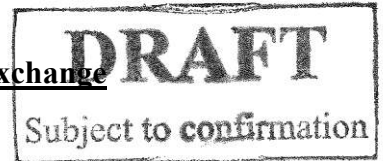


**BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Town Council Planning Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7:00pm in the Corn Exchange**



**PRESENT**

Cllr P Clark – Chairman  
Cllr L Lindsay – Chairman of Council  
Cllr A Cross  
Cllr P Osborne  
Cllr R Holmes  
Cllr C Jacques  
Cllr D Russell  
Cllr H Mieville

Cllr R Carter – Vice Chairman  
Cllr L Hitchings – Vice-Chairman of Council  
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke  
Cllr H White  
Cllr C Stevens  
Cllr S Hitchings  
Cllr J Stayt

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Assistant Town Clerk

Nicci Brown – Press

**52. PUBLIC SESSION**

52.1 Cllr S Hitchings spoke regarding a comment on Facebook, on the Blandford Forum Public Forum page, made by a member of the Town Council. Cllrs S Hitchings called the comment, which said the ‘Town Council is loaded’, reckless, irresponsible and a blatant lie.

Cllr S Hitchings gave a background of how the comment came about on the social media page, which related to the installation of Christmas lights. He said that the comment is concerning as the public have been misled. As Chairman of the Finance & Staffing committee he confirmed that the Earmarked Reserves are in the region of £2.6m, included Persimmon Homes S106 monies. This figure is no secret as it is included as an agenda item of Finance & Staffing, Recreation & Amenities and Town & General Purposes committee, but they are Earmarked Reserves and the word Earmarked is crucial as this indicates the Town Council has been very prudent and put an amount of money away each year to replace or repair its assets.

Under the Governance and Accountability regulations it is the Council’s responsibility to hold in its General Reserve between 25% to 100% of the precept. As at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 the Town Council held 34 % of the precept in General Reserves. which equals £263,724. The Town Council has built up Reserves over the past 5 years from having only 20% in its General Reserves, which was under the Governance and Accountability regulations.

Cllr S Hitchings summarised that the Council is not “loaded”, but very prudent. It now holds a reasonable amount in the General Reserves. The proposed budget for 2020/21 is not finished yet, as confirmation of salary pay increases and employer contributions for pensions percentage rate is awaited.

Cllr White commented that in other towns in Dorset it is the businesses who pay for the Christmas lights, not the Town Council.

Cllr Lacey-Clarke was surprised at this comment and felt that it should not be called a lie as the word “loaded” can be seen in different ways, he would prefer for it to be called misleading.

**53. APOLOGIES**

Cllr B Quayle

**54. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

Cllr Clark declared an interest in agenda item 5.5 and 5.6 as owner of a nearby property. He will remain in the room and take part in the discussion but will not vote.

Cllr Cross declared an interest in agenda item 5.4 as recipient of a Hall & Woodhouse pension. He will remain in the room and take part in the discussion but will not vote.

Cllr Stevens declared an interest in agenda item 5.2 as a friend of the family. He will remain in the room and take part in the discussion but will not vote.

Cllr White declared an interest in agenda item 5.3 as Trustee of the Charity. He will remain in the room and take part in the discussion but will not vote.

**55. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Stayt and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 abstention) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

**56. APPENDIX A – NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

**56.1 2/2019/1309/HOUSE – 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019 - Mrs B Blake – Southlea, 40 Larksmead – Erect 1 No. first floor extension.**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Stayt and AGREED unanimously that

**The Town Council has no objections to the application due to lack of impact on neighbouring amenities.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**56.2 2/2019/1262/FUL – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 – Mr & Mrs Roper – 10 Stevens Close – Erect 1 No. dwelling, create new vehicular and pedestrian access and 1 No. parking space.**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Holmes, SECONDED by Cllr Jacques and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 non-vote) that

**The Town Council objects to the application due to insufficient amenity space for the new dwelling and insufficient parking.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**56.3 2/2019/1196/LBC – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 – The Charity of William Williams – 73A East Street – Re-pointing and re-rendering to areas of failed pointing and render and carry out associated external alterations.**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 non-vote) that

**The Town Council has no objections to the application subject to Conservation Officers approval.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

- 56.4 2/2019/1316/REM – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019 – Drew Smith Homes and Homes England - The Brewery, Bournemouth Road, Blandford St Mary – Erect 63 No. dwelling with garaging, parking, landscaping and associated infrastructure. (Reserved matters application (Phase 1) to determine layout, scale, appearance and landscaping, following grant of Outline Planning Permission No. 2/2017/1706/VARIA).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Clark and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 abstention, 1 non-vote) that

**The Town Council objects to the application due to insufficient parking, community facilities and play area and there only being one single road in and out of the development.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Clark, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 abstention, 1 non-vote) that

**The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Planning arrange a meeting with Cllr Walsh (Chairman of Dorset Council Northern Area Planning Committee), Cllr Kerby (Dorset Councillor for Blandford St. Mary), the Chairman of Blandford St. Mary and the Chairman of Bryanston to hold discussions on strategic matters in the area.**

**ACTION: CLLR CLARK, CLLR CARTER**

The Chairman took the decision to take agenda item 5.5 and 5.6 together.

- 56.5 2/2019/1104/LBC and 2/2019/1103/FUL – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 – Trustees of JRF Crouch Will Trust - 13-15 Market Place – Form additional bedroom to consented dwelling and carry out associated internal alterations.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention) that

**The Town Council has no objections to the application subject to Conservation Officer approval.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

- 56.6 2/2019/1124/HOUSE – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 – Mr B Hopkins - 35 Gurkha Road – Erect single storey extension (demolish existing porch).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED unanimously that

**The Town Council has no objections to the application as there is no loss to the amenity area.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

- 56.7 2/2018/1590/REM – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – Bellway Homes (Wessex) Ltd - Land South West of, Blandford Forum Bypass, Blandford St Mary, Dorset – Erect 89 No. dwellings with garages, parking and associated infrastructure. (Reserved matters application (Phase 1) to determine appearance, landscaping, layout and scale, following grant of Outline Planning Permission No 2/2015/1935/OUT).

The Town Council noted the application.

57. **APPENDIX B – DORSET COUNCIL DECISIONS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND APPLICATIONS AWAITING DECISIONS**

The paper was displayed (see Appendix B).

58. **SITE VISITS/DORSET COUNCIL PLANNING MEETINGS**

The Assistant Town Clerk reported that the last Dorset Council - Northern Area Planning Committee was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October but no planning applications for Blandford Forum were discussed. The next meeting is planned for 19<sup>th</sup> November however, the agenda has not been published yet.

59. **TO CONSIDER JOINING THE RURAL/MARKET TOWN GROUP, ESTABLISHED BY THE RURAL SERVICES NETWORK**

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Jacques and AGREED unanimously that

**The Town Council considered the information and does not agree to be a part of this new group.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

60. **CLERK’S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

60.1 **Blandford Yuletide Road Closure** - The road closure is as follows: The centre of Blandford from 16.00 to 22:00, involving West Street (starting at River Mews Entrance), East Street, The Market Place, Salisbury Street up to junction with The Plocks, White Cliff Mill Street up to junction with Eagle House Gardens, The Plocks, The Close junction with Dorset Street, Church Lane and Sheep Market Hill. PLEASE NOTE: Whitecliff Mill Street will be 2-way traffic from the junction with Park Road to the junction with Eagle House Gardens, enabling access for the Doctors’ surgeries and residences in Eagle House Gardens, Bryanston Street, Shorts Lane, Parklands and Hanover Court. Free Parking all day on the 11<sup>th</sup> December has been requested through Blandford Forum Town Council and Dorset Council for all Dorset Council car parks (Marsh and Ham, Langton Road, Eagle House Gardens, Church Lane and Station Court). As part of the festival Church Lane and Langton short stay car parks will be closed 13:30 - 22:00. All these closures are in place to allow for a safe festival containing Street market stalls, a Lantern Festival Parade involving all the schools in the Blandford Network and Communal Carols in the Market Place, as well as other entertainments.

60.2 **Public Conveniences** - Charlton Marshall Parish Council has kindly agreed to a £500 contribution for the upkeep of the public conveniences in Blandford Forum.

60.3 **Commonwealth War Grave Memorial Service** - The Royal British Legion sent a note to say it was a great event this year and thanked the Mayor and Councillors who attended the service on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. They also thanked the Caretaker for arranging the opening of the chapel for their display.

The meeting closed at 8:06pm.

SIGNED: ..... DATED: .....