

## **Blackrod Town Council**

### **Minutes of a Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Chairman      Cllr Mrs Baines

Councillors

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

**Also Present:** Ward Councillors Peter Wright and David Grant & 19 members of the public

#### **150. Apologies for Absence**

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

#### **151. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made for the agenda items.

## **152. Planning Applications.**

**09059/20**

**77-79 Church Street**

Neighbours raised many concerns in relation to the planning application, including over development; terraced houses being knocked in to one development of 6 properties; letting issues already happening; restricted access;

Councillors also repeated many concerns in relation to the planning application including

That the comments made by Highways appear to be irresponsible

Although requested by Planning no plans have been submitted for the foul sewage connection which they have stated as N/A

There will be no adequate parking facilities as depicted by Bolton's Policy.

The land that they currently park on is private property not owned by the address .

According to the parking policy the application suggests that with all the extra rooms there should be parking for 4 cars – no arrangements have been made on this application and parking in this area is already a problem

It would constitute vast overdevelopment in the area

The area is already congested with extremely limited access at the rear any further development would be a considerable over development

There are many objections made by local residents to the application both independently and to the town council and should be considered

The neighbourhood plan which has significant weight on planning applications – retail policy states

“Where planning permission is required the loss of shops cafes and takeaways and services (A1-A5 uses) will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that there is no prospect of a sale or letting for the existing use following active marketing at a realistic price for at least 12 months. Church Street is 2 individual units (Planning app01774/17) therefore to seek to change for one or both without conforming to Policy ER1 is not acceptable.

There would be major impact on neighbouring properties

Balcony and roof terraces would have a negative impact on neighbouring properties on both sides and rear

The border of the application appears to extend in to neighbouring property boundaries

Privacy would be an issue due to layout

The balcony would dominate and overlook the upper floors of neighbouring properties with a negative security beach on these properties.

There are many concerns about the type of properties, fire risks, no access at rear to what is being considered;

The application form is not completed accurately or correctly.

A site visit is requested by the planning committee and a request will go to Ward Councillors on this matter.

**153. Planning Decisions**

**Resolved**

- 1. That the information regarding planning decisions be received and noted.**

**154. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

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

**Resolved**

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be received and signed as a true record without amendment.**

**155 Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters**

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

**156. Correspondence. General**

*The Town Clerk asked for members to come out of committee to hear about a H & S request from the author of the letter.*

**Local Resident**

**H & S Request**

A local resident read her letter which had previously been distributed to members of the Town Council. The correspondence raised concerns about dog fouling in an area which is surrounded by sheltered housing homes and the lack of grass cutting in this area by Bolton Council which together was creating a bit of a hazard when elderly local residents were making their way from their homes to the paved area, having to

cross the grass due to lack of pathway. The resident asked members to support them with a request to Bolton Council for the grassed area to be removed and replaced with either tarmac or block paving, which would hopefully alleviate the dog fouling as well as making the passage across the area easier and more safety friendly for elderly residents. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and seconded by Councillor Bell and agreed by all members present and

**Resolved**

- 1. That the letter be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk notify Ward Councillors of the concerns of residents to see what action could take place on the grass cutting and the alleviation of dog fouling**
- 3. That the Town Clerk also ask the Ward Councillors to look in to the matter of changing the grassed area to tarmac or other to assist with improvements Over H & S**

*Councillors returned to committee*

**Ward Councillor Communication**

**Letter of no confidence in relation to  
Horwich Town Centre Steering Group**

The Town Clerk spoke in connection with a letter which had been distributed to members and which had been received from and Councillor Grant in connection with the Horwich & Blackrod Town Centre Steering Group. The Town Clerk felt it was appropriate for members to hear from the author of the letter before the item was moved to be received.

*Therefore, councillors were asked to move out of committee for the item.*

Ward Councillor Grant spoke in connection with the letter and contents.

*Councillors returned to committee*

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the copy letter be received and duly noted.**

The Town Clerk spoke to members in connection with an invitation which had been received from the LALC in relation to the Town Council giving nominations for a ballot for a member of the Town Council to be put forward for possible attendance at one of the Buckingham Palace Garden Parties during 2023. It was proposed and seconded by members that Cllr Mrs Gaskell's name be submitted to the LALC on behalf of the Town Council.

