

**BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 7:00pm in the Corn Exchange**

**PRESENT**

Cllr Lindsay – Chairman  
Cllr H White  
Cllr S Hitchings  
Cllr B Quayle  
Cllr R Holmes  
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke  
Cllr C Stevens

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

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Town Clerk  
Operations Manager

Assistant Town Clerk  
Nicci Brown – Press

**119. PUBLIC SESSION**

119.1 Cllr White thanked the staff involved in the Christmas Concert on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December, especially the Caretaker, John Scott.

**120. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Lacey-Clarke gave the report this month.

120.1 Charles Street – The white lines on the corner to Damory Court Street have been installed.

120.2 Parking Review – Cllrs Lacey-Clarke and Quayle held a meeting with Dorset Council officers, which went well. Cllr Quayle organised a Steering Group meeting for 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Dorset Council officers put forward various recommendations which will be presented to the Steering Group, followed by a consultation with residents in February.

120.3 Planning Application Shorts Lane – Cllr Lacey-Clarke is surprised that this application has been put forward as recommendation for approval, as there have been many objections, including from this Town Council. Cllr Lacey-Clarke will try and attend the Dorset Council Northern Area Planning Committee in his capacity as Dorset Council Councillor on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

120.4 Dorset Council Rough Sleeping Count – The numbers have been published and the people that are rough sleeping has halved in the past year.

120.5 Yuletide Festival – Cllr Lacey-Clarke thanked everybody involved, especially Cllr S Hitchings. The only complaints received this year were about overflowing bins.

120.6 Highways – Cllrs Lacey-Clarke and Quayle have been performing their two-weekly check of roads and potholes. If issues arise over the Christmas period, they should still be reported to both Councillors or directly to the Dorset Council.

120.7 Boots – Cllr Lacey-Clarke reported that one of the Boots stores is closing. Dorset Council is minded to support the consolidation if the license will go to the open market and allows for a competitor to open a chemist store.

## 120. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS (CONT.)

Cllr Carter requested for Cllr Lacey-Clarke to ensure that another chemist is opened in town, as with the rising housing numbers chemists are required. Cllr Jacques enquired if the license will stay even if Boots are closing. Cllr Lacey-Clarke re-iterated that Dorset Council is pushing for the license to go on the open market. Cllr Mieville is concerned about the capacity of the remaining two chemists as these are already under pressure.

## 121. APOLOGIES

Cllr J Stayt

Cllr P Osborne

## 122. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

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

**A dispensation is granted to all Councillors, except Cllr L Hitchings and Cllr Cross (as they do not live in Blandford Forum), to enable them to participate in discussion and vote on the setting of the council tax.**

Cllr L Hitchings declared an interest in agenda item 17.5.2 as he is the area manager of St John Ambulance. He will remain in the room during discussions but will not vote.

Cllr B Quayle declared an interest in agenda item 16 as a member of the Blandford Railway Arches Trust. He will remain in the room during discussions but will not vote.

Cllr Lindsay declared an interest in agenda item 8.1.1 as a Trustee of Age Concern. She will leave the room during discussions and voting. Cllrs Stevens and Cross declared an interest at the F&S Committee Meeting due to Cllr Stevens being the Town Council representative and Cllr Cross knowing the applicant.

## 123. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr S Hitchings and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 abstention) that the Town Council Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED, subject to an amendment to minute 104.7, deleting 'He explained that funding was available, and Councillors and officers at Dorset Council worked to have a new car park at The Blandford School, but this was not agreed to.' and changing it to 'Funding had been available and Cllr Quayle worked with the CCG on the plans for the car park'. No Council officers were directly involved as the plans via the CCG were rejected before it could be followed up.'

## 124. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

124.1 CCTV – The scaffolding opposite Sheep Market Hill has a negative effect on the CCTV. It is disturbing the signal for all cameras. PCSO Jamie Burt will find out how long the scaffolding will be erected for.

124.2 Larksmead – The Police have also agreed to look into a complaint the office has received about a van parked at Larksmead recreation ground car park, which appears to have people sleeping in it overnight with the engine running.

124.3 Beatles With Wings – The Town Council staff provided the bar for this external event and made a profit of £300.

## 125. CIVIC REPORT

The paper was sent to Councillors via email.

**126. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

126.1 Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting dated 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 (includes the budget for 2020/21)

126.1.1 To receive a report regarding virement from general reserves to cover expenditure in 2019/20

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 abstention) to

**Vire £6,683 from the Interest Earnt on Earmarked Investments budget line (Code 1001), £3,350 from the Interest Earnt on Capital Investments budget line (Code 1010) and £20,923 from Interest Earnt on the Property Fund budget line (Code 1002) to General Reserves (Code 1500) and keeping the cost of £3,018 from the expenditure to the General Reserve and to vire the committed funds from General Reserve to Corn Exchange Refurbishment budget line (Code 1105).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

126.1.2 To receive a report regarding virement from underspend of Civic Day 2018/19 and mayoral allowance 2018/19

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

**£105.77 is vired from the Civic Budget line (2018/19 – Code 0060) and £1,790.00 from the Mayoral Allowance budget line (2018/19 – Code 0060) to General Reserves (Code 1500).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

126.1.3 Age Concern – Applied in 2017-18 and awarded £1000

Cllr L Lindsay left the room at 7.24pm.

Cllr L Hitchings proposed an amendment to grant £2,000, which was accepted by Cllrs White and Mieville. Cllr Lacey-Clarke then proposed an amendment to grant £2,300, which was accepted by Cllrs White and Mieville.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 against, 1 non-vote) that

**A grant of £2,300.00 is awarded to Age Concern (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

Cllr L Lindsay returned to the room at 7.30pm.

126.1.4 Blandford Fashion Museum – Current SLA £2,000 per annum

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

**The Blandford Fashion Museum is advised to approach the Town Team for assistance with grant applications in the first instance and to apply again to the Town Council if this is not a successful route.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

126.1.5 To consider extending the free venue hire for the Town Team meetings for 2020/21 – ongoing free venue hire approved per year

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

**Free venue hire for the Town Team meetings 2020/21 is approved.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**126. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES (CONT.)**

**126.1.6 Consideration of the overall budget for the year 2020/21 and recommendation of the precept for 2020/21**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED (11 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention) that

**The draft budget (with a 1.19% increase) is finalised at the Town Council meeting in January, subject to receipt of the necessary housing figures from Dorset Council.**

**ACTION: TOWN COUNCIL**

126.2 The Minutes were RECEIVED.

**127. TO CONSIDER RESPONDING TO NALC'S CONSULTATION PAPER ON STRENGTHENING POLICE POWERS TO TACKLE UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS WITH A DEADLINE OF 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

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

**The Town Council wish to formulate a response and form a working group consisting of Cllrs Clark, Mieville, Stevens, Carter, Cross, Lindsay and White, with delegated authority to respond to the consultation by the deadline.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**128. TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE APPROVAL FOR AN ADDITIONAL VAN**

The paper was noted (See Appendix B).

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

**The Town Council approves expenditure authority of up to £3,500 for the purchase of a new van, using funds from the underspend of replacing the transit van of £2,000 and the balance taken from the General Reserves budget line 1500 (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**129. TO CONSIDER RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A WATER TANK AT THE RUGBY CLUB, LARKSMEAD**

The paper was noted (See Appendix C).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, but NOT SECONDED that the Town Council does not retrospectively approve the installation of the water tank to assist the Club in improving the facilities they have at Larksmead, until official confirmation from the planning authority as to whether planning permission is required has been received. Once received delegated authority is given to the Chairman of Council to approve the installation.

During the meeting the Town Clerk e-mailed the Chairman of the Rugby Club to request the official response from the Planning Enforcement officer, but this was not received in time.

No vote took place, and this has therefore been added to January's Planning agenda.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**130. TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY TO ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF A SOUND TECHNICIAN FOR THE REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY OUTDOOR SERVICE**

The paper was noted (See Appendix D).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Stevens and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 against) that

**The Town Council approves expenditure of £306.50 + VAT using funds from the Civic budget line for this service and that the public is informed of this improvement (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).**

**The Town Council agrees to order the same set-up for the Royal Corps of Signals Freedom Parade in June 2020, taking expenditure of £306.50 + VAT from the Civic – Freedom budget line and using this event as a trial for Remembrance Sunday (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**131. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON FUTURE NEWSLETTERS**

The paper was noted (See Appendix E).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Holmes, SECONDED by Cllr Stevens and AGREED (12 in favour, 2 against) that

**The Town Council agrees to monitor usage over the next year by continuing with regular quarterly page submissions at the existing discounted price, before entering into an agreement with the Forum Focus, which would commit the Town Council to producing two pages in the Forum Focus every second month. The June newsletter can be distributed using the Royal Mail service and will include a request for email addresses so electronic news updates can be sent periodically.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**132. TO CONSIDER HOW TO PROCEED WITH RECOMMENDED PHASED WORKS TO THE SKATE PARK**

The paper was noted (See Appendix F).

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

**The Town Council agrees to go out to tender for the works on Contracts Finder, but requests that contractors recommend what they feel is required for the skate park and therefore quotations will not be like for like. A consultation will then be held with skatepark users, before a contract is awarded.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

Cllr Lacey-Clarke asked when the lease expires, and the Town Clerk confirmed it is 2027.

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

**The Town Council writes to the Dorset Council to request an extension of the lease. Cllrs Quayle and Lacey-Clarke will co-sign the letter to show support and suggested asking Cllr Kerby if he is also happy to support it.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

133. **TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR A COMMUNITY SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE FOR BLACK LANE**

The paper was noted (See Appendix G).

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

**The Town Council notes this action and approves expenditure of £175 retrospectively to commission a survey at a specific site along Black Lane, using budget line 1021 DCC Highways (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8). The request for the installation of a SID will be discussed at the next T&GP Committee meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020, taking into account the result of the survey.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

134. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE RAILWAY ARCHES AND CONSIDER EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY**

The paper was tabled (See Appendix H).

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

**The Town Council approves expenditure for the safety railings at £1,420 + VAT so that the public can access the top of the arches and accepts Blandford Railway Arches Trust's offer of a contribution, using funds from the Railway Arches Reserves budget line (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

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

135.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +

135.1.1 To consider retrospective approval for amendments to Policy B8 of the Neighbourhood Plan – Blandford Forum Town Centre (verbal update and report by Cllr R Carter)

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

**The Town Council approves the amendments to Policy B2, B3 and B8.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

135.2 BFTC Commemoration Group

Cllr Carter reported that there is no update.

135.3 Public Art Plan

The Assistant Town Clerk reported that there is no update.

135.4 Corn Exchange

Cllr Clark reported that the historic condition survey is due to be received, and this has been chased by the Operations Manager.

