

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 5th June 2023

Chairman Cllr John Price

Councillors Ms G Hughes Sinclair
Mr A Bury
Mrs S Gaskell
Mr D Snowden
Ms R Seddon
Mrs K Grant
Mr D Grant

Also Present: The Town Clerk, a visiting Ward Councillor and 9 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Nick Bell and the reasons for absence was accepted.

2. Appointment of Committees/ Working Group representatives on outside bodies

Following the deferment of the item from the Annual Meeting held on 15th May 2023 the following appointments were made for the year 2023-2024

Blackrod neighbourhood Plan (all groups)

Cllr Alan Bury

R & B High School Education Trust

**Cllr Kathryn Grant
Cllr Rebecca Seddon**

Blackrod Educational Trust

Mrs Stella Lewis
*(Trustee & Hon
Secretary.Non council
appointment)*

LALC

Cllr John Price
Cllr Derek Snowden

Peak & Northern Footpaths

Cllr Alan Bury
Cllr Susan Gaskell
*(a member of the Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan will be invited to attend as a
representative)*

2. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made for the main body of agenda items.
Cllr David Grant declared an interest in all planning applications.

3. **Planning Applications.**

15736/23 **land to rear of Meadow Way**

Councillors voted in favour of the application but would like stipulations detailed such as access from the A6 and the building to be as per the planning application location.

15977/23 **Bryher House**

Councillors offered no objections to the planning application

15620/23 **Markland farm**

Councillors requested a deferment to allow time for papers to be available to discuss the planning application, *.(This has been granted).*

4. Planning Decisions

Resolved

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

5. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 24th April 2023

The Town Clerk reminded members that only those who had been present at the above meeting could propose/ second and were quorate in number.

It was moved by Councillor Bury 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 24th April 2023 be received and signed as a true record without amendment.**

Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 15th May 2023

It was moved by Councillor Ms Hughes Sinclair and seconded by Councillor Ms Seddon and voted in favour by all present and

Resolved

- 1. That the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 15th May 2023 be received and signed as a true record without amendment.**

6 Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters

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

7. Correspondence. General

No external pieces of correspondence not covered by other matters were present for the meeting.

8 Public Participation

A newly elected Ward Councillor for a Horwich Ward (Councillor Ryan Bamforth) spoke to members to provide them with an update in regard to a new role he has been asked to undertake on behalf of Bolton Council. The role is armed forces related and the Ward Councillor informed those present that he would be there to provide assistance and guidance on any matter that was related to this subject.

Resolved

- 1. Those participating in the public participation section of the meeting were thanked by the chair and members for their input to the meeting.**

9. Neighbourhood Plan Update / Horwich Town Centre Steering Group.

Councillor Bury provided members with an up to date position in that the Gateways signage and containers had now been installed at opposite ends of the village and lots of positive comments had already been received.

Councillor Bury also asked the meeting to note that the second project which had been proposed and agreed by residents for the area on Manchester Road would possibly not longer go ahead but that a third project outside the shops on Manchester Road for improvements to the footways had now been completed.

Councillor David Grant informed the meeting that as a Horwich Town Councillor he had now taken up the position of Chairman of the Horwich & Blackrod Town Centre Steering Group and as yet no future meeting had been convened but this would be followed up shortly.

Resolved

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

10. End of Year Financial Quarter Reconciliation –with audited report)

The Town Clerk provided members with the usual copy of the current quarter/ year end banking reconciliation of accounts for the period ending 31st March 2023.(Previously circulated) It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and seconded by Councillor Bury and voted in favour by those present and

Resolved

- 1. That the information be received, noted and approved**
- 2. That the Town Clerk receive thanks for her work in bringing the year end accounts and external audit accounts statement to the appropriate conclusion.**

11. Approval of the audited Town Council’s statement of accounts and annual return (AGAR) for the financial year 2022-2023 ending on 31st March 2023

Part One

Members considered the Annual Statement of Accounts audit report for the year ending 31st March 2023, copies of which had been distributed previously with the banking statements. Internal audit concluded that there were sound systems for internal controls in place, including preparation of quarterly accounting spending statements and monthly spending schedules and that no issues to comment on had been found. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and seconded by Councillor Bury and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the Annual Governance statement be approved and completed and signed by the Chairman and Town Clerk/ RFO and then be forwarded for full external audit process.**

12. Part Two

Members considered the Annual Accounting Statement for the year ending 31st March 2023, copies of which had been previously circulated following completion of final audit stage, which had found no issues to be raised. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Bury and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and

Resolved

- 1. That the Annual Accounting Statement be approved, completed and signed by the Chairman and the Town Clerk and then to be forwarded for full external Audit Process.**

13. *The meeting was taken out of committee for the next item to be received from Cllr David Grant in his role as a Ward Councillor*

Distribution of funding aspects within the Horwich & Blackrod Ward

Cllr David Grant presented a copy of an amendment which had gone through Bolton council's budget process for members update. Cllr Grant also provided a breakdown of the area working finances for the forthcoming year. It was noted with interest by council members that there may be an opportunity to request support from the Ward funding for a number of schemes or projects with the Blackrod Ward including road safety schemes. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Bury and seconded by Councillor Ms Hughes Sinclair and voted in favour by those present and

Resolved

1. **That the information be received and noted**
2. **That the subject of funding requests for schemes/ projects be placed on the next agenda for discussion amongst members with a view to future requests.**

Councillor Grant was thanked for his update and the meeting returned to committee.

14. **Former council members**

Discussions took place amongst members in response to a matter raised by the Town Clerk and residents and members alike in regard to three members of the Town Council who have recently retired from their roles. Following the discussions it was agreed that further research should take place by the Town Clerk on matters, with the item forming a separate agenda item/ meeting going forward.

Resolved.

1. **That the Town Clerk research the matter further and organise a ECM where the matter could be more freely discussed.**

- 15 **Blackrod Primary. BYB Invitation**

The Town Clerk informed members that she had accepted an invitation from Blackrod Primary to attend a Trustees Meeting of the BYB project in September and that the invitation could be extended to include a member councillor. The Town Clerk proposed that members let her know if they would like to be involved and she would advise the school who would be joining her.

Resolved.

1. That the information be received and noted
2. That members advise the Town Clerk if they would like to be included in the forthcoming meeting in September.

16. Roads and Footpaths

Councillors reported matters on:-

Blocked gulleys in village
Missing signs
Litter issues
Bins not being emptied
Overgrown trees

17. Finance

It was moved by Councillor Bury and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and voted in favour by all and

Resolved

1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £5002.94 (five thousand and two pounds & 94p only) and dated 5th June 2023
2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed on the schedule.

18. Site Visits

No site visits were arranged but a request was made for access to an area where a planning application was being considered. Councillors were advised to make individual visits to areas under discussion.

19. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

Other Matters

Reports were given on areas of flooding in the village, particularly on Vicarage Road

A report was received in regard to the electronic sign on Manchester Road, which was being obscured by the overgrown bushes.

Agenda Item given at the meeting.

None given

20. Ward Councillor Updates.

The Time and date of the next meeting was confirmed as July 3rd 2023 commencing at 7pm.

Signed.....Chairman