



Blackrod Town Council

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Town Clerk: Mrs L Nuttall

Minutes of a meeting of Blackrod Town Council held on Monday 1st July 2024

Present:-

Chairman Cllr. D Snowden

Councillors Cllr. K Grant
Cllr. D Grant
Cllr. J Price
Cllr. R Seddon

Also Present: Mrs L Nuttall (Town Clerk), Ward Councillor P. Wright and 4 members of the public

Before the start of the meeting, the Town Mayor, Councillor Derek Snowden welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting and explained housekeeping/health & safety.

No clergy were in attendance.

22. Apologies for Absence

An apology from Cllr. Bell was received and accepted.

23 . Declarations of Interest

Cllr. D Grant declared an interest in all planning applications

24. Amendment to August Council Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor K. Grant and

Resolved:-

- 1. That the date of the next Town Council Meeting be brought forward from the 5th August to Monday 22nd July.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk gives notice of the amendment to members of the public.**

25. Planning Applications.

18358/24 20 Shawbury Close

Councillors offered no comment on this application.

26. Planning Decisions & Inconsistencies

Councillors discussed several matters where they felt that there had been inconsistencies with some recent planning decisions. It was raised that there is very little information provided to the Town Council by the Bolton Planning Committee about the decisions made and that not all decisions refer to the Neighbourhood Plan. It was also noted that clarification of various planning matters be sought to enable the Town Council to further support the Bolton Council Planning Committee. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Seddon and

Resolved:-

- 1. That the information regarding planning decisions be received and accepted.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk send a letter to the Head of Bolton Planning Committee to request a meeting regarding clarification on planning matters/training for new incoming Councillors.**

27. Enforcement Cases Received and Resolved

Councillors discussed the monitoring of enforcement cases. It was noted that enforcement relies on public support in raising the issues. It was proposed by Councillor D Grant and seconded by Councillor K Grant and

Resolved:-

That the information regarding enforcement cases be received and accepted.

28. Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council

Held on Monday 3rd June 2024

The Town Clerk noted that an amendment had been made to Point 16 as requested. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Seddon and voted in favour by all and

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 3rd June 2024 be received and signed as a true record.

29. Correspondence - general

1. A letter from a resident regarding the bus services running through Blackrod.

Councillor K Grant noted that there was currently a survey being carried out in relation to the Bee Network Transportation and that maybe these comments should be added to that survey.

Councillor Price resolved that he would contact the resident to find out further information on the matter.

2. An email regarding the closure of the pathway/steps between Boardman Street and Fryent Close for approximately 5 weeks due to necessary works on the walls/handrails to make safe for public use.

The Town Clerk requested that all parties present share this information, including on social media, as the alternative route is quite a significant distance.

30. Public Participation

A resident raised the issue of the overgrown bushes on Dark Lane/Hill Lane. The resident had been in touch with Streetwise as some residents were struggling to get out of their homes on Dark Lane, particularly at peak traffic times, due to the speed of the vehicles and having to walk into the road. On Hill Lane, the bushes are forcing people to walk so close to the kerb that if a larger vehicle passed, they could potentially be hit by a wing mirror. The resident was seeking for the Town Council's support on this matter.

The resident also raised the issue about the increase in dog fouling throughout the village and requested an increase in signage on lampposts or on the floor.

The resident also raised a concern about the village not currently having Post Office facilities. She was particularly concerned for some elderly residents who are currently unable to post their mail due to the Post Office in the Spar being closed, nor selling stamps. Councillor Price raised the issue that the Post Box had not being replaced in the same area after an RTA demolished it and that without the Post Office, there was no way of posting letters at the north end of Blackrod.

Councillor Price requested that the Post Office issue be put onto the next Town Council meeting agenda.

31. Finance

It was moved by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor K Grant and voted in favour and

Resolved:-

- 1. That the Town Clerk and two members authorise payments amounting to £4257.67 (four thousand, two hundred and fifty-seven pounds and 67p) and dated 29th June 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 4 against 24/25 estimates.**

32. Grant Funding and Grievance Procedure Policies & Documents

Councillors were made aware of a slight repetition amendment raised prior to the meeting and also an amendment of the figure £500 to £501 to clarify the correct form to use.

It was moved by Councillor D Grant and seconded by Councillor K Grant and voted in favour and

Resolved:-

That the new policies and documentation be received and accepted.

33. Grass Cutting in Public Spaces

The Town Clerk shared several recent communications regarding grass cutting in the area. It was noted that residents are particularly disheartened by the way the cemetery is being left. It was raised that the grass cutting in the cemetery and across Blackrod are done by two different teams. Concerns were raised about the safety of

how some of the cutting sites are left and how the amount of grass left in mounds and on pavements could be dangerous, particularly in the areas where the elderly live.

The councillors discussed the possibility of the grass cutting in Blackrod being arranged by Blackrod Town Council rather than Bolton Council and how funds could be released for this. It was noted that the Parish Precept goes into one pot for several services and that money for grass cutting could not be taken from this. It was likely that Bolton Council would sub-contract Blackrod Town Council to arrange the work and then Blackrod Town Council would need to sub-contract the physical work.

