

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 3rd October 2016

Present

Councillor. Ms A Cunliffe (**Chairman**)

Councillors Mr A Bury (snr)
Mr G Farrington
Mr S Batchelor

Also Present: Mrs S Lewis (**Town Clerk**) 8 members of the public and 1 Press Officer

88. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Seddon: Councillor Mrs Barrow:
Councillor Hollick: Councillor Bury(Jnr) and the reasons for absence noted and
accepted.

89. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 5th September 2016

It was moved by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Batchelor
and voted in favour and

Resolved.

**1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 5th September
2016 be received and signed as a true and accurate record.**

90. Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Cunliffe exercised her right not to speak on any planning applications so
as not to lose her right to speak on any applications when submitted to Bolton
Planning Committee.

91. Planning applications (Received from the Meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 3rd October 2016)

It was moved by Councillor Bury (Snr) and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and agreed by all and

Resolved

- 1. That the following planning applications, details of which had been previously circulated to members and considered and voted on at the meeting of the Town Council Planning Meeting held on 3rd October 2016, together with comments made, be duly noted.**
- 2. That prior to Councillor's considering each application at the Planning Committee Meeting, members of the public were given the opportunity to speak to the Town Council on any particular planning application as listed.**

97291/16	Land off Moss Lane	Erection of energy Reserve Building Plant room, sub Station & fencing
-----------------	---------------------------	--

Council members debated the application and advised that this area is subject to flooding and voted against the planning application in regard to building within a green open space and Bolton's local plan which states that there will be no development on greenbelt land.

97336/16	3, Fryent Close	Erection of decking
-----------------	------------------------	----------------------------

Councillors heard from local residents who expressed their concerns in regard to this application which was noted as a retrospective planning application due to its completion. Councillors voted to object to the planning application on the grounds that the height and dimensions of the property were of an intimidating and intrusive nature to neighbouring properties, which in turn were causing a loss of privacy to neighbouring living space. Councillors requested that Bolton planning make a site visit to the property in order to see the development for themselves.

95403/16	8 Cranleigh Close	Demolition of Conservatory & erection Single storey ext at rear
-----------------	--------------------------	--

Councillors made no objection to the proposed application

97438/16	2, Cranleigh Close	erection part single Storey/ part 2 storey To side and rear
-----------------	---------------------------	--

Councillors debated the application and voted to object to the application on the following grounds: that the extension itself raised no objections other than the area surrounding the development was prone to flooding and that appropriate drainage should be applied. However councillors main concerns were with the finish of the property particularly on the gable end which stated would be in a form of white cladding which is not in keeping with the rest of the local properties within the area , which are of a brick finish. Councillors requested that should the application be approved that a condition of the decision should make reference to the type of finish to be applied to the property and drainage recommendations.

97460/16	29, the Cheethams	demolition of existing Conservatory/ erection of Single storey ext at side And rear.
-----------------	--------------------------	---

Councillors raised no points in connection with this application

92. Planning Decisions

Resolved

That the list of planning decisions and conditions made by Bolton Council, copies of which had been previously circulated are received and noted.

93. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

There was no correspondence in relation to planning received for the meeting.

94. Public Participation

Resolved:

That the meeting be adjourned for 15 minutes to allow for public participation

A resident referred to a previous comment regarding a leaflet (referencing planning application 95926/16), which had been circulated to nearby houses and asked that following information given at the August meeting why the item had not been placed on this current meeting's agenda.

(The Town Clerk informed the resident and members present that the piece of literature had not been placed on the Agenda but a response had been given on the Town Clerk's October Report to Council members, following an earlier report given in September. The Town Clerk reminded those present that although matters should only be placed on an agenda which the Town Council had 'the powers' to deal with- in the case of a leaflet drop undertaken by Bolton Ward Councillors, she had undertaken to write to the Ward Councillors to ask them why they had undertaken the leaflet drop and read aloud their response, which concluded the matter as far as the Town Council were involved).

A second resident brought up the matter of lighting along Hill lane, which following a report given to Bolton in August had still not been resolved. *(The Town Clerk took the details of the resident and said she would look in to the matter again and liaise with the resident ongoingly.)*

Resolved.

- 1. Members of the public were thanked for their contributions by the Chairman on all matters.**

95. Correspondence

Post Office

**Update regarding the services within
Blackrod**

The Town Clerk read a letter from the Post Office, previously circulated, which informed members that a relocation of the Blackrod branch had been identified and that in keeping with appropriate protocol a period of consultation would be taking place.

Resolved.

