

## **Blackrod Town Council**

### **Minutes of a Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 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 11 members of the public

#### **116. Apologies for Absence**

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

#### **117. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Hollick	agenda item 9	Donation Request (St Katharine's)
Cllr Farrington	Agenda item 9	Donation Request (popplewell)
Cllr Mrs Baines	Agenda Item 9	Donation Request (Popplewell)
Cllr Price	Agenda Item 9	Donation Request (Popplewell)

**118. Planning Applications.**

**14983/22**

**19, Balmoral drive**

Councillors offered no comment on the application

**15022/22**

**359b Manchester Rd**

Councillors offered no comment on the application

**15061/22**

**211-213 New Street**

Councillors requested that Bolton Planning defer this application due to incomplete paperwork being submitted by the applicant including a Design and Access Statement and Fire Statement which does not allow for appropriate consultation by the Town Council.

**119. Planning Decisions**

**There were no planning decisions received for the meeting**

**120. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

It was moved by Councillor Farrington 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 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 be received and signed as a true record without amendment.**

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

There were no correspondence on planning matters received for the meeting.

## **122. Correspondence**

### **Donation Request**

### **The Popplewell Trust**

**Councillors were asked to consider a donation request** made on behalf of the Popplewell Trust for a donation to assist with gift awards to children from both Primary Schools. Following confirmation from the Town Clerk that there were sufficient funds to meet the donation request on this singular occasion .It was therefore proposed by Cllr Bell and seconded by Cllr Bury and voted in favour by those able to vote and

### **Resolved**

- 1. That the request be received and noted**
- 2. That a donation of £200.00 be made to the Popplewell Trust Charity**
- 3. That the Town Clerk proceed to make the necessary arrangements for the payment.**

### **Donation Request**

### **St Katharine's Church Toddler Group**

Councillors were asked to consider donating funds to a new venture taking place within St Katharine's church which focused on toddlers and families. Following a discussion on the groups within the church and benefits for family and residents of Blackrod it was proposed by Cllr Bell and seconded by Cllr Bury and voted in favour by those present and

### **Resolved**

- 1. That the request and information received be noted**
- 2. That a donation amount of £200.00 be given to the new church venture**
- 3. That the Town Clerk make the necessary arrangements for the payment of the donation.**

## **Lloyds Bank**

## **Complaint made by the Town Council**

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of a letter received from Lloyds Bank in response to the Town Clerks complaint in regard to a failure within the banks systems, resulting in a possible delay in payments to external sources. The letter from the bank admitted the liability and with a written apology offered the Council a compensation payment of £75.00, which the Council agreed to accept.

### **Resolved**

- 1. That the letter be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk advise the bank of the acceptance of the £75.00 compensation payment.**

## **123 Public Participation**

The Town Council were given thanks from the Local History Group for making the Council Chamber available for their monthly meetings. It was reported that there are now between 25/30 regular participants in the History Group and the ongoing availability is extremely welcomed.

A local resident also reported that the item left fly tipped on Dark Lane (DVLA) had now been removed.

The Minister from Blackrod Methodist Church provided members with an update on the current church building situation, including the flood and heating problems.

### **Resolved.**

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

## **124. Agenda for visit by Bolton CEO and Leader of the Council**

Following a previous meeting of members of the Town Council, Councillors were asked to agree a forthcoming agenda for a meeting take place between themselves and the newly appointed Chief executive of Bolton Council and Leader of Bolton Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Price and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour and

**Resolved**

1. **That the agenda for the meeting be agreed and a copy forwarded to both the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council.**

**125 NJC Pay Agreement 2022-2023**

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of the recent NJC Pay Agreement and conditions for 2022-2023 for all Government officers and services. It was proposed by Councillor Bell and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and voted in favour by all present and

**Resolved.**

1. **That the information be received and noted**
2. **That the Town Council agree to the implementation of the NJC agreement with 2022-2023 recommendations effective from 1/4/22**
3. **That the Town Clerk make all arrangements for the necessary changes to take place as soon as practically possible.**

**126. Financial Accounts Half Year Reconciliation**

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of the half yearly (April- Sept) banking reconciliations and spending. It was proposed by Councillor Bell and seconded by Councillors Mrs Gaskell and voted in favour by those present and

