

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 15th January 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: Ward Councillor Peter Wright and 3 members of the public

123. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr David Grant with the reasons accepted.
Apologies were received from Cllr Ms Hughes Sinclair who was unavoidably delayed for the start of the meeting.

124. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made in regard to the agenda items.

125. Planning Applications.

17302/23 **Abbey Farm Arley**

Councillors considered the application and voted to object to the planning application on the grounds that if development were to progress as stated, this would contravene

policy BH2 (Built Heritage) point 6.158 of the Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan and Policy BH3 which sets out the special character aspect which is important to protect. Councillors considered that some of the building works would destroy the special character of the building, walls and windows.

17387/23

Goodman Fold Farm

Councillors offered no comment to the retrospective planning application

126. Planning Decisions

Resolved

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

127. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 4th December 2023

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

Resolved

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

128. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters

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

129. Correspondence. General

There was no general correspondence for the meeting.

130 Public Participation

A member of the public referred to the planning application for Abbey Farm in terms of size and construction over the garage, which was noted.

Resolved

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

131. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Cllr Bury brought members up to date with the latest information regarding the Neighbourhood Plan including:-

That the trees had now been placed in the area near to the Scot Lane Playing field area.

Resolved.

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

132. Scot Lane playing field entrance.

Cllr Bury advised members that a request that had gone in, in regard to the gate at the play area at the Scot Lane end of the village, had been turned down by Bolton Council. Following discussion it was confirmed that this item would be pursued directly through contact with the Borough Councillors

Resolved.

1. That the information provided be received and noted.
2. That Cllr Bury and the Town Clerk pursue the matter of the gated entrance ongoingly.

133. Revisit to an offer made previously by Cadent.

Cllr Mrs Gaskell brought up a previous offer made by Cadent on a visit to Blackrod Town Council. Some discussion took place in relation to Section 106 funds. However, following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Gaskell and seconded by Cllr Bury and voted in favour and

Resolved

1. That a direct approach be made to Cadent in regard to their previous offer, through the office of the Town Clerk.

134. Town Council's Facebook Page.

Cllr Ms Grant provided members with a handout received through a training session on Social Media. Discussions then took place in regard to initiating the Town Council's Facebook page which had not been used previously and its control. Cllr Mrs Grant proposed that in the first stage she would be responsible for the organisation of the Facebook page and content, with the current Town Clerk, which would in turn be handed over to the new Town Clerk following appointment. The item was therefore proposed by Cllr Mrs Grant and seconded by Cllr Ms Seddon and voted in favour and

Resolved

- 1. That the Town Council's Facebook Page be reinstated as a future communication tool**
- 2. That the Town Clerk liaise with the Town Council's IT administrator to enable action**
- 3. That Cllr Mrs Grant take temporary control of the Facebook page and content until further notice.**

135. Roads and Footpaths

Councillors reported matters on:-

Parking on New Street

The skip dumped on the A6

Various pot holes across the village

The hold up the works on Mansell Way was causing to traffic in the village

The continuation of heavy goods vehicles through the village.

The works taking place on the bridge area of Station Road

Resolved.

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

136. Finance

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

Resolved

- 1. That the Town Clerk and two members authorise payments amounting to £6540.87(six thousand five hundred and forty pounds & 87p only) and dated 15th January 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 10 against estimates.**

137. **Site Visits**

No site visits were identified for visit at the meeting.

138. **Ward Councillor Updates.**

Ward Councillor Peter Wright

Indicated that he had been looking at the traffic situation a Scot lane

139. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

Other Matters

The Town Clerk brought members up to date with the Town Clerk vacancy and thanked members for their update on availability and that the date for the interviews for the new Town Clerk would take place on Wednesday 31st January 2024

Members were advised that prior to the commencement of the February meeting, training would be provided by the Borough Solicitor on Members Code of Conduct and commence at 6.15pm sharp.

The Town Clerk advised that she had received a copy of the Unsworth Group (Patient Participation Group) which would be displayed on the council's noticeboard for a limited time.

Details were given out for the further works being carried out affecting the village by cadent.

140. **Confidential Item**

An external communication was considered by members, which was

Resolved.

1. **That the Town Clerk convey the decision made by members ongoingly.**

The Time and date of the next council meeting was confirmed as February 5th 2024 commencing at 7pm following training session at 6.15pm with the Borough Solicitor.

Signed.....Chairman