a debate by members it was unanimously voted on to object to the application on grounds including over development in that area; development through sub division of a current garden space; height differences between the properties alongside the proposal; drainage and sewer concerns; lack of documents relevant to the application such as a PRA and no specific sizes documented on the application and papers. No architectural significance of Eco perspective has been given on the proposal to justify the new build in a green space and councillors believe that if planning is granted it could lead to other significant development in the open space in that area. Councillors also had issues with highway concerns in that the entrance and exit to on to an extremely busy road would prove hazardous as there was clearly no clear line of visibility.

14807/22

8 GRimeford Lane

Councillors considered the proposals and following some discussion offered no comment on the application.

14172/22

596 Manchester Road

Councillors reconsidered the application as previously seen and voted to approve the application with no additional comments than previously sent.

99. Planning Decisions

Resolved.

1. That the list of planning decisions received from Bolton Council were Received and noted.

100. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 3rd October 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 3rd October 2022 be received and signed as a true record without amendment.

The Town Clerk stated that having held a Youth Council meeting on 19th October, there would normally be minutes accepted from these meetings. However as the last meeting of the Youth Council had taken place prior to the Covid rules and regulations there were no current minutes to accept. Therefore the Town Clerk accepted comments from members on the way the current members of the new 22/23 Youth councillors had both conducted and contributed to their most recent meeting with the Town Council with the overall impression being that both the schools in the village and the youth members themselves should be extremely proud of themselves and looked forward to working with them ongoingly.

101 Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters

**Wigan Council
Plan.**

Consultation on the scope of the new Wigan Local

The Town Clerk provided members with details of a consultation process for a new Wigan Local Plan and reminded members that there was a closing date of 11th December and should members want to offer any comments from the Town Council they should have those comments with the Town Clerk for the meeting being held on 5th December 2022 for full council approval.

Resolved

1. That the letter from Wigan Council be received and noted.

102. Correspondence

NALC

Funding Review (Levelling Up)

The Town Clerk provided members with a document received from NALC which offered a consultation period on the examination of funds available for levelling up agenda and how effective resources would be directed. It was proposed by Cllr Price and seconded by Cllr Mrs Gaskell and

Resolved

- 1. That the information received should be noted and await the results of the review.**

103 Public Participation

A local resident brought members up to date with current activities within the Dark Lane area including fly tipping and the layby. Members referred to a site visit which had been announced at a previous meeting, identified under site visits.

Resolved.

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

104. Bolton Consultation List

The Town Clerk informed members that following reports that the Town Council were not being consulted on matters which may be of importance to the community through the Bolton Council channels.(Not through the working of the Ward Councillors) she had communications from the required department in Bolton confirming that the Town Council are now placed on the consultation lists.

Resolved

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

105. Parking Concerns outside Blackrod Schools.

Councillor Price raised concerns with regard to the ongoing parking situations outside the local primary schools, which is noted as being of a serious nature, with many of those parking their vehicles having no regard for the safety of the area and commuters. Following discussion amongst members it was

Resolved.

- 1. That the Town Clerk contact the local schools to find out what measures they themselves are trying to take to alleviate the issue**
- 2. That the Town Clerk contact GMP to request random visits at the start and end of the days.**
- 3. That the Town Clerk contact the Ward Councillors for the area, to request possible action from Bolton Council in relation to the installation of yellow lines in both areas.**

106. Blackrod in Bloom

Cllr Price raised an item relating to Blackrod in Bloom, which no longer took place in the village and whether it was a good time to think about its re emergence as a village item. Following various points being raised it was decided that more information would be needed before further discussion took place and Cllr Mrs Gaskell offered to do some research on the matter to bring to a future council meeting.

Resolved.

- 1. That the subject be received and noted**
- 2. That Cllr Mrs Gaskell provide some research in to the subject for a future date.**

107. Blackrod Projects (H & B Town Centre Steering Group)

Cllr Bury provided members with an update on activities associated with the projects which had been identified for Blackrod. This included:-

North and South Gateways which are fully approved and awaiting commencement of the scheme.

Disabled Parking Bay on New Street Car Park which has been approved by and awaiting budget approval and in line to commence in February/ March 2023

New Street Laybys will be going to the Steering Group in December

Shops on New Street tarmac area. This item has been approved but the tarmac source has been held up due to the manufacturers being based in the Ukraine. Further sources being sought.

