

## **Blackrod Town Council**

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

Chairman Cllr Mrs Gaskell (Deputy Chair)

Councillors

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

**Also Present:** Ward Councillors Peter Wright and David Grant & 6 members of the public

174. **Apologies for Absence**

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

175. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made for the agenda items.

**176. Planning Applications.**

**15213/22**

**Leigh Tenement Farm**

Councillors made reference to items which appeared to affect the grounds and area of the lands belonging to the farm . However in relation to the application councillors offered no comment.

**15469/23**

**35 Coniston Road**

Councillors offered no comment on the application

**177. Planning Decisions**

**Resolved**

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

**178. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 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 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 be received and signed as a true record without amendment.**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Blackrod Town Council Youth Division from October 19<sup>th</sup> 2022 ( Confirmed at the meeting of the Youth Council on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023)**

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

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

**180. Correspondence. General**

Councillors were given a copy of the Agenda and previous minutes of the RBHS Foundation in accordance with standing procedures. No comments were forthcoming.

**181 Public Participation**

A local resident spoke to thank the Town Clerk and Town Council for the courtesy they had shown and actions they had taken to date to try and resolve the situation she had brought to the Town Council in regard to the grassed area near neighbouring homes.

Another local resident brought the matter of the Doctor's surgery and recent communications regarding prescriptions to the attention of the Town Council. (*Cllr Price stated that he would be having discussions with local residents in regard to this matter and would report back to the Town Council in due course*).

**Resolved**

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

**182. Neighbourhood Plan Update & H &B Steering Group Update.**

Councillor Bury provided members with an update in relation to progress on the Projects within Blackrod that formed part of the Neighbourhood Plan, which also included an update on the progress of proposed building works to take place behind Vicarage Road which had been approved for sale and agreement made that it would be identified as residential dwellings for the over 55's.

Councillor Bury also provided members with an update in regard to the H&B Town Centre Steering Group and the projects which are due to be completed within Blackrod in due course.

**Resolved**

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

**183. Membership of Peak & Northern Footpath**

**Deferred to after May Elections.**

**184. Issue Re Japanese Knotweed**

The Town Clerk presented members with a response from NFU in regard to a query raised on the transport of Japanese Knotweed as well as issuing the Defra Guidelines off the Government website. Members noted that the specifics of the guidelines contravened details which had emerged in regard to transport of Japanese Knotweed and it was therefore proposed by Cllr Farrington and seconded by Cllr Bury and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

1. That the information be received and noted by members.
2. That the Town Clerk write to the Environmental Agency and Bolton Council with the findings of the Defra Information

**185. Coronation Medals**

The Town Clerk presented costings for the matter she had raised in regard to presenting Primary Aged children with a commemorative medal issued for the forthcoming coronation of King Charles 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Price and seconded by Cllr Mrs Seddon and agreed by those present and

**Resolved**

1. That the undertaking to proceed with the purchase of the commemorative medals be agreed
2. That the Town Clerk liaise with the Primary schools in the village for the handing over of the medals when the forthcoming coronation has take place

**186. Roads and Footpaths**

Councillors reported matters on:-

-the ginnel from Thirlmere to Nightingale light

Ainse Road continually being dug up  
Station Road continues to be filthy and reported again  
Cadent will be working on the A6 Bypass for a number of weeks.  
Scot lane drains and pot holes  
Newlands Drive road and pavement

**187. 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 £7775.12 ( seven thousand seven hundred and and seventy five pounds & 12p only) and dated 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023**
- 2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed**

**188. 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

**Resolved.**

- 1. That the Town Clerk re-remind Bolton again 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.**

**189. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration**

**Other Matters**

-The Town Clerk provided a list of dates pertinent to the forthcoming local elections

-Cllr Bell queried a ‘civic organisation’ which had taken place on the Blackhorse Street gardens, which he felt had not given him the opportunity to attend and which he stated had political overtones to the event.

The Town Clerk advised Cllr Bell that it had not been a Civic Event and advised on the difference between events. The Town Clerk also advised that all councillors had received information via email advising of the event, which had been hastily put

together at the last minute the day before in order to meet the needs of the group donating to the project. The Town Clerk also advised that a number of councillors had made the event and they had been from several differing political parties and that the event had definitely not been a political opportunity for any party concerned. The Town Clerk also advised Cllr Bell that no phone calls from any missing councillors had been made to the office to confirm any times for the visit. The Town Clerk advised Cllr Bell that she would record his discontent.

The Town Clerk advised that the Pact meeting which had been cancelled was rescheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> March.

**Agenda Item given at the meeting.**

No items for future agenda given.

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**190. Ward Councillor Updates.**

**Councillor Wright reported:-**

That he had been dealing with concerns raised by constituents  
That he had chased the issue of the crossing beacons, which were waiting for funding had come through

**Councillor Grant reported:-**

That the beacons for the crossing at St Katharines were now on order  
Street Light on Scot lane is scheduled for repair and reinstatement  
Caden's works on the A6 had increased their time limits  
That the £100K obtained through an amendment by HBFI (50K per ward) would be spent in consultation with Town Councils

*The Town Clerk then asked for the remainder of the meeting to be held as a confidential item without members of the public and press present.*

**191. ECM held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Cllr Bury gave an update in regard to a ECM which had been held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and asked members to agree the position of the Town Council on matters

pertaining to land disposals within Blackrod. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Cllr Price and voted in favour and

**Resolved.**

1. That the information received from the ECM held on 20<sup>th</sup> February be received and approved
2. That Cllr Bury, Cllr Hollick, Cllr Mrs Baines and the Town Clerk proceed to take the next stages in drawing up a template for use for the purpose as discussed, which would return to the Town Council for full approval.

192. **Popplewell Charity**

Members discussed the issues raised in connection with a local charity of which council members form the majority of Trustees. Several matters were discussed in response to information given and it was therefore proposed by Cllr Bury and seconded by Cllr Mrs Seddon and agreed by those present and

**Resolved.**

1. That the information in regard to the matter be received and duly noted.
2. That a letter be sent to the charity group advising of the Town Council's decision to withdraw from the board of Trustees, being the majority of Trustees identified, thereby also advising closure of the current charity account.
3. That the letter be sent on to the current chairman of the Charity Group and a request for action to be taken at the next meeting of the Charity Group.

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as being held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 at 7pm.

Signed.....Chairman