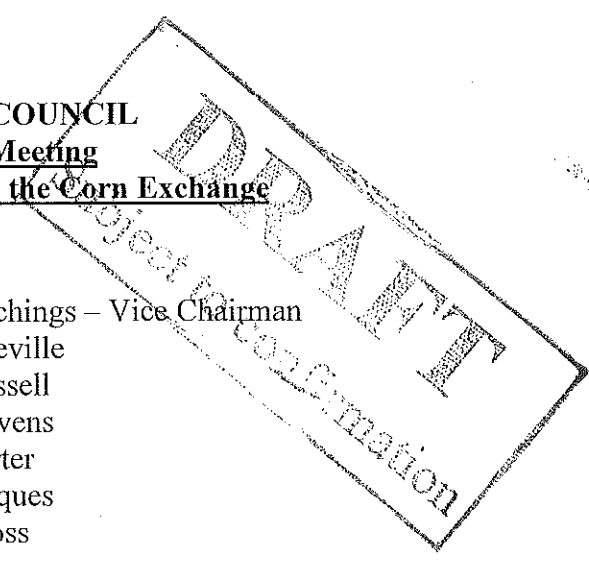


**BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 7:00pm in the Corn Exchange**



**PRESENT**

Cllr Lindsay – Chairman  
Cllr P Clark  
Cllr S Hitchings  
Cllr J Stayt  
Cllr P Osborne  
Cllr R Holmes  
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke

Cllr L Hitchings – Vice Chairman  
Cllr H Mieville  
Cllr D Russell  
Cllr C Stevens  
Cllr R Carter  
Cllr C Jacques  
Cllr A Cross

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Town Clerk  
Operations Manager  
Pip Donovan – Action Against Foxhunting  
Members of the public

Assistant Town Clerk  
Nicci Brown – Press  
Dr Sylvia Hixson Andrews

**52. PUBLIC SESSION**

**52.1 Pip Donovan, Action Against Foxhunting**

Mrs Donovan explained that she is the co-founder and chair of the Action Against Foxhunting group, which is campaigning against recreational animal killing. She presented various statistics, i.e. 85% people are against fox hunting and only 1% of the population go hunting; and named groups and businesses that are against fox hunting.

The Portman Hunt, who on Boxing Day are present in Blandford Forum, are campaigning to lift the ban on fox hunting. Mrs Donovan explained that various Councils have banned fox hunts on their land and she is seeking the Town Council's support to minimise the risk to public safety during the Boxing Day meet in town.

**52.2 Dr Hixson Andrews**

52.2.1 Dr Hixson Andrews asked if Town Councillors had any questions in respect to the letter she wrote to the Town Council, about the issues with accessibility in the town. No questions were raised.

52.2.2 Dr Hixson Andrews spoke on behalf of Mrs Sue Fleet, from Volunteer Dorset, a group working with people having various issues like mental health or learning disabilities, helping them into a volunteering life and improving their CV's. The group is working with businesses and charities to help advertise for volunteers, training and managing them and much more. Volunteer Dorset would like to organise a pop-up service twice a month in Blandford are looking for support in principal from the Town Council. Dr Hixson Andrews volunteered the museum for a place to have these pop-up services.

Cllr Carter spoke about partnership working, there may be groups in Blandford already who offer similar services. He would hope the group is happy to work with other groups, like the Foodbank who support vulnerable people.

The Chairman of Council asked if, in principal, Councillors would support such a scheme in Blandford Forum. By show of hands 13 were in favour and 1 against.

**53. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR**

- 53.1 Grass Verges – Cllr Lacey-Clarke reported that the Council is currently performing a second cut of the verges. Any complaints or issues with obscuring verges should be reported online, which Highways will then cut.
- 53.2 Salisbury Road – SGN will complete the gas works shortly and the company will be returning to Edward Street for further works on 15<sup>th</sup> July.
- 53.3 Road Closures – There will be a road closure on 17<sup>th</sup> July in East Street and Salisbury Street and 18<sup>th</sup> July in Oakfield Street.
- 53.4 X8A – Damory Coaches confirmed that no official complaints have been received and any issues need to be reported via the online service.

Cllr Lindsay enquired who authorised for the X8A to go to Tesco. Cllr Lacey-Clarke reported that it was Damory Coaches themselves. Unfortunately, there are no restrictions in the legal agreement to restrict the change in route and people are using the route to Tesco. The Town Clerk will advise Lidl of the change in route.