**Resolved.**

1. **That the information provided in respect of the Town Council's banking statements be received and noted.**

**127. Bolton Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy/ SAMP**

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of Bolton Council's Asset Transfer Policy to aid their further understanding on the due process and its purpose within the Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) that would be undertaken through disposal of assets owned by Bolton Council. Cllr Price stated that he felt that Bolton Council membership still did not understand the implications associated with the Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Bury reminded members that a letter of concern had been sent to appropriate sources within Bolton Council in regard to them gaining further knowledge on aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan. Some additional discussions took place in regard to the SAMP disposals and it was decided that this

item would form part of a forthcoming meeting with the Bolton CEO and Leader of Bolton Council at a forthcoming meeting.

**Resolved.**

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

**128. Winter Gritting Update**

Members received an update from the Town Clerk in relation to concerns regarding the Winter Gritting programme , which had been circulated on social media. The Town Clerk had received assurances from a Bolton Engineering Manager that the gritting programme for 2022 would remain unchanged, but asked members to note that the Manager had not committed himself to any minor changes for 2023 programme. However, The Town Clerk was also able to present to members an update from a recent Bolton Council Scrutiny Meeting, which came via Ward Councillor Grant, where the decision to execute savings and alterations to the gritting routes (including those for the West of the Borough) had been called in for Scrutiny, with the overall decision being rescinded due to the wider detrimental social consequence on safety, transport etc.

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the updates be noted**
- 2. That Ward Councillor Grant be thanked for his input in to the concerns raised by members of the Town Council and local residents.**

**129. Roads and Footpaths**

Councillors reported matters on:-

Traffic light situation on Scot Lane with Manchester Road  
Illegal parking on yellow lines on Manchester Road in conjunction with the pressures on the school parking situation  
Some flooding on the A6

**130. Finance**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Gaskell 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 £5299.50 ( five thousand two hundred and ninety nine pounds & 50p only) 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022**
- 2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed**
- 3. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members authorise the transfer of funds from the Deposit Account to the Main Account for £15000.00.**

### **131. Site Visits**

The site visit already discussed for those who would be able to attend for the areas of Dark lane/ A6/Grimeford Lane as previously requested by Cllr Farrington was mentioned. It was decided that this visit would be best carried out with an engineer from Bolton Council in attendance and the Town Council was still waiting for a response from Highways on availability.

### **Resolved.**

- 1. That the Town Clerk remind Bolton on the request a for n engineer to accompany members on the visit with a date set for the site visit being made following acceptance by Bolton officer.**

*It was also noted that members should try and see for themselves the issues with the parking on Manchester Road outside the Primary School.*

### **132. 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 7<sup>th</sup> December at 1pm in the chamber

It was noted that the recent lighting of the Town Council's Christmas Tree was a big success with over 400 folks in attendance. Thanks were given to the local band for playing at the service: Blackrod Church School Choir for entertaining: The Blackrod Community Choir who performed both at the Tree and later at St Katharines where seasonal refreshments were provided by the Town Council and for all the local residents of Blackrod who turned out for this annual event.

**Agenda Item given at the meeting.**

The decision made on the issue with the transportation of Japanese Knotweed.

**133. Ward Councillor Updates.**

**Cllr Grant reported:-**

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

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

**Councillor Mrs Baines updated on:-**

**Covid and Public Health update, together with the cases of IGAS and the support being provided to schools**

**Seeking to query rising numbers of complaints about GP and Health services affecting Blackrod residents**

**Albert Hall is reopening**

**Bolton Council's management of 'Heatwaves'. Cllr Baines will be engaging with researchers on the topic.**

**Bolton Council engaging with the Home Office on numbers of asylum seekers within the Bolton area and their housing needs**

**Christmas markets back in Bolton Town Centre**

**All Bolton Libraries are offering Warm Space for the elderly and vulnerable including warm drink as well as St Katharine's Church and Blackrod Community Centre.**

**The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as being held on 9th January 2023 at 7pm**

**The Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs Baines then invited members and local residents present to join her in participating in seasonal refreshments and wished all present a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year 2023.**

**Signed.....Chairman**



