

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 4th March 2024

Chairman Cllr John Price

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

Also Present: The Town Clerk: Horwich Ward Councillor C Rotherham and 7 members of the public

162. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Snowden and duly accepted.

163. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Grant declared an interest in all planning applications
Cllr Bury declared an interest in Agenda Item 9

164. Planning Applications.

17652/24

54 Arley Lane

Councillors considered the application and offered no objection to the application

165. **Planning Decisions**

Resolved

1. That the information regarding planning decisions be received.

166. **Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 5th February 2024**

It was proposed by Cllr Bury 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 5th February 2024 be received and signed as a true record.

167. **Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters**

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

168. **Correspondence. General**

Donation Request

Blackrod Community Orchard Group

The Town Clerk informed members of a request for a donation be considered from the Community Orchard Group to be put towards a mower to enable the group to tend to the Orchard area and other areas that may be established through the work of the community group (Sub: Blackrod Neighbourhood Delivery Group) It was proposed by Cllr D Grant and seconded by Cllr Bell and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. That the request be received and noted.
2. That a sum of £500 be approved in principle whilst waiting for any further updates in relation to the request.

Bolton Council

Bolton's Draft Transport Strategy

The Town Clerk brought the Bolton Draft Transport Strategy to the attention of members and asked if any thoughts on a collective response was to be considered. The Town Clerk also provided members with a response which Cllr Snowden had provided and Cllr Price added that Bolton also benefitted from a similar item which had been mentioned in regard to bus passes etc. Cllr D Grant added that members of the public could also comment on line in regard to the strategy.

Resolved.

- 1. That the item be received and noted.**
- 2. No collective statement would be issued by the Town Council**

169 Public Participation

Ward Councillor Mr Craig Rotherham (Horwich) introduced himself to members and public present and spoke in connection with the A6 junction with Station Road in terms of a viability study and funding. The Town Clerk advised Cllr Rotherham that the matter he had brought to the meeting would form an agenda item at the next meeting as councillors couldn't make any decision on matters not itemised on the agenda.

Information was given out on the departure of the current staff from the Spa and a query raised in relation to when the post office would be replaced

The dates of the current works by Cadent were queried

A note of thanks was outlined for J Dickinsons who had assisted with the current Roadwork situation.

Resolved

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

170. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Cllr Bury indicated actions were ongoing and would be dealt with at the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan development group

Resolved.

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

171. Town Council's 3rd quarter audited Banking Reconciliation to December 2023

The Town Clerk provided members with the 3rd Quarter banking reconciliation update with copy bank statements attached. It was proposed by Cllr D Grant and seconded by Cllr Mrs Gaskell and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. **That the information regarding the banking reconciliations be received and approved.**

172 New Flower containers in village.

The Town Clerk brought members up to date with the above item, which included that the purchase of the 4 new community planters had been made through the mechanism of the Ward Councillors for Blackrod, with the Town Council acting as a conduit for the purchase and that the items were now donated to the Blackrod Community Gardening Group, a stand alone group working within the village and did not form part of the property belonging to the Town Council.

Resolved

1. **That the item be received and duly noted.**

173 Roads and Footpaths

Councillors reported matters on:-
Gulley off Station Road
Flooding on the A6
Drains in the cemetery blocked

Resolved.

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

174. Finance

It was moved by Councillor Bury 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 £8729.59 (eight thousand seven hundred and twenty nine pounds & 59p only) and dated 4th March 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 12 against estimates.**

175. Site Visits

No site visits were identified for visit at the meeting.

176. Ward Councillor Updates.

(Cllr Grant stepped out of committee for the update period

Ward Councillor David Grant

Updates were received on:-

That questions in relation to the workings of the library areas had been discussed at Bolton and consequently Blackrod Library had been removed from budget discussions

-Half Acre Lane repairs request had been discussed and the matter would have to go to public consultation with an update expected in due course.

-gave an update in relation to a couple of garden areas (Pocket parks) in the village which were still forming part of the SAMP process.

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

177. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

No other matters or additional agenda items were given during the meeting.

Members of the public cleared the room whilst two confidential items were discussed.

178. Town Clerk Vacancy

The Town Clerk provided members with an update regarding the current position of the new Town Clerk Elect and the provision of a Locum Town Clerk confirming start date and the position regarding the Contract of Employment.

Resolved.

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

179. 3rd Party Communications

The Town Clerk asked members to consider a response on a matter which had already been circulated. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Grant and seconded by Cllr Bury and voted in favour by all present and

Resolved.

- 1. That the Town Clerk advise the 3rd Party of the decision of the Town Council on the outstanding matter.**

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

The Time and date of the next council meeting was confirmed as March 25th 2024 commencing at 7pm (meeting brought forward due to the Bank Holiday on 1st April.)

Signed.....Chairman