

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 25th March 2024

Chairman Cllr John Price

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

Also Present: The Town Clerk: Ward Councillors P. Wright and S. Williamson and 8 members of the public

180. Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received for the meeting

181. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Grant declared an interest in all planning applications
Cllr Bury declared an interest in Agenda Item 11

182. Planning Applications.

17839/24

Arley Hall

Councillors made no comment on the application

17837/24 Land north of 13 Boardman Street

Councillors considered the application and voted to reject the proposed application as no dimensions on the size of the garage was stated and therefore request that Bolton defer the application until such time it can be considered again with proper specifications.

17754/24 60 Scot Lane

Councillors offered no comment on the application

17831/24 Ainse Road

Councillors considered the application and raised concerns in regard to the statement on planning which stated 'associated external alterations' which are not listed. Councillors suggested that Bolton Planning draw attention to this matter which may result in a fresh application being made.

17729/24 part of 363 Manchester Road

Councillors offered no comment on the application

183. **Planning Decisions**

Resolved

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

184. **Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 4th March 2024**

It was proposed by Cllr 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 4th March 2024 be received and signed as a true record.**

185. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters

Bolton Council

Proposed amendments to waiting restrictions

Resolved.

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

186. Correspondence. General

Donation Request

In relation to Vauze House Farm

Members received a request for a possible donation towards the cost of restoration on a plaque (public artefact) which was erected in 1759 and sited on a property within the village. Following discussions amongst members, in regard to associated estimates and cost it was proposed by Councillor Grant and seconded by Councillor Ms Seddon and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the request be received and noted.**
- 2. That a sum of £150 be approved in principle until such time a written estimate is received for the works when funding will be released as a donation.**
- 3. That the Town Clerk process the necessary works with the author of the donation request.**

Bolton Council

Variation to premises licence

The Town Clerk asked members to consider a variation in licence conditions for 149-151 New Street. Following discussions it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Grant and seconded by Councillor Ms Seddon and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the item be received and noted with no comment offered.**

187 Public Participation

A member of the public raised a request for the refuse bin situated on Dark lane to be emptied more often, which was duly noted.

Resolved

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

188. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Cllr Bury provided members with an update from the Neighbourhood Plan Delivery Group in relation to a response in connection with Bolton Council's Draft Transport Strategy (2024) which had been forwarded.

Cllr Bury also provided an update in relation to the Whitehall Lane Community Amenity Area which included;-

The planting of a 100 mtr hedgerow of mixed species, adding to the diversity of the area

Quotations and costs had been obtained for the proposed key elements and features of the Amenity Area in line with landscape drawings for the project

Following some damage to the Gateway planters discussions had opened up a dialogue with the Town Clerk/ Neighbourhood Plan Delivery Group and the Cadent Team who expressed interest in supporting an eligible environmental project with related conditions attached. Following the puffin crossing outside BCP being found to be ineligible for this type of project (lead time/ cost/ eligibility criteria) further discussions took place with the N/Plan team and Cadent to look at plans, artists impressions. Start dates and confirmed that the project was suitable for funding and offered a donation to cover the full costs of the project works as per quotations received from proposed contractors.

Resolved.

- 1. That the information and update provided by Cllr Bury be received and noted.**
- 2. That the financial aspects of the scheme be undertaken by the Town Clerk with contractors, the Delivery Group Team ongoingly.**

189. Viability Study in relation to the A6 junction with Station Road.

Following a request which was brought to the attention of the Town Council by a Horwich Ward Councillor in regard to discussions which had taken place previously between the owner of a piece of land in the area/ Bolton Council/ and Ward Councillors. A request was made to the Town Council to provide support in asking for the results of the feasibility study that was carried out and funding outcomes. It was proposed by Councillor Grant and seconded by Councillor Snowden and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. **That the request be duly noted**
2. **That the Town Clerk write to Bolton Council in response to the request made.**

190 Dryfield House, Horwich.

Cllr Grant brought forward a motion in relation to Chorley Planning application 22/01238FUL to request the support from a local council by way of an objection to the demolition of the existing dwelling which has historical connections and the erection of a new dwelling. Councillors heard from Cllr Grant on the matter and offered support. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Grant and seconded by Councillor Snowden and voted in favour and

Resolved

1. **That the information be received and noted**
2. **That the Town Clerk formulate an objection on behalf of the Town Council and forward to Chorley Council.**

191 Roads and Footpaths

Councillors reported matters on:-

The road outside the old Vicarage
Pot holes on Ridgeway

Resolved.

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

192. Finance

It was moved by Councillor Grant and seconded by Councillor Bury and voted in favour and

Resolved

1. **That the Town Clerk and two members authorise payments amounting to £6231.38 (six thousand two hundred and thirty one pounds & 38p only)**

and dated 25th 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 1 against 24/25 estimates.

193. **Site Visits**

A site visit to Chapel Street/ Boardman Street to be arranged between members

194. **Ward Councillor Updates.**

(Cllr Grant stepped out of committee for the update period

Ward Councillor Peter Wright

Updates were received on:-

Reported that he was still working with external sources on the issue of weight restrictions for Scot lane

Ward Councillor Williamson

Reported on the work she had been undertaking on the issue of vaping within schools and the development of a risk adverse programme for young people

Ward Councillor Grant

Reported that together with other Ward Councillors, a programme of yellow lines across the North and South Wards had been implemented which was being rolled out and it was hoped that the missing area opposite the Primary School would soon be reinstated, together with extended zig zag lines to improve the parking situation.

That consideration to a feasibility study being undertaken in regards to the possibility of recruiting a traffic enforcement officer across Horwich and Blackrod.

Councillor Grant stepped back in to committee.

195. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

Cllr Bell brought up the matter of the proposed sale by auction of the Methodist Church, which the Town Council/ other local group had hoped to be informed about in advance. Unfortunately, this hadn't happened.

Councillor Ms Snowden updated on the meeting that had been held with the Youth Council and that a questionnaire was being devised for work with the Youth Council and the Schools internally. *(The Town Clerk advised that the questionnaire had already been prepared and was now with the Youth Council and Heads within the school.)*

The Town Clerk reminded members of the date and time of the forthcoming Annual Assembly being held on 16th April 2024 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

The Time and date of the next council meeting was confirmed as 29th April 2024 commencing at 7pm (meeting brought forward due to the Bank Holiday on 6th May 2024.)

Signed.....Chairman