

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 2nd October 2023

Chairman Cllr John Price

Councillors Mr A Bury
Mrs S Gaskell
Mr D Snowden
Mr N Bell
Ms R Seddon
Mrs K Grant
Mr D Grant

Also Present: The Town Clerk: and 8 members of the public

In advance of the meeting starting the Town Clerk apologised for the poor quality of some of the paperwork received by members and mis-numbering on the agenda item.

70.Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Ms Hughes Sinclair and the reasons accepted.

71.Declarations of Interest

Cllr David Grant declared an interest in all planning applications.
Cllr Mrs Grant declared an interest in a planning application
Cllr Bury: Cllr Bell: and Cllr Price all expressed an interest in Agenda Item 9 (donation request)

72. Planning Applications.

16741/23 Hillcroft, Dark Lane

Councillors voted in favour to object to the retrospective planning application due to breaches of conditions imposed at initial planning stage of the development

16764/23 100, Station Road

Councillors made no comment on the application

73. Planning Decisions

Resolved

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

74. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 4th September 2023

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

Resolved

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 4th September 2023 be received and signed as a true record.**

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

The Chairman of the Council asked the Town Clerk if any amendments had been received in relation to the minutes, which had been deferred previously and the Town Clerk confirmed that 2 notifications had been received by herself on the morning of the meeting of the Town Council on 2nd October 2023 containing queries. The Chairman therefore suggested that this had allowed no time for consideration by the Town Clerk and proposed that the minutes be further deferred. It was therefore proposed By Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Grant and

Resolved.

- 1. That the minutes from the meeting held on 31st July 2023 be deferred to a future meeting.**

75. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters

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

76. Correspondence. General

**Bolton Council Consultation
Bolton Council Consultation**

**Alcohol in public places
Alley Gating**

Resolved

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

Donation Request

Blackrod Together

Following receipt of the request it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and seconded by Councillor Snowden and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the donation request be received and considered and the sum of £750
Be donated to the new Blackrod venture.**

Blackrod Resident

Letter of complaint

A letter of complaint in relation to a residence in Blackrod was received and discussed by members.

Resolved

- 1. That communications be sent to the Management of the property**
- 2. That the residents be informed that the Town Council had taken action on the matter.**

77 Public Participation

A member of the public reported an issue of the waste bin on Dark Lane had now disappeared: That the pavement down through little Scotland has become impassable

In places: Gave information in regard to the plaque on Vauze House Close: Noted that the information in regard to the fence and stiles on the field off Dark Lane was being addressed by Bolton Council.

A member of the public raised a query of the reported £100,000 that had been publicised in recent months as a gain for the Ward.

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

Ward Councillor Grant responded to the query in relation to the makeup of the Ward, proportion of resident and how funding was obtained.

Members returned to committee

Resolved

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

78. Neighbourhood Plan Update / Horwich Steering Group

Cllr Bury brought members up to date with the latest information regarding the Neighbourhood Plan including:-
PROW audit document – meeting with Bolton Officers including the Right to Pass without obstruction.

Resolved.

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

Members went out of committee to receive an update regarding the Horwich Steering Group from Councillor Grant

Councillor Grant reported that the Horwich Steering Group had not been set up again and that outlined funding aligned to this venture had been taken back under the Bolton members portfolio

Members returned to committee

79. Town Council's External Audit for year ending 31st March 2023

The Town Clerk submitted the findings of the external audit procedure for the year, which found all matters were in accordance with proper practices with all regulatory and relevant legislation having been met and approved. It was proposed by Councillor Grant and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the external audit report for the period ending 31st march 2023 be fully approved and accepted by the Town Council**

80. Blackrod Pride Award

Cllr Snowden asked members to consider the possibility of creating a Pride of Blackrod Award. It was identified by the Chairman that the Town Council also had a Civic Award and Community Award which had not been in the public domain for some time. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Snowden and seconded by Councillor Bell and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That Cllr Snowden put together a team to work up the proposals further.**

81. Assets of Community Value

Cllr Bury provided information on Community held assets dating from 2018 which would expire in 2023 and requested that all 11 assets were re-nominated. Several other nominations were given by members present and it was proposed by Councillor Bury and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and

Resolved

- 1. That the information regarding Assets be received and noted**
- 2. That together with new nominations, all detailed Assets be re-nominated for consideration.**

82. Expressions of Interest for the proposed one off 50K funds

Cllr Bury provided members with a list of suggested EOI in regard to funds provided by Ward Councillors.

Following discussion decisions regarding the 7 items were made and it was therefore proposed by Councillor Bury and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gaskell and

Resolved.

1. That the information be received on EOI
2. That decisions made at the meeting be moved to next steps. (See attached appendix to minutes of items and decisions made)

83 Roads and Footpaths

Councillors reported matters on:-

The state of the Ginnel at the back of Vicarage Road/ New Street with overgrown trees

84. Finance

It was moved by Councillor Bury and seconded by Councillor Ms Seddon and voted in favour and

Resolved

1. That the Town Clerk and two members authorise payments amounting to £4590.94(four thousand five hundred and ninety pounds & 94p only) and dated 2nd October 2023 for the payment of cheques as listed on the schedule of payments.(previously received)

85. Site Visits

No site visits were arranged

86. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

Other Matters

Cllr Mrs Grant advised that a new community bin would be placed at the South end of the village this month

Cllr Mrs Grant gave a brief update as to her attendance at R & B High School Trustees meeting (minutes will follow)

Cllr Ms Seddon advised that it would be World Mental Health Day on 10th October.

The Town Clerk updated members on a meeting she had attended at Blackrod Primary School in connection with The Trustees of BYB which she had found informative and extremely enjoyable.

Confirmation of a meeting being held with the Unsworth Practice was given as 4th October at 1pm in the council chamber.

The Town Clerk advised members that she had received notification from the MP for Bolton West as to a Older Persons Advice & Information Fair being held on 3rd November at Blackrod Sports and Community Centre.

The Town Clerk reminded members as to the arrangements for the funeral of former Councillor Ms Nina Birley which will take place on 6th October.

87. Ward Councillor Updates.

Ward Councillor Grant update. (stepped out of committee)

NCP Bolton Council are looking to write off the debt owed.
First CAT has taken place within Bolton Council which should pave the way for others in the pipeline.

Ward Councillor Grant returned to committee

88. Meeting Date

The Town Clerk requested everyone's available dates for a meeting to be held with a local group within the village, which would accommodate the majority of members.

Resolved.

- 1. That the Town Clerk collate the responses from members and advise members and the local group on the date once done.**

89. Private Matter

The Chairman informed members that he had received a communication from the Town Clerk outlining her intention to resign from her role as Town Clerk & RFO. NO discussion was taken in the meeting and Further notifications would follow in due course.

The Time and date of the next council meeting was confirmed as November 6th 2023 commencing at 7pm.

Signed.....Chairman