Cllr Bury also provided an update on a matter raised by a Ward Councillor in regard to an **electric charging point**. This would require executive member approval and is still the subject of Bolton's discussions regarding legalities, procurement and commitment to climate change.

Resolved.

- 1. The Town Council thanked Cllr Bury for the latest updates.**

108. Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Bury provided members with an update on the Neighbourhood Plan which included the site in the village which had been identified for possible housing aimed at the over 55's. and indicated that further work has been taking place with visits to similar projects and currently awaiting the outcome of decisions within Bolton Council.

Resolved.

- 1. That the update from Cllr Bury be received and noted.**

109. Bolton Council's Winter Gritting Programme

Cllr Price asked councillors to consider raising an objection to Bolton Council in regard to the 2023 gritting programme, which had been identified in the local press. Some discussion took place amongst members, including identification that this subject had been called to Scrutiny and that a fuller decision would be made on 16th November 2022. It was therefore advised by the Town Clerk that no letter be sent to Bolton Council until a result had been determined by the Scrutiny Committee, which would be identified in due course. Following that decision the Town Council would be in a more informed position to reflect on any action thereafter.

Resolved.

- 1. That the Town Council await Bolton Council's decision on the matter prior to deciding on any actions.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk request the criteria that is applied to decision making on winter gritting programmes for the Blackrod area.**

110. Roads and Footpaths

Councillors reported matters on:-

Scot Lane	street light damaged/ demolished Inappropriate street parking on pavements Some gulleys having been emptied but the problem had re emerged further down the road.
A6	flooding and blocked gulleys

111. Finance

It was moved by Councillor Farrington 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 £10179.85 (ten thousand one hundred and seventy nine pounds & 85p only) 7th November 2022**
- 2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed**

112. 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 as requested by Cllr Farrington. It was decided that this visit would be best carried out with an engineer from Bolton Council in attendance and it was

Resolved.

- 1. That the Town Clerk to request an engineer to accompany members on the visit and a date set for the site visit following acceptance by Bolton officer.**

113. Confirmation of members pre consultation meeting

It was agreed that a pre consultation meeting between members would be held on Monday 28th November at 10am to discuss matters being presented to the newly appointed CEO and Leader of the Council.

Resolved.

1. Information to be received and noted.

114. 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 on 7th December at 1pm in the chamber

Cllr Farrington raised the continuing issues with the Blackrod industrial Estate including carpet storage, drums containing unknown liquids which could leak and cause environmental issues. (It was acknowledged that the Industrial Estate would be part of the discussions with the new CEO)

The Town Clerk made councillors aware of questions being asked in relation to the car parking at Horwich Leisure Centre and associated funding and will update members when decisions have been made at a meeting of the Town Centre Steering Group meeting.

Agenda Item given at the meeting.

None given at the meeting

115. Ward Councillor Updates.

Cllr Grant reported:-

In relation to the meeting of the scrutiny committee re gritting being held on 16th November

That ward members consultation is being requested for disposals under the SAMP i.e. the Blackrod Community Centre and Cllr Grant had submitted his personal recommendations

Councillor Mrs Baines updated on:-

**A6 Blackrod Bypass on going speeding issue. All ward Councillors have agreed to fund an ATC for one week from GMP which will monitor speeding
Horwich Health Centre plans are due to be heard on 17th November
Decisions not yet made on the winter gritting programme**

**Talks had taken place to halt asylum placement at the Georgian House
Rising infection (Covid) rate across the borough
In response to GM and WHO each Bolton borough will receive an Age friendly
champion
Cllr Mrs Baines surgery to be held on 19th November
Bolton at home have agreed comprehensive support for two residents
Had presented certificates that recognised the work of elderly women who
contribute to making lives better for residents of Bolton. A display board will be
coming to Blackrod Library regarding this initiative
Cllr Baines now has civil contingencies added to her portfolio and will be
conducting training for other elected members
Cllr Baines will be attending the 16 days of activism in December
Informed Gerry Brough will be leaving Bolton Council at the end of November
Endeavour charity will be offering 2 free female safety courses. Details on the
web site.
Cllr Baines is currently dealing with several areas of casework in regard to the
Blackrod Health Centre**

**The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as being held on 5th
December 2022 at 7pm**

**The lighting of the Town council's Christmas Tree will take place on 29th
November at the tree on Nightingale Gardens at 6.30pm**

Signed.....Chairman