

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 5th September 2016

Present

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

Councillors Mr A Bury (snr)
Mr A Bury
Mr G Farrington
Mr M Hollick
Mr S Batchelor
Mrs P Barrow

Also Present: Mrs S Lowis (**Town Clerk**) Mr S Pickup (Ward Councillor) and 17 members of the public

69. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Seddon and the reasons for absence noted and accepted.

70. **Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 1st August 2016**

It was moved by Councillor Bury (Snr) and seconded by Councillor Mr Hollick and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 1st August 2016 be received and signed as a true and accurate record.**

71. **Declarations of Interest:**

Councillor Farrington. Item 18 on the Agenda (Donation Request)
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.

72. **Planning applications (Received from the Meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 5th September 2016**

It was moved by Councillor Farrington 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 5th September 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.**

97251/16	213, New Street	Proposed new shop Front & rear dormer.
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Councillors voted to object to the above application on the grounds of it being an imposing building not in keeping with surrounding properties which would create a lack of privacy for neighbouring properties and create additional issues with the current parking problems at the front of the terraced houses and shop. They also added that following discussions with neighbours the plans were not accurate in design.

97114/16	8, Waterhouse Nook	demolition of Conservatory & erection single storey ext to rear.
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Councillors offered no comments in connection with the application.

95055/16

**land adjacent to Valynette
Grimeford Lane**

**Demolition of buildings
& erection of 5 detached
Dwellings.**

Following input from both the applicants and residents council members raised concerns in regard to the fact the application did not have a flood risk assessment for the planned area: that the access points on to a narrow part of Grimeford Lane could cause an issues. Councillors voted in favour to raise concerns with Bolton Planning in regard to the flood risk as not all the facts were before them to make a decision on the application and made a request that Bolton Planning defer their decision until all aspects of the planning application had been explored.

97103/16

**Bramble Lodge
225, Chorley Rd**

**erection of 2 storey ext
To rear.**

Councillors offered no comment in regard to the planning application as seen.

73. 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.

74. Planning Correspondence/ Items on planning matters.

Public Footpath 083

Application for a diversion.

The Town Clerk read a letter from the Public Rights of Way Officer in connection with the diversion of footpath No 83 in the interests of safety for members of the public. It was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Bury and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the update be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Council forward their approval to the planned proposal.**

75. Public Participation

Resolved:

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

A member of the public raised the application that he referred to as Markland Farm which was applying to bring about a fundamental change to the operating licence given in 2008.

Following the member of the public speaking and a response being given from the owner of Markland Farm, councillors acknowledged that the planning application had not come before them to date and therefore could not speak in its connection.

Another resident referred to a leaflet referencing planning application 95926/16, and asked why the item had not been placed on the current meeting's agenda as requested at the meeting in August.

(The Town Clerk informed the resident and members that the piece of literature had not been placed on the Agenda as explained to Council members on the Town Clerk's September Report. The Town Clerk also explained to residents that matters should only be placed on an agenda which the Town Council had 'the powers' to deal with and in the case of a leaflet drop undertaken by Bolton Ward Councillors in connection with a planning application, which had already been discussed at Blackrod Town Council and approved by Bolton Council several months ago – the leaflet in question did not belong to the Town Council nor did they have the 'power' to deal with it. Additionally, the Town Clerk advised those present that she had undertaken to write to the Ward Councillors to ask them why they had undertaken the leaflet drop BUT at the time of the September meeting no response had been received and equally the Ward Councillors were not obligated to respond about their own literature).

Another resident brought the issue of overgrowing trees overshadowing traffic signs which was noted.

Another resident outlined problems along Dark Lane due to kerbs being raised along the road, causing issues for the elderly and motorists.

Resolved.

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

76. **Correspondence**

Request for a donation

Haigh, Aspull and Blackrod Annual Ploughing Event.

The Town Clerk read a letter requesting the possibility of a donation towards the costs associated with the annual event. It was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Batchelor and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the letter and contents therein be received and noted.**
- 2. That a donation of £250.00 be made to the annual event**
- 3. That the Town Clerk make the necessary arrangements.**

77. **Blackrod Community Centre**

Councillor Cunliffe gave members an update in regard to the position of the Community Centre, which included regular stakeholder meetings, expertise being provided by Bolton CVS: that £40K had been made available from Bolton Council; additional stakeholders coming on board such as Blackrod Football Teams. That the group had participated in visits to other centres to see how things were being operated: that it was hoped that the future of the Centre would include a board of Trustees, the future possibility of a centre Manager being appointed and that the Centre looked like it would be moving forward as a centre for the Blackrod people and more.

Resolved.

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

78.. **Neighbourhood Plan Monthly update**

Councillor Bury(Snr) provided members with his monthly report, previously circulated, which included the progress on the formation of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to date, together with a copy of the Steering Group minutes from a meeting held on 8th August. The update included the development of a Neighbourhood Plan web Page, Community Flyer and of a forthcoming training day being provided by consultants.

Resolved.

- 1. Councillor Bury was thanked for all his work and for the progress he is making and asked to continue to give monthly updates on-goingly.**

79. Bolton Council's Parking Policy.

In the absence of Councillor Laycock who had requested the item for the agenda, It was proposed by Councillor Batchelor and seconded by Councillor Hollick that the item be deferred until the meeting in October. Following a vote of 3 for and 3 against for the deferment, the Town Clerk advised the Chairman that the item should be deferred until the October meeting.

Resolved.

- 1. That Bolton's current Parking Policy be an agenda item for October.**

80. Ongoing Parking Issues on Scot lane.

Councillor Farrington outlined further concerns regarding the parking of vehicles on the pavements along Scot lane, which was causing those on foot to walk out on to the road, which was a road traffic risk. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Bury and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information given by Councillor Farrington be received and noted with concern**
- 2. That a site visit (see below) be arranged for council members to view the extent of the situation for themselves.**

81. Greater Manchester Police Update.

Councillor Cunliffe provided members with an update regarding GMP and a consultation which was to take place, closing date 26th September 2016 and of the possibility that the Horwich Station based at Middlebrook was an identified access point which may close.

Resolved

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

82. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues

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

The flooding which occurs at the bottom of Station road as it joins the A6
The deep potholes outside Nos 55-57 Nightingale road (previously reported)
A new hole which is appearing on Station Road close to Junction Close

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.

83. **Finance**

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

Resolved

1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £4104.67 (four thousand one hundred and four pounds 67p) dated 5th September 2016.
2. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.

84. **Site Visits**

Site visits were arranged for 5pm on 13th September to visit Scot Lane for the purpose of assessing the Road traffic risks at that location. (Update to be given at the meeting in October.

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

Agenda Items for October

Wigan & Bolton Parking Policies (Councillor Laycock)
Christmas Tree Lights (Councillor Cunliffe)

Other Matters

Proposed works on Greenbarn way by Electricity North West commencing 5th September

The Town Clerk advised members on the appointment of the Revd Angela Wynne and that councillors would be invited to her official Licensing on the 13th October at 7.30pm.

**86. List of Outstanding Correspondence
Resolved**

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

87. Reports from Ward Councillors

Councillor Bury Commented:

That faded white traffic lines within the village causing concern were to be repainted, together with yellow lines being considered for Vicarage Road and Greenbarn Way.

Councillor Pickup commented:-

**That barriers had now been erected on the parking facility along Church Street
Budget Cuts remaining an issue
Harrison Crescent would be resurfaced. Delays had been due to contractors issues.**

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 3rd October 2016 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed.....Chairman