

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town & General Purposes Committee
Held on Monday 9th March 2020 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange

DRAFT
Subject to confirmation

PRESENT

Cllr H Mieville – Chairman
Cllr L Lindsay – Chairman of Council
Cllr P Osborne
Cllr C Stevens
Cllr B Quayle

Cllr R Holmes – Vice Chairman
Cllr L Hitchings – Vice Chairman of Council
Cllr A Cross
Cllr P Clark

IN ATTENDANCE

Assistant Town Clerk
Paul Starkey - Dorset Council Highways
Catherine Chapman - Blandford Business Support Group

Nicci Brown – Press

SITTING IN

Cllr C Jacques
Cllr H White

Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr D Russell

25. PUBLIC SESSION

- 25.1 Cllr Quayle spoke in his capacity as Dorset Council Councillor regarding agenda item 7.1 and 7.2. Both Cllrs Quayle and Lacey-Clarke are working on a 20mph speed limit in Blandford Forum and are having discussions with the senior team at Dorset Council. Cllr Quayle said that he does not agree with the criteria for the installation of a Speed Indicator Device.

26. APOLOGIES

Blandford Police Representative

27. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None had been submitted.

28. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2020

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED unanimously that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

29. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

- 29.1 EVCP - Having re-reviewed the site the funder has unfortunately confirmed that the site cannot be funded. Their reasons are that there is plenty of off-street parking nearby, and no nearby amenities to encourage car park usage. It is also on the edge of town.
- 29.2 Church Lane – The Town Council received an enquiry regarding the blind spot at the bottom of Church Lane and the possibility of the installation of a mirror. Cllr Lacey-Clarke checked with Dorset Council Highways and Dorset Council does not allow mirrors anymore as they think they are more dangerous than useful. Pedestrians would get used to the mirror and not check the road properly.

29. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE (CONT.)

- 29.3 Advertising On Roundabouts – During the meeting of North Dorset Clerks and Mayors the question of advertising on roundabouts was raised. There are 70 roundabouts in the Dorset Council area that have advertising consent, with 80-95% of the locations being sponsored. The majority of sponsors are small to medium size companies from the local area, offering services to residents. Where no sponsorship has been secured opportunities are offered to council partners, e.g. DWP and Dorset Fostering. All adverts adhere to the Advertising Standards Authority regulations. The sponsorship is promoted on vacant roundabouts and the Dorset Council website. It is an in-house scheme and the income generated is entirely allocated to council services.

Cllr S Hitchings commented that he is disappointed that the income is used for all council services and not just for roundabout maintenance.

- 29.4 Town Pump – The planning application has been submitted. The Town Council was requested to submit plans for existing and proposed elevations and the plans have now been accepted.

30. GENERAL UPDATES FROM:

30.1 Blandford Business Support Group

Mrs Chapman assured the Town Council that the group is still active, with the Police and the High Sherriff having been guests recently. The group is talking about shop owners' safety. Shops might buy their own radios to communicate with each other in case there are any issues other shops and businesses in the town need to be made aware of. Mrs Chapman is looking for financial support from the Town Council. The group hopes to brighten up the entrances to the town, maybe with information poles, decorated with flowers. She would like to bring the council and shops together to work on this. Cllr Stevens advised of the Shop Watch Scheme run by Colin Young from the Community Club; however, it doesn't seem active anymore. The radios might still be available, and it has been suggested to Mrs Chapman to get in contact with Mr Young.

Cllr S Hitchings advised that she should apply for a grant from the Town Council through the official grant process.

30.2 Blandford Police

The Assistant Town Clerk reported on behalf of the PCSO that the graffiti offender has been located and ongoing work is underway with him. The offender is fully prepared to clean the graffiti off and make good the damage, footing any bills for the damage. He is also going to be writing a letter of apology to all concerned.

30.3 Market Manager

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

30.4 Parking Review Working Group

Cllr Quayle confirmed that the update will be reported on 23rd March at 6pm in the Corn Exchange.