1. That the letter and contents therein be received and noted.

96. **Town Council's External Audit for year ending 31st March 2016**

The Town Clerk submitted the Notice of Completion of the Town Council's Annual External Audit for the year ending 31st March 2016. There were no matters arising from the auditors. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. That the Annual Return and External Auditors Report for the year ending 31st March 2016 be approved and accepted by the Town Council
2. That the Town Clerk be thanked for the hard work undertaken over the year in preparing the accounts and receiving a clear Notice of Completion with no matters arising.

97.. **Bolton Council's Parking Policy**

The Town Clerk introduced the deferred item from the previous meeting and following an indication from council members that it would not be appropriate to discuss the matter without the Councillor who had requested the item being present, the Town Clerk proposed that the item be removed from the agenda at this moment in time. This was agreed by all members present.

98. **Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Councillor Bury provided those present with a monthly update in regard to the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan and referred to papers previously circulated. Councillor Bury (snr) advised members that a training day had taken place for members of the newly appointed Steering Group which had seen some positive action and outcomes being discussed.

Resolved.

1. Councillor Bury(Snr) was thanked for all his hard work by the Chairman, which was agreed by all present and a request made for updates to be continued to be received.

99. Consultation Paper on School Places within Blackrod

The Town Clerk read a letter from Bolton Council in relation to a consultation on the increase in pupil places at Blackrod Primary School. Councillor Batchelor stated that he felt this was a positive move in the right direction and certainly there was a need for the increase within the village. Councillor Bury(Snr) indicated that the increase in school places was an excellent idea and that this matter would also be a consideration to be taken in to account when preparing the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Bury also asked what would be happening to pupil numbers at the Church School, which members then discussed in regard to projecting future numbers of young people in the Blackrod area. It was proposed by Councillor Batchelor and seconded by Councillor Bury(Snr) and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk write to Bolton Council with their comments in regard to the consultation paper**
- 3. That the Town Clerk contact the Bolton Officer in regard to requesting additional statistical school places information where possible.**

100. Town Council Christmas Tree

Councillor Mrs Cunliffe informed council members that she had been asked to obtain an update in regard to the Blackrod Council owned Christmas Tree located on Blackhorse Street, by outside groups. The update she had been asked to source was in relation to the possible purchase of a new Christmas Tree: Relocate the current tree in order to straighten the branches: provide additional lighting as it was thought that the current lighting (as seen in December 2015) was not sufficient. *The Town Clerk advised members that the lighting had been an issue last year as several strands had become unlit but that this situation had been remedied by the Electricians who serviced the tree.* Councillor Farrington advised that the tree had already undergone works to try and improve the shape of the branches, which was no longer a viable option. Councillors further debated the possibility of a new tree and its possible location and actions agreed by all present.

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. It was proposed that costs and location should be sourced for both an additional Christmas Tree and associated electrical current locations. However, this would take place in the New Year.**

101. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues

Council members detailed areas of concern, which included previously identified issues as well as new areas including-

A repeat of the flooding which occurs at the bottom of Station road as it joins the A6 Paths needing weeded.

A local resident reported concerns regarding the state of Chorley Brow in regard to the overgrown pavement and broken tarmac in parts, which often makes it impossible to walk safely.

The Town Clerk reminded council members that reports to the relevant departments could be given direct by Council members and residents alike and that councillors did not have to wait to report any issues through a council meeting.

Resolved.

1. That the information be received and reported.

102. **Finance**

It was moved by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and voted in favour by all and

Resolved

1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £3980.52 (three thousand nine hundred and eighty pounds 52p) dated 3rd October 2016.
2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.

103. **Site Visits**

No Site visits were arranged.

An update was given in regard to the Site Visit to the parking of vehicles on Scot lane by Councillor Farrington who informed members that Councillor Bury had agreed to write to Bolton Highways in its connection to see whether or not yellow lines could be installed at the location.

104. **Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration**

Other Matters

Councillor Farrington thanked the Town Council for the donation they had provided for the Aspull, Haigh & Blackrod Ploughing Competition, which had raised a total of £610.00 for the Bolton Mountain Rescue Teams. Councillor Farrington also thanked the Town Mayor Councillor Mrs Cunliffe for giving her time to come along to the event and present the prizes. The event was well supported and the weather stayed fine.

Agenda Items for November

Parking (Councillor Farrington) as a follow on from any update received from Bolton.

**105. List of Outstanding Correspondence
Resolved**

- 1. That the list of outstanding correspondence be received and noted**

106. Reports from Ward Councillors

No Ward Councillors were present for feedback.

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 7th November 2016 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed.....Chairman