It was moved by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Seddon and voted in favour and

Resolved:-

That the Town Council would contact Bolton Council to open up discussions on our options for taking control of the grass cutting in public spaces.

34. **Litter Concerns**

The Town Clerk referred to recent correspondence from a resident regarding litter and dirt on Station Road. The councillors discussed cleaning that was already in place from Bolton Council and local businesses. It was raised that whilst there are many inconsistencies with the street cleaning, only Dickinson's seem to take any responsibility, even though there are other businesses which would create dust/dirt/litter passing this route. It was also noted that stacks are extremely high at the moment and conditions are not being enforced. The councillors discussed how the situation would be very difficult to resolve until the roadworks are completed. It was suggested that once the roadworks are complete, the whole stretch of road should be industrial jet-washed and then maintained more regularly from here on in. That there should be improved maintenance of clean wheels coming from these businesses and that covers should be secure when vehicles are carrying materials. The councillors also discussed the surveys conducted in this area were not fit for purpose, recommending that a further survey be completed as people's respiratory health is deteriorating.

It was recommended that a litter picking group be revived as since Covid-19, this has fallen by the wayside. It was recommended that sub-groups are set up for specific areas so as to not expect all pickers to turn out at one particular time. There was also a suggestion that the Horwich Clean-up Brigade could be contacted to support the set-up process.

It was moved by Councillor D Grant and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour and

Resolved:-

- 1. That once the roadworks are complete (delayed schedule to end of July), the Town Council will request a Glutton Machine and Ubu x2 to tend to the site.**
- 2. That once the roadworks are complete, a further environmental survey is requested on Station Road.**
- 3. That Councillor Snowden looks into reviving the litter picking groups in preparation for the autumn season.**

35. Youth Council Update

The Town Clerk shared notes on discussions that had taken place during an informal meeting litter picking at Vicarage Road Park. It was a time where the children could discuss and show the councillors their clear vision for adaptations to the current park. The councillors acknowledged their suggestions and referred to several budgets where money could potentially come from for these improvements.

It was also raised that Blackrod Church School Youth Councillors are unable to attend the next Youth Council Meeting due to a clash of events.

It was moved by Councillor K Grant and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour and

Resolved:-

That the Town Clerk contact both schools to find a mutually available time for the final Youth Council Meeting of the academic year.

36. Street Furniture

This item was deferred due to Councillor Bell being unable to attend the meeting.

37. Neighbourhood Plan Update

No update was received on the Neighbourhood Plan.

38. Blackrod Town Council and Neighbourhood Plan Delivery Group meeting

Councillors discussed their availability.

It was moved by Councillor K Grant and seconded by Councillor D Grant and voted in favour and

Resolved:-

That the Town Clerk would contact the BNPDG to arrange for the Town Clerk, Chairman and two councillors to meet any evening from 6-7pm

39. Site Visits

Councillor Price requested a site visit to Boardman Street/Chapel Street, alongside the Chairman and requested that a Ward Councillor attend. Ward Councillor Peter Wright asked for details of dates and times to be communicated via email for him to attend.

40. Ward Councillor Updates.
(Cllr Grant stepped out of committee for the update period)

Councillor D Grant thanked the resident for their comments during public participation.

He shared updates on the following:

- That he will speak to Streetcare regarding the bushes on Dark Lane/Hill Lane and if they are not council owned, Bolton Council can enforce the private land owner to tend to them.
- That the link road coming out on Station Road has been delayed and is now due to be completed at the end of July.
- That they are currently in the process of rolling out community bins. There are currently two in the south ward but these bins require members of the public to move them to Council collection points. More can be added around the village if volunteers come forward to move them.
- That there is continual ongoing discussions regarding the proposed projects of the Ridgeway/Half Acre parking, children's parks, road crossings and double yellow lines (which has had a wait of 4 years)

Councillor P Wright shared updates on the following:

- That it is important that issues that need elevating are brought to the Ward Councillors at their surgeries:
 - Councillor D Grant – 1st Saturday of every month at Blackrod Library
 - Councillor P Wright – to be updated

41. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

It was noted that the wall near Spar that was a potential hazard had been appropriately fixed in readiness for the Scarecrow Festival weekend, hence why it had not been placed as an agenda item.

Councillor Snowden raised the issue of service level agreements and how this impacts the running of Bolton Council. During the discussion, Councillor D Grant raised that he was appointed to the council and did not work for the council. He stated that it was important to pick the issues that are most important and escalate them in the right way.

The Blackrod Town Councillors acknowledged that the Ward Councillors have done a good job at moving things forward for Blackrod.

The public meeting closed at 8.50pm

The Time and date of the next council meeting was confirmed as 22nd July 2024 commencing at 7pm.

(Members of the Public were asked to leave so the Councillors could discuss confidential items).

Confidential Items

42. Councillors discussed confidential matter A.

It was moved by Councillor K Grant and seconded by Councillor Seddon and voted in favour and

Resolution:-

- 1. That the Town Clerk sends correspondence to the relevant parties whom are affected by the communication.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk arranges a meeting with Blackrod Town Council about the confidential matter.**

43. The Town Clerk shared information and options with the Councillors about confidential matter B.

It was moved by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor K Grant and voted in favour and

Resolution:-

That the Town Clerk progress with option 1.

Signed.....Chairman