31. DCC HIGHWAYS

- 31.1 To receive the traffic monitoring report from the Dorset Council for Edward Street and Black Lane and consider next steps

The paper was noted (See Appendix B).

31.1 To receive the traffic monitoring report from the Dorset Council for Edward Street and Black Lane and consider next steps (Cont.)

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Stevens and AGREED (8 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Committee feels that this is an unsatisfactory response, and that the streets monitored remain dangerous for pedestrians. The Committee looks forward to the introduction of a potential 20mph limit in Blandford Forum.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

31.2 To consider 20mph in Blandford Forum (requested by Cllr Holmes)

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Holmes, SECONDED by Cllr Quayle and AGREED (8 in favour, 1 against) that

The Committee supports the Dorset Councillors in working towards a 20mph speed limit across Blandford Forum.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

31.3 To consider restricted delivery access in the town centre including time constraints for HGV's (requested by Cllr Holmes)

Cllr Stevens reported that this issue is being looked at in the Market Area Enhancement Working Group and any proposals will be brought to the Town Council.

Mr Starky confirmed that there is signage for lorries to use the by-pass and that enforcement is a police matter, and that Blandford Forum does not have any loading bays.

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

The Committee supports the proposal in principle but recognises the need for further evidence provided by the Market Area Enhancement Working Group to move this forward.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr Lindsay left the room at 7.47pm.

32. REVIEW OF TOWN & GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGETS TO 14TH FEBRUARY 2020

32.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

Cllr Jacques left the meeting at 7.48pm.

32.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

32.3 Reserve Accounts

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

33. TO RE-CONSIDER THE FREE PARKING DAY REQUESTS TO DORSET COUNCIL FOR 2020

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

Cllr Lindsay returned to the meeting at 7.51pm.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED (8 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Committee have re-considered their free parking day requests and wish to submit the following five to Dorset Council for the year 2020;

- 8th and 9th May for VE Day
- 4th December for Yuletide Festival
- 5th December for Small Business Saturday
- 12th December for Christmas Parking

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

34. TO CONSIDER PRODUCING A CALENDAR FOR 2021 WITH PROCEEDS GOING TO THE MAYOR'S CHARITIES

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Clark, SECONDED by Cllr Quayle and AGREED unanimously that

The Committee agrees to produce a calendar for 2021 and would like to use Company B for the production taking funds from budget line 1030 Tourism (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

35. TO CONSIDER RESPONDING TO THE DORSET COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON A DOG RELATED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO)
<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dogspso>

The paper was noted (see Appendix H).

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

The Committee creates a Working Group and gives delegated authority to Cllrs Mieville, Russell and Stevens to complete the survey on behalf of the Town Council.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

36. TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE APPROVAL FOR REPLACEMENT PLANTERS IN THE TOWN CENTRE

The paper was noted (see Appendix I).

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

The Committee approves expenditure for the purchase of four, three tiered planters, for a total of £2,216.12 using funds of £1,500 from the planters budget line 6200 and the remainder of £716.12 from the Town Improvements budget line (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

36. TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE APPROVAL FOR REPLACEMENT PLANTERS IN THE TOWN CENTRE (CONT.)

Post Meeting Note: The revised quote is now 2,289.36+VAT which is £73.24 more than in the original report.

37. TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE APPROVAL FOR THE SUMMER BEDDING AT APPROXIMATELY £2,500 + VAT AND TO CONFIRM THE PLANTER SPONSORSHIP CHARGES

The paper was noted (see Appendix J).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED unanimously that

The Committee notes the sponsorship charges and approves the expenditure for the summer bedding at approximately £2,500 + VAT, taken from budget line 6200 Planters (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8)

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

38. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE METHODIST CHURCH FOR ADDITIONAL FINGER POSTS IN THE TOWN CENTRE

The paper was noted (see Appendix K).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED (8 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Committee does not agree to the request for additional finger posts for the Methodist Church, as the Town Council does not want to discriminate in favour of one church and against other churches in the town.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 8:11pm.

SIGNED: DATED: