

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 3rd April 2023

Chairman Cllr Mrs Baines

Councillors

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

Also Present: Ward Councillors Peter Wright and David Grant & 9 members of the public

193. Apologies for Absence

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

194 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made for the agenda items.

195. Planning Applications.

Councillors made no objections to the planning application

15568/23 **land adj 12, Chapel Street**

Councillors heard from residents on the planning application prior to consideration being given by members.

Councillors indicated that the report provided by United Utilities should be addressed in regard to close proximity of pipeline that relates to sewerage and waste water disposal and any diversion agreements and the applicant should consider their drainage plans accordingly.

The Town Council has also expressed concerns on the access to affected roads (Boardman Street and Chapel Street) where parking is extremely limited.

References to previous applications for the original 2 sites in that area, which has become one, should not be observed when considering this application.

There is a table reference within the Design and Access statement made by the applicant which simply does not exist and should be disregarded.

There are some concerns in relation to the boundary lines as well as the plans appearing to encroach on to current roadside areas

The design of the building is not in keeping with houses in the area and other concerns are made in relation to appropriate distances from other developments.

Councillors voted to reject the application with a request that a full site visit be made by the planning committee and not just through references to previous applications, which in themselves resulted in no actual site visits by Bolton Planning Team.

196. Planning Decisions

Resolved

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

Councillors voted to step out of committee to hear from a local resident on a planning matter

A local resident expressed concerns on the systems within Bolton Planning where he felt that there had been no communication on a recent planning application close to his address on which he had not received any letter on which to offer comment on the application. Councillors stated that the planning application had already been heard by the Town Council and that the resident concerned should contact Bolton Planning Department. The member of the public was thanked for his comments by the Chairman.

Councillors returned to Committee

197. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 3rd April 2023

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 3rd April 2023 be received and signed as a true record without amendment.**

198. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters

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

199. Correspondence. General

Local Resident

Village Playground Concerns

Councillors were given a letter from a local resident detailing concerns about equipment at the Children's play area off Vicarage Road in Blackrod. Councillors were sympathetic to the concerns and query that was detailed and it was proposed by Councillors Price and seconded by Councillor Bury and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the letter be received and noted**
- 2. That the letter and concerns by council members be forwarded to the appropriate department within Bolton Council for consideration (in relation to equipment ranges).**

Blackrod Church School

Donation Thanks

The Town Clerk provided members with a letter and photograph which had been received from Blackrod Church School thanking the Town Council for their donation to the school to aid the purchase of musical equipment.

Resolved.

- 1. That the letter and photograph be received.**

Civility & Respect Newsletter

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of the Civility & respect Newsletter.

Resolved

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

200 Public Participation

A local resident brought the conditions in regard to Dark Lane to the attention of the Town Council. Following hearing the issue, the Town Clerk asked the local resident to provide her with some photographs, which are beneficial to matters being raised. The resident agreed to send the photographs to the Town Clerk.

Another local resident brought matters concerning the disgraceful condition of Station road to the attention of members. The resident indicated that a group of residents had met with a Bolton Council Assistant Director for Environment Services who had had contact with both residents, the Town Council and Ward Councillor Mrs Baines over the issue and following listening to the list of issues the resident raised it was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Mrs Seddon that the

Town Clerk make a request to Bolton Council via the Director to obtain two reports which had been undertaken on the pollution issues in that area.

Resolved

1. That all of the updates from public participation be received and noted.
2. That any issues from the public brought to the attention of the Town Council requiring further action be actioned by the Town Clerk.

201. 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, which included an update on the progress the gateways that will be installed at the entrances to the village.

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 be received and noted.

202. Recording at Council Meetings. Policy & Guidance.

The Town Clerk presented members with a set of guidance she had compiled on the right to record, film, video, photograph council meetings, which are open to the public and requested members to adopt the guidance as policy from the meeting date.

(based on the inception of the Statutory Instrument 2095 dated 5th August 2014 'The openness of Local Government Bodies regulations 2014')

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Bury and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour and

Resolved

1. That the documents provided be identified as Council Policy & Procedure
2. That the Town Clerk ensure that all matters referred to in the document be appropriately observed.

203 Car park Facilities

Councillor Price brought the matter of car parking on the public car parking facility on Church Street to the attention of members especially if it is identified as a facility for any planning applications in the area. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Price and seconded by Cllr Frarington and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted by members.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk write to Bolton Council with a request that public signage is erected in the area notifying limited parking times.**

204. Update on Town Council owned gardens on Blackhorse Street

The Town Clerk updated members on a donation which she had received from Bolton Council Public Health, which was enabling not only the purchase of a 'chatty bench' for the area to be installed but which would also go the majority of the way to clearing the costs of the aspects which were required under Health and Safety aspects. Councillors confirmed they were delighted with the latest piece of good news.

Resolved

- 1. That the undertaking to proceed with the health and safety renovations go ahead under the direction of the Town Clerk.**
- 2. That a letter of thanks be forwarded to Public Health once the project is completed.**

205. Roads and Footpaths

Councillors reported matters on:-

Increasing amounts of pot holes through the village
Little Scotland area still not repaired by United utilities
Station Road continues to be filthy and reported again
Cadent will be working on the A6 Bypass for a increased number of weeks.
Scot lane drains and pot holes

206. 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 £5144.94 (five thousand one hundred and and forty four pounds & 94p only) and dated 3rd April 2023**
- 2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed**

207. Site Visits

No site visits were arranged

208. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

Other Matters

The Town Clerk updated on a letter in relation to Blackrod Primary School and a heritage project and links to the local History Group.

The Town Clerk updated on correspondence she had received relating to Vauze House Close and hazardous parking

Cllr Bury updated on a meeting which had taken place between members in relation to the creation of a template for land transfers.

Agenda Item given at the meeting.

A6 Junction with Station Road Traffic Lights
Vauze House Close Parking

Cllr Hollick.

209. Ward Councillor Updates.

Councillor Wright reported:-

That he had been dealing with concerns raised by constituents

That he had once again chased the issue of the crossing beacons, which were waiting for funding had come through

Councillor Grant reported:-

That enforcement action had been taken for an item on Manchester Road
That UK Highway Agency was responsible for the fencing near to the bridge on
Station Road and had been asked to reinstate it

Councillors Mrs Baines reported:-

A Pact meeting had been held on 16th March which had been poorly attended and may
need to be further advertised for future events
Confirmation has taken place with Senior Officers and Medical Teams that Blackrod
Health Centre will not be closing
A new neighbourhood model will be implemented by Bolton Council with Blackrod
selected as a pilot. This involves changes to funding that is managed by the 3 Ward
Councillors and makes it more accessible to volunteer groups.

*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.*

210. **Popplewell Charity**

The Town Clerk provided an update on a recent letter received from former Trustees
of the Popplewell Charity

Resolved.

1. **That the information in regard to the matter be received and duly noted.**
2. **That the Town Clerk draft a letter of response to the letter received and circulate to members for decision making.**

**The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as being held on 24th
April 2023 at 7pm.(early due to Bank Holiday)**

**The Town Clerk reminded members that the 2023 Annual Assembly would take
place on 18th April in the Council Chambers.**

Signed.....Chairman