

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 6th November 2023

Chairman Cllr John Price

Councillors Mr A Bury
Mrs S Gaskell
Mr D Snowden
Mr N Bell
Mr D Grant
Cllr Ms Hughes-Sinclair

Also Present: The Town Clerk: and 9 members of the public

90.Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Ms Seddon and Cllr Mrs Grant the reasons accepted.

91.Declarations of Interest

Cllr David Grant declared an interest in all planning applications.
Cllr Bury: Cllr Bell: and Cllr Price all expressed an interest in planning application 16874/23

92. Planning Applications.

16888/23 Nightingale Road

Councillors made no comment on the application

16904/23 Whitehill Valley

Councillors offered no comment

16893/23 Huyton Fold

Councillors offered no comment

16907/23 j Dickinson & Sons

Councillors considered the application and voted to object to the application for 24 hour operations for a variety of reasons and that more appropriate hours of operation should be considered

16984/23 Highfield Road

Councillors offered no objections

16874/23 St Andrews Place

Councillors raised objections to the planning on the grounds that there were incorrect details on the application form; lack of details as to the operation of the units and hours of operation together with the loss of a community facility and that no traffic modelling had been carried out.

93. Planning Decisions

Resolved

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

94. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 2nd October 2023

It was proposed by Cllr Grant and seconded by Councillor Bury and voted in favour by all and

Resolved

1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 2nd October 2023 be received and signed as a true record.

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 31st July 2023

The Town Clerk spoke briefly in connection with the July Minutes and it was proposed by Councillor Grant and seconded by Councillor Bury and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. That the minutes from the meeting held on 31st July 2023 be received with agreed amendment by the Town Clerk and signed as a true record.

95. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters

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

96. Correspondence. General

Resident Request in regard to long service to RBL

The Town Clerk provided members with a communication from a member of the public in regard to the long service given by a local resident in relation to the RBL and updated them that this could be included, together with 1/ 2 others as part of the draft proposals that would be forthcoming from Cllr Snowden (Pride of Blackrod) and the Town Council's already existing Blackrod Civic and Community Awards. It was proposed by Councillor Bury and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and voted in favour and

Resolved

1. That the letter be received and noted and the author of the letter be thanked for her comments
2. That the draft proposals for the Pride of Blackrod Award be initially developed by Councillor Snowden and a team and brought to a future council meeting for consideration and their possible amalgamation with existing awards already in place.

97 **Public Participation**

A member of the public indicated to members that there was no Community Centre within the village and with the planning application for St Andrews Hall any new venture that had been set up would have no place in order to carry out its business. The resident queried whether the Town Council or Bolton Council could find the funds to establish a centre in Blackrod.

Members went out of committee to allow Ward Councillor David Grant to respond.

Ward Councillor Grant responded to the statement to confirm that there was a Community Centre in the village (BSACC) as well as a Young Person's Centre and indicated that there was a named government fund (Community Ownership Fund) and that groups and councils could also apply for improvement grants through the CVS and Lottery Funding. This would require a business plan being in place and Cllr Grant would send on the link to the resident as information.

Members returned to committee

Another member of the public mentioned the ongoing issues with overgrown bushes along dark lane which were badly in need of being cut back to make the walking down the lane safer

The same resident also mentioned the grid at the bottom of Dark lane where it joined the A6 where traffic was swerving to avoid it causing other dangers to both traffic and walkers who were in their path. The resident confirmed that she would forward photographs to the Town Clerk to look in to the matter further.

Resolved

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

98. **Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Cllr Bury brought members up to date with the latest information regarding the Neighbourhood Plan including:-
The pursuing of grants for the land at Whitehall Lane

Over 55's Units – that the asset had been approved in February 2023 but that there was a current hold up which was being pursued.

Resolved.

1. **That the information and update provided by Cllr Bury be received and noted.**

99. Town Council's half yearly audited banking reconciliation to Sept 2023

The Town Clerk provided members with the half yearly banking reconciliation update with copy statements. It was proposed by Cllr Grant and seconded by Cllr Snowden and voted in favour and

Resolved

1. **That the half yearly banking reconciliations for the period ending 30th September 2023 be received by the Town Council.**

100. Survey. Possible Road Safety Scheme (Crossing)

The Town Clerk brought to the attention of members the cost associated with a survey which could be carried out to look at the matter of road safety and a request for a pelican or puffin crossing type to be considered for a location on Manchester Road. It was proposed by Councillor Bury and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and voted in favour by those present and

Resolved.

1. **That the sum of £700.00 be funded by the Town Council for the survey in relation to road safety that would be carried out under Bolton Council's authority.**

101. Roads and Footpaths

Councillors reported matters on:-

Various grids and gutters that were needing cleaned in the village
Street lights which were not working
Pot hole outside the old vicarage

102. Finance

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

Resolved

- 1. That the Town Clerk and two members authorise payments amounting to £7912.13(seven thousand nine hundred and twelve pounds & 13p only) and dated 6th November 2023 for the payment of cheques as listed on the schedule of payments.(previously received by members)**
- 2. Members to note scheduled spending at month 8 against estimates.**

103. Site Visits

The Town Clerk provided members with concerns being raised in connection with a road running off Blundell Lane which was deteriorating rapidly and which a resident could get no satisfactory answers on repairs. Members were invited to view the road by contacting the resident – details from the Town Clerk.

104. Ward Councillor Updates.

Ward Councillor Grant update. *(stepped out of committee)*

4 of the 6 new planters had been signed off , with payment being sent on accordingly Double yellow lines had now been signed off which included several around Blackrod Community funding for hoop bins and litter picking had been removed from Bolton and work was underway to get this funding reinstated as there were more requests for bins throughout the village.

Ward Councillor Grant returned to committee

105. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

Other Matters

The Town Clerk advised that the Clerk of Adlington Council had asked if the Town Council would like to purchase any of the hanging floral baskets which had to be removed from Adlington lamp posts following a weight restriction by Lancashire County Council. Councillors felt that if it was a H & S issue in the Chorley area it

made no sense to purchase the baskets as Borough authorities would be guided by the same restrictions.

The Town Clerk requested that the next two items be heard in the confidential part of the meeting and the room be cleared.

106 Statement release following recent confidential meeting

The Town Clerk provided members with a brief statement for release which was proposed by Cllr Ms Hughes- Sinclair and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and

Resolved.

- 1. That the statement be agreed and forwarded on to the third party.**

107. Recruitment item.

The Town Clerk presented draft documents she had prepared in relation to the forthcoming vacancy for a new Town Clerk. These included:-

Advert for the role

Application Form

Job description and purpose

Person specification

GDPR notification

There were no suggestions for amendment to the papers other than one or two typing clarifications.

The Town Clerk stated that she would be preparing a set of Q & A for members and that dates for interviews would be announced in the near future. The Town Clerk also indicated to those present that in view of the position of the role, it would be appropriate for all members to be present for all interviews taking place. Councillors and the Town Clerk discussed where adverts could be placed in relation to the forthcoming role. Cllr Bury stated that the Town Clerk should be commended for the work she had put in to preparing the papers.

Resolved

- 1. That the papers be received and agreed**
- 2. That the Town Clerk proceed to advertise the role and making future arrangements.**

The Time and date of the next council meeting was confirmed as December 4th 2023 commencing at 7pm.

**Members were reminded about the arrangements for
Maroon Saturday 11th November at the cenotaph 10.45am
Remembrance Day Service Sunday 12th November 2.15 at the cenotaph
Christmas light Switch on Tuesday 28th November at 6.30pm at the tree on
Blackhorse Street**

Signed.....Chairman