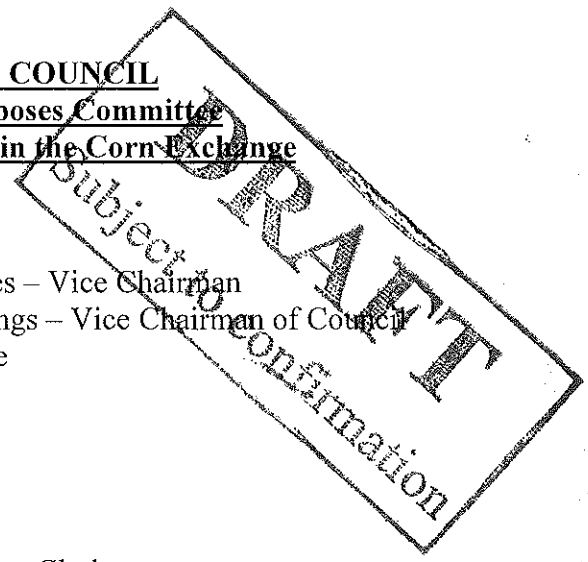


**BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Town & General Purposes Committee**  
**Held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange**



**PRESENT**

Cllr H Mieville – Chairman  
Cllr L Lindsay – Chairman of Council  
Cllr P Osborne  
Cllr C Stevens  
Cllr A Cross

Cllr R Holmes – Vice Chairman  
Cllr L Hitchings – Vice Chairman of Council  
Cllr B Quayle  
Cllr P Clark

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Town Clerk  
Operations Manager  
Nicci Brown – Press

Assistant Town Clerk  
Market Manager  
Barry Cooper – arrived at 7.24pm

**SITTING IN**

Cllr S Hitchings

Cllr D Russell

**1. PUBLIC SESSION**

- 1.1 Nicci Brown spoke as Secretary of Blandford & District Civic Society, thanking Councillors and Officers for attending the opening ceremony of the former Blandford School Secondary war memorial on 13<sup>th</sup> July in Damory Street.
- 1.2 Cllr Stevens reported that, after the clearance works at Elizabeth Road allotments, there has been an issue with rats. Residents have been to Nordon Hub and were advised that they would have to bear the cost of rodent clearance. The Town Clerk reported that residents had reported rat problems prior to the fly tipping being cleared and Officers contacted Dorset Council as the owner of the land last week and have written to the Environment Agency to report the issue. No response has been received so far.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Blandford Police Representative

Town Team Representative

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

None had been submitted.

**4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Osborne, SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings and AGREED (5 in favour, 4 non-votes) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

**5. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

- 5.1 Portman Hunt meet - Following the Town Council meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July the Town Clerk wrote to Blandford Police requesting that they ensure an orderly event on Boxing Day. Inspector Perry responded to confirm that they do provide a policing presence for this annual event.
- 5.2 Anti-Social behaviour – At the recent Recreation & Amenities committee meeting in June anti-social behaviour, drinking and intimidating passers-by in front of the Corn Exchange was raised. This has been reported to the Police who have confirmed they will monitor the situation.

**5. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE (CONT.)**

5.3 Town Pump restoration – Following the Pre-App advice by the Conservation Officer a Specification of Works report was completed by a local accredited conservator. This report has been forwarded to Planning and the Conservation Officer at Dorset Council and we are awaiting a response. At the first Blandford War on Waste meeting it was queried if the Town Pump could be used to provide free water. It has been looked into before but at the time having water was not possible, due to lead pipes and cost, which Cllr Lindsay confirmed.

**6. GENERAL UPDATES FROM:**

6.1 Blandford Business Group (not active currently)

Not in attendance.

6.2 Blandford Police

Not in attendance.

6.3 Market Manager

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

The Market Manager expanded on his report and answered questions from Councillors.