**Resolved.**

1. **That the invitation be received and nomination noted.**

**157    Public Participation**

A local resident spoke in connection with the continuous dog fouling in the area around the top of Blundell Lane, which was noted.

The same local resident spoke in connection with a property in the area which appeared to be not adhering to planning permission conditions and asked for information to be sought.

Another local resident spoke in connection of signage which had been knocked down and had been replaced.

Another participant at the meeting gave details of a free event which had taken place recently covering Mental Health Support and informed those present that the same type of event would take place in 2024 on 1<sup>st</sup> March

**Resolved**

1. **That the updates from public participation be received and noted.**

**158.    Neighbourhood Plan Update**

**Councillor Bury provided members with an update in relation to progress on the Projects within Blackrod that formed part of the Neighbourhood Plan.**

**159. Horwich & Blackrod Town Centre Steering Group**

Councillor Bury brought members up to date from the recent meeting he had attended in regard to the H & B Town Centre Steering Group. Cllr Bury informed members that in regard to participation in the group, it was being recommended that once the projects for Blackrod had been dealt with, it may be **prudent to consider future** membership. Cllr Bury also provided members with an update on where matters were up to in relation to current projects, with the creation of the new Gateway signs to the village being imminent as well as a list on the current status of other projects which had been identified incl.

Lay by on New Street

Footway on New Street Shops

Disabled parking improvements

*(Footnote: At an extraordinary meeting of the Town Council on 20/2/23 brickwork and designs were shown with items selected and agreed by members for the building works associated with the Gateway Signs).*

**Resolved.**

1. **That the update from Cllr Bury in relation to the (158)Neighbourhood Plan and (159)Town Centre Steering Group be received and noted.**

**160. Financial Estimates 2023-2024**

The Town Clerk referred to a set of documents that had been previously circulated containing the financial estimates for consideration for the forthcoming year April 23 to March 24. Having considered the proposals it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Gaskell and second by Cllr Farrington and voted in favour by those present and

**Resolved.**

1. **That the financial estimates be received and approved**
2. **That the required precept be made to Bolton Council**
3. **That the Town Clerk be thanked for her current works in providing members with the financial estimates and forecasting details.**

**161. Local Council Survey**

The Town Clerk presented members with a detailed copy of a survey which had been commissioned and collated by the SLCC and the Local Governance Research Centre on the future of Local Councils.

**Resolved.**

1. That the information be received and noted by members.

**162. Date of the Annual Parish Meeting 2023**

The Town Clerk in keeping with appropriate procedures asked council members to consider the date of the next Annual parish Meeting. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Price and seconded by Cllr Bell and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

1. That the date for the next Annual Parish Assembly be held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023
2. That the Town Clerk proceed to make all the necessary arrangements.

**163. Mayor Elect 2023/2024**

Councillors were asked to consider nominations for the position of Mayor Elect for the year 2023/2024. The Town Clerk also advised members that an Election would take place prior to any appointment ) It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and seconded by Councillor Bury that Cllr Mrs Baines be re-selected as a nominee for the forthcoming year, which was met with approval from council members. *(Cllr Mrs Baines asked for time to consider the nomination and following a period of reflection agreed to be nominated and confirmed the action with the Town Clerk.*It was therefore

**Resolved.**

1. That Councillors Mrs Baines be duly nominated to serve as Mayor Elect for Blackrod for the year commencing 2023/2024.

**(The decision on the position will be confirmed at the Annual general Meeting)**

**164. Deputy Mayor Elect 2023/2024**

Councillors were asked to consider nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor Elect for the year 2023/2024. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Price and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour by those present and

**Resolved**

1. That Cllr Mrs Gaskell be nominated to serve as Deputy Mayor Elect for Blackrod for 2023-2024

**(The decision on the position will be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting.)**

**165. Annual Meeting Date 2023**

In keeping with appropriate procedures, councillors considered the date for the Annual Meeting 2023. It was proposed by Cllr Price and seconded by Cllr Hollick and voted in favour by those present and

**Resolved**

- 1. That the date for the Annual Meeting for 2023 be held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023**
- 2. That the Town Clerk proceed with making the appropriate arrangements.**

**166. Council meeting dates for 2023/2024**

The Town Clerk provided members with agreed meeting dates for council meetings throughout the forthcoming year.

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That an amended list of provisional meeting dates be forwarded to members by the Town Clerk, which with the amendment would be adopted formerly at the meeting in February.**

**167. Use of identification Tags.**

Cllr Price brought forward a suggestion to council members that it may be appropriate in today's society for members of the Town Council to wear appropriate official identification materials when carrying out the work of a Town Councillor or on official visits and meetings. The Town Clerk provided members with costs associated with the project, which could be met by council administration costs. Members agreed with the suggestion and it was therefore proposed by Cllr Price and seconded by Cllr Mrs Gaskell and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the Town Clerk proceed to work up a design for the identification materials, which would include the logo of the Town Council and proceed to organise the purchase of the lanyards and other pieces of equipment ongoingly.**



**168. Roads and Footpaths**

Councillors reported matters on:-

-no boleisha beacon lights as of yet  
No lights on at the bottom of the A6  
2 accidents on Sunday in the village  
Additional road deteriorations throughout the village.

**169. 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 £5058.97 ( five thousand and fifty eight pounds & 97p only) and dated 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023**
- 2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed**

**170. Site Visits**

The site visit where members are still waiting for an engineer from Bolton Council in attendance – a reminder to be sent to Bolton Council

Site visits of an individual nature to take place around the application for Speke's Chemist.

Site Visits to Rigby Avenue to look at the situation raised by a local resident.

**Resolved.**

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

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

### **Other Matters**

Councillor Bury brought up a matter in relation to land/ assets and samp disposal. Prior to any full discussion the Town Clerk advised that this matter would be best discussed in more length and an extraordinary meeting away from the main body of the meeting.

### **Resolved**

**1. That the Town Clerk arrange an ECM at a convenient date.**

*( An extraordinary meeting of members was subsequently arranged for Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm)*

The Town Clerk advised that the Pact meeting due for 23<sup>rd</sup> February had been cancelled and reschedule for 16<sup>th</sup> March.

The Town Clerk advised members that due to differing dates for Half Term the Youth Meeting had been rearranged for Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 1.30pm

The Town Clerk that following a request for information on the recent felling of trees along the A6, she had been advised that the felled trees had succumbed to Ash die-back and Dutch Elm disease and had to be removed on safety grounds.

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

No items for future agenda given.

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## **172. Ward Councillor Updates.**

### **Councillor Wright reported:-**

That he had been dealing with concerns raised by constituents as well as points that the Town Council had sent onwards to all Ward Councillors

### **Councillor Grant reported:-**

That he would be attending the Bolton Council Budget meeting  
A survey was being carried out by GMP on speeding areas  
Sending on weekly roadwork lists to the Town Clerk  
Engaging with Bolton's CEO re feasibility study of A6/ Station Roa

**Councillor Mrs Baines reported:-**

Resurfacing of the pot holes on the road up to Aberdeen Farm area.

Reported on a meeting with officers from highways and environmental in regard to air quality and pollution on Station Road. The two main businesses will be installing wheel washing machinery

Officers have also offered to look at the possibility of siting a new type of speed surveillance but there is an impact on the neighbourhood budget – awaiting outcome Residents concerns about building on Hill Lane which is being checked out with the Planning Team

Mental Health modules being offered via the Bolton Council's web site – to be accessed freely.

Work will commence in March on the Horwich Health Centre

Academy Way positive feedback for the adoption of remaining part of the estate road

**173. Agenda Item 23 Expectations in relation to Councillors position on outside bodies**

*(The Town Clerk requested that this item be heard in a closed meeting with no members of the public present. The outcome of the meeting strengthened the process of members attendance at outside meetings as a Council representative as well as making a decision in relation to a current initiative.)*

**The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as being held on 6<sup>th</sup> march 2023 at 7pm and members of the public left the meeting.**

**Signed.....Chairman**