**ACTION: TOWN COUNCIL**

- 53.4 Badger Cross – The roadworks are completed, the junction was reopened on 24<sup>th</sup> June and surveys have been sent to residents to obtain feedback.

Cllr Cross has received a complaint that Salisbury Street has not been swept as regularly as previously done. Cllr Lacey-Clarke will look into it and report back.

Cllr Mieville enquired if there is an update about the Parking Review. Cllr Lacey-Clarke reported that there will be a meeting in the next 2 weeks, and he will provide an update after that.

Cllr Holmes asked if the Dorset Council will improve any further areas, there are faded white lines up by Salisbury Street leading into Shaftesbury Lane, as well as potholes up Holland Way. Cllr Lacey-Clarke requested that any Highways concerns are logged on Dorset For You.

The Chairman requested that all Councillors report any issues online or send their enquiries prior to the meeting to Dorset Councillors Lacey-Clarke and Quayle.

**54. APOLOGIES**

Cllr B Quayle

Cllr H White

**55. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None

**56. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2019**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED (12 in favour, 2 abstentions) that the Town Council Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

- 56.1 To receive and approve the corrected amount for the cost of venue and equipment hire for the Free Expression Art Festival grant (£281.40 instead of £175.20).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr S Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Stevens and AGREED unanimously that

- 56.1 To receive and approve the corrected amount for the cost of venue and equipment hire for the Free Expression Art Festival grant (£281.40 instead of £175.20) (Cont.)

**A grant of £281.40 is approved for hire of Town Council venues for the Free Expression Festival.**

**ACTION: TOWN COUNCIL**

**57. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE**

- 57.1 Robes – Mrs Paver, who was a seamstress at the Camp, has agreed to make two new Councillor robes for the Town Council.
- 57.2 Rugby at Larksmead – A resident of Buttercup Lane and a resident of Preetz Way have complained about children playing rugby out of season at Larksmead Recreation Ground.
- 57.3 Home-Start North Dorset – James Troup has written to thank Town Council for its grant of £500 to support the charity. The money will be used towards recruiting, training and supporting their parent volunteers who visit local families in their own home, with at least one child under five and support them through a difficult phase in their lives. Funding is an ongoing issue for the charity and the Town Council's support is very much appreciated.
- 57.4 Steam Fair Tickets – The organisers of The Great Dorset Steam Fair have kindly given Blandford Forum Town Council 100 free tickets which will be distributed in pairs by way of a ballot system to Blandford Forum residents as in previous years. However, this year the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be drawing the names live on Facebook! In addition, the Steam Fair has provided 2 for 1 voucher, which are available from the Town Clerk's Office week commencing 24th June 2019, on a first-come-first-served basis.
- 57.5 Community Payback Scheme – The team came on 18th June to clear the overgrown area at Elizabeth Road. Unfortunately, they spent most of their time dealing with the black sacks that had been fly tipped. There is still a lot of work to do to clear the area but, as this is Dorset Council land, an approach has been made to them in the first instance as we have neither the budget nor the equipment to continue the work required. The Operations Manager has written to a resident whose names was found on a prescription within one of the sacks has called the Town Council to say he certainly hasn't fly-tipped any rubbish.
- 57.6 Assets of Community Value – The Town Council nominated some properties as Assets of Community Value back in early 2014. The nominations last for 5 years, then expire, so this will be brought to council in September for consideration. The Town Council could apply to nominate again, but it has to be a full new application, and will be assessed on the current facts.
- 57.7 Trees at Damory Down – A consultation to residents living on the Damory Down Estate has been hand delivered by the Tree Warden, Cllr Russell, seeking residents' views on what species and location they would like to replace the seven trees that were felled in recent months. They have also been asked if they would like any wildflower meadow areas.
- 57.8 Old Bath House – On Tuesday 2nd July the Caretaker reported that the wall in Church Lane which forms the boundary of the Old Bath House land had been damaged. There was a bulge half-way up the wall and two bricks were protruding. On immediate inspection of the wall it was noticed that work had taken place in the garden of the Old Bank House to clear the vegetation. The contractors carrying out this work had clearly presumed that the enclosure next to the entrance to the Old Bath House was part of the garden and had cleared that as well. The Operations Manager met with the contractors and examined the damage to the wall both inside and out and where the vegetation and soil build up had been removed on the inside of the wall, the bad state of the brickwork and pointing was highlighted. The planning application has now been submitted and paid for, following the Town Council resolution of 29th April 2019.

