

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 5th February 2024

Chairman Cllr John Price

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

Also Present: The Town Clerk: Horwich Ward Councillor R Bamforth and 8 members of the public

Prior to the meeting proper Members received training within a closed meeting on the Code of Conduct from the Bolton Borough Solicitor.

141. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Ms Hughes Sinclair and Cllr Mrs Gaskell who were unavoidably delayed for the start of the meeting and arrived during the meeting.

142. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Grant declared an interest in all planning applications
Cllr Price declared an interest in Agenda Item 23

143. Planning Applications.

16963/23

Wilkinson Farm

Councillors considered the application and voted to object to the planning application on the grounds of any development taking place within the green belt.

144. Planning Decisions

Resolved

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

145. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 15th January 2024 (delayed meeting from 8th due to library building closure)

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

Resolved

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 15th January 2024 be received and signed as a true record.**

146. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters

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

147. Correspondence. General

Letter of thanks

St Katharine's

The Town Clerk provided members with a note of thanks received from St Katharine's church for the recent donation made by the Town Council

Resolved.

- 1. That the letter of thanks be received and noted.**

148 Public Participation

Ward Councillor (Horwich) Mr R Bamforth introduced himself to members and public present and spoke in connection with his role as Armed Forces Champion and provided members with some brochures.

A local resident asked about St Andrews Hall and what had happened in connection with the planning application and expressed concerns

The same resident also made enquiries in connection with the planning application for the former Conservative Club, which again was reported as being passed for planning by Bolton Council

Members were asked to come out of committee to allow Councillor Grant to speak in his role as a Ward Councillor for Blackrod,

Ward Councillor Grant indicated to those present that the objections raised by the Ward Councillor and his request to speak on the matter at planning had unfortunately been overlooked.

Members returned to committee.

The Town Clerk also advised that in her capacity as the Secretary and Trustee of the Blackrod Educational Trust she had also had a conversation with the Director of Place in connection with the development and put forward concerns on their behalf.

Another local resident also asked if repairs or any programme had been considered for the repairs to Chorley Road which had seriously deteriorated through the works being carried out by Cadent and redirection of traffic in that area. Councillor Grant commented on an inspection of Chorley Brow request which to date had not happened.

Resolved

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

149. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Cllr Bury indicated actions were proceeding and would be dealt with at the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan development group and that the planting at Whitehall Lane had taken place.

Resolved.

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

150. **Financial Estimates 2024-2025**

The Town Clerk referred to a set of documents that had previously been circulated to members containing the financial estimates for consideration for the forthcoming year April 2024 to March 2025. Having considered the proposals it was proposed by Cllr Grant and seconded by Cllr Ms Seddon and voted in favour by those present and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information regarding the financial estimates be received and approved**
- 2. That the required precept figure be made to Bolton Council.**

151 **Date of the Annual Parish Meeting (Assembly)**

The Town Clerk in keeping with appropriate procedures asked council members to consider the date of the next Annual Parish Meeting. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Grant and seconded by Cllr Ms Hughes-Sinclair and voted in Favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the date for the next Annual Parish Assembly be held on Tuesday 16th April 2024**
- 2. That the Town Clerk proceed to make all the required arrangements**

152. **Mayor Elect 2024/2025.**

Councillors were asked to consider nominations for the position of Mayor Elect for the year 2024/2025. It was proposed by Cllr Grant that Cllr Snowden be nominated for the position of Mayor Elect for 2024/2025, which was seconded by Cllr Bell and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That Cllr Snowden be duly nominated to serve as Mayor Elect for Blackrod for the forthcoming year commencing May 2024/2025**

153. Deputy Mayor Elect 2024/2025

Councillors were asked to consider nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor Elect for the year 2024/2025.. It was proposed by Cllr Snowden that Cllr Bell be nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor Elect for 2024/2025, which was seconded by Cllr Grant and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That Cllr Bell be duly nominated to serve as Deputy Mayor for Blackrod for the forthcoming year May 2024-2025**

154. Annual Meeting Date 2024

In keeping with appropriate procedures, councillors considered the date for the Annual Meeting 2024. It was proposed by Councillor Ms Seddon and seconded by Cllr Snowden and voted in favour by those present and

Resolved

- 1. That the date for the Annual Meeting 2024 be held on Monday 13th May 2024**
- 2. That the Town Clerk proceed with making the appropriate arrangements.**

155. Council meeting dates for 2024/2025

The Town Clerk provided members with agreed meeting dates for council meetings throughout the forthcoming year. It was proposed by Cllr Ms Hughes Sinclair and seconded by Councillor Mrs Grant and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the information be received and noted and agreed.**

156 Roads and Footpaths

Councillors reported matters on:-

Parking

Various pot holes across the village

More works to be carried out by Cadent, with additional road closures

The continuation of heavy goods vehicles through the village.

Resolved.

- 1. That councillors continue to report road conditions on behalf of local residents.**

157. Finance

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Grant and seconded by Councillor Ms Hughes Sinclair and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the Town Clerk and two members authorise payments amounting to £4814.85(four thousand eight hundred and fourteen pounds & 85p only) and dated 5th February 2024 for the payment of cheques as listed on the schedule of payments.(previously received by members)**
- 2. Members to note scheduled spending at month 11 against estimates.**

158. Site Visits

No site visits were identified for visit at the meeting.

159. Ward Councillor Updates. *(Cllr Grant stepped out of committee for the update period*

Ward Councillor David Grant

Updates were received on:-

-The new signage on the play area off Vicarage Road with BSL criteria which had been erected, with the possibility that the area near to Scot Lane being further considered for the same

-That he had attended a recent meeting within Bolton to look at the budget and rebate discussions were taking place

That questions in relation to the workings of the library areas had also been raised following budget suggestions which Cllr Grant would continue to look in to.

-Following a request from a member of the public Cllr Grant had also been looking at the costs of amending a part of the public highway in Blackrod, which currently had quite high prohibitive costs associated with the work but the Ward Councillors were continuing to look at the situation.

Ward Councillor Grant was thanked for his update and stepped back in to Town Council committee.

160. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

Other Matters

The Town Clerk brought members up to date with a communication which had been sent detailing the Town Council's position on a confidential matter.

161. Town Clerk Vacancy

The Town Clerk gave all members present an update on the position of the Town Clerk vacancy and informed the meeting, that following interviews held on Wednesday 31st January by members of the Town Council's Interview Panel, a new Town Clerk elect had been selected and offered the position, which had been accepted by the candidate. All other matters in regard to start dates and overlap would be discussed on-goingly. Councillor Grant proposed that the decision made on behalf of the Town Council by the committee be ratified, which was seconded by Cllr Mrs Grant and voted in favour.

Resolved.

- 1. That following interview a new Town Clerk had been appointed, which had been accepted**
- 2. That proper procedures regarding the appointment are set in place for action.**

The Time and date of the next council meeting was confirmed as March 4th 2024 commencing at

Signed.....Chairman