Cllr L Hitchings enquired what steps have been taken to encourage a bigger trade on a Saturday and suggested to consider a further discounted fee. He also asked what company the Market Manager is recommending to traders for a chip & pin. The Market Manager does not make any recommendations but advises of various companies. Cllr Lindsay would recommend a dual rate if traders attend both Thursday and Saturday market.

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

**The Committee suspends Standing Orders.**

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

**The Committee agrees to offer a half price charge for the Saturday market stall if the stall holder trades both Thursday and Saturday that week. This offer will run until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

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

**The Committee reinstates Standing Orders.**

The Town Clerk requested, following the Climate Change Working Group meeting, that the Market Manager encourages traders to avoid single use plastic and to offer alternatives where possible.

The Chairman thanked the Market Manager for his report.

6.4 Town Team

Not in attendance.

**6. GENERAL UPDATES FROM (CONT.):**

Cllr Lindsay left the meeting at 7.42pm.

**6.5 Parking Review Working Group**

Cllr Quayle reported that there is no update at present.

**7. DCC HIGHWAYS**

**7.1 To consider the option of a Stop sign at the bottom of Holland Way/Heddington Drive and any alternative solutions to slow the traffic flow (as suggested by Cllr Mieville)**

Cllr Lindsay returned to the meeting at 7.45pm.

Cllr Quayle reported that Dorset Council has been working on this for months and are looking into the junction and how to improve it, with various options, including a Stop sign. Any changes will also depend on the outcome of the Parking Review.

Cllr Cross enquired when the Parking Review will be completed. Cllr Quayle cannot give a date, but various issues are being looked into and data is being analysed.

Cllr Lindsay left the meeting at 7.54pm.

No vote took place.

Cllr Lindsay returned to the meeting at 7.55pm.

**7.2 To respond to the Badger Cross junction improvement questionnaire**

The paper was noted (See Appendix B).

It was agreed that Councillors will respond as individuals to this questionnaire.

**7.3 To consider a request for a white line in Windmill Road**

The paper was noted (See Appendix C).

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

**The Committee does not support this request as the Town Council's policy is to keep driveways clear, not the space on the opposite side of the road.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**8. REVIEW OF TOWN & GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGETS TO 10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2019**

**8.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget**

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

**8.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves**

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

Cllr L Hitchings requested for budget line 1022 to be deleted as it was previously agreed that this line is not used anymore.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

8. **REVIEW OF TOWN & GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGETS TO 10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2019 (CONT.)**

8.3 **Reserve Accounts**

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

9. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGE POINT FEASIBILITY STUDY**

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

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

**The Committee notes the update and welcomes the new charge points at Marsh & Ham car park. The Town Council will monitor the usage before considering proceeding with Town Council location installations.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

10. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE SMALL CHRISTMAS TREES**

The paper was noted (see Appendix H).

11. **TO CONSIDER THE SCOPE FOR VIBRANT WILDFLOWER MEADOWS IN BLANDFORD PUBLIC SPACES (AS REQUESTED BY CLLR RUSSELL)**

The paper was noted (see Appendix I).

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

**The Committee notes the feedback from the Rangers and approves the Town Council attempts to grow wildflower areas on the verge at Langton Road and that the Town Council brings back any requests for areas on the Damory Down following the consultation with residents there.**

**The Town Council, headed by Cllrs Russell and Quayle, will encourage local residents to work with Dorset Council, the Rangers and the Town Council to form a volunteer group to support the Rangers maintaining the verges for wildflowers.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

12. **TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR A LITTER BIN NEXT TO THE MEMORIAL BENCH AT THE JUNCTION OF FAIRFIELD BUNGALOWS/SALISBURY ROAD**

The paper was noted (see Appendix J).

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

**At this stage, the Committee does not agree to the Town Council purchasing a new litter bin and to pay for the weekly emptying of it, because of the forthcoming change of type of bins by DWP.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

The meeting closed at 8:30pm.

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