58. **CIVIC REPORT**

The paper was sent to Councillors via email.

59. **RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

59.1 **Recreation & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

59.1.1 **Recommendations**

None

59.1.2 The minutes were RECEIVED, subject to agenda item 2 being changed to reflect Cllr White as Chairman of the Committee.

60. **TO CONSIDER THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY ACTION AGAINST FOXHUNTING (DORSET) AND TO CONSIDER WHAT ACTION MIGHT BE TAKEN TO MINIMISE THE RISK TO PUBLIC SAFETY OF PORTMAN HUNT HOLDING THEIR BOXING DAY MEETING IN BLANDFORD TOWN CENTRE (INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PIP DONOVAN DISTRIBUTED TO COUNCILLORS PRIOR TO THE AGENDA BEING CIRCULATED)**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Osborne, SECONDED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke and AGREED (11 in favour, 3 abstentions) that

**The Town Council agrees to write to Dorset Police, requesting that they ensure an orderly event and public safety on Boxing Day, minimising any escalation between the two groups.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

61. **TO CONSIDER ANY AMENDMENTS TO THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS REGARDING THE USE OF CONTRACTORS WHO HAVE TAKEN ACTION TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE VENUES/OFFICES**

The paper was noted (See Appendix A).

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

**The Town Council agrees to the amendments to the Financial Regulations.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

62. **TO CONSIDER AMENDING THE COUNCIL DIARY FOR MAY 2020 AND TO AGREE A WAY FORWARD FOR VE DAY ON FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020**

The paper was noted (See Appendix B).

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

**The Town Council agrees to amend the Council Diary.  
The Town Council agrees for the Ambassador Big Band event to be held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020.**

62. **TO CONSIDER AMENDING THE COUNCIL DIARY FOR MAY 2020 AND TO AGREE A WAY FORWARD FOR VE DAY ON FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020 (CONT.)**

The Town Council agrees to form a Working Group to organise the VE Day Events/Fayre with all interested parties consisting of Councillors S Hitchings, Carter, Cross, Lindsay and L Hitchings and that the group be named VE75 planning group. The group will have an agenda item on the Town Council agenda until May 2020.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

63. **TO CONSIDER PROPOSING MOTIONS FOR THE DAPTC AGM**

The paper was noted (See Appendix C).

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

**The Town Council will put forward the motion that Town Councils do not have to pay for the removal of rubbish at the local Household Recycling Centre.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

64. **TO CONSIDER APPROVING A DOCUMENT FROM THE DORSET COUNCIL FOR THE TRANSFER OF £70,000 FOR MARKET PLACE ENHANCEMENTS**

The paper was noted (See Appendix D).

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

**The Town Council does not authorise the Chairman of Council to sign the agreement. The document and any related documents will be sent to the Town Council's solicitor for further advice.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

65. **TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY FOR A REPLACEMENT BOILER FOR WOODHOUSE GARDENS PAVILLION**

The paper was noted (See Appendix E).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Stayt and AGREED unanimously that

**The Town Council approves expenditure of £2,339.00 + VAT for the purchase and installation of a new boiler for Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion using funds from the General Reserves budget line (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

66. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON STATEGIC PLAN PROJECTS**

The paper was noted (See Appendix F).

67. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE AND CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FROM THE:**

67.1 **Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford+**

The paper was noted (See Appendix G).

67. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE AND CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FROM THE (CONT.):**

67.2 BFTC Commemoration Group

Cllr Carter reported that there are no updates.

67.3 Corn Exchange Working Group

67.3.1 To consider expenditure authority for a historic condition survey

The paper was noted (See Appendix H).

Councillors requested that a letter is sent to the architect expressing the Town Council's dissatisfaction with the lack of progress since the architect's appointment.

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

**The Town Council instructs officers to insist on the architect obtaining three quotations as per the financial regulations.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

67.4 Public Art Working Group

67.4.1 To consider the entry received and how to proceed

The paper was noted (See Appendix I).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Osborne, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED (11 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions) that

**The Town Council approves the submission received and arranges a working group meeting to confirm the design and location.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

68. **REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

None were received.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm.

SIGNED .....

DATED .....