

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
Held on Monday 17th December 2018 at 7:08pm

PRESENT

Cllr R Carter – Chairman
Cllr P Clark
Cllr H Mieville
Cllr H White
Cllr B Quayle
Cllr L Hitchings

Cllr N Lacey-Clarke – Vice Chairman
Cllr D Robinson
Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr C Stevens
Cllr L Lindsay

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Operations Manager
District Cllr J E T Tanner

Assistant Town Clerk
District Cllr B Cooper
Nicci Brown – Press

126. PUBLIC SESSION

- 126.1 Cllr S Hitchings praised DWP for the work they have done during the Yuletide Festival. They emptied the bins before and after the festival and swept the pavements the next morning. They did a fantastic job.
- 126.2 Cllr Carter thanked the Yuletide committee for a great festival. He also thanked the cast for a wonderful performance at the Panto this year. Cllr Carter promoted his Burns Night on 25th January 2019. He asked Councillors to purchase a Blandford Forum calendar and if anyone is free to sell any on the market on Thursday to please let the Mayor's Secretary know.
- 126.3 Cllr Carter presented the Assistant Town Clerk with a bouquet of flowers to congratulate her for achieving the Certificate in Local Council Administration.

127. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- 127.1 Road Works on Black Lane and Wimborne Road junction – These will start on 2nd January until 19th January 2019 and are to widen the junction to improve the traffic flow. There will be a traffic management system from 2nd January to 7th January, after that date the works will be carried out on the pavement and will not impede on traffic.
- 127.2 Blandford Bridge follow on works - DDC are currently carrying out further work to the Blandford Bridge as part of the works program which started with the resurfacing work earlier in the year, replacing eroded stones and structural repairs to the underside of the bridge. This work is currently scheduled to end by the 21st December.
- 127.3 Real Deal Campaign - DDC Trading Standards have been working with the Town Council Market Manager in relation to the Real Deal Campaign. Cllr Quayle was delighted to receive confirmation that Blandford Forum market has been accepted as a member of the scheme on the 3rd December. This gives quality assurance to customers who use the market and enhances the towns credibility. DCC are very keen for other towns to follow Blandford.
- 127.4 Parking Review update - Further meetings have been held with the County Council and a contractor firm has been appointed, which is the same firm which ran the Sherborne consultation. Cllr Quayle will meet with the firm in the new year and report to the Steering Group and County accordingly.

127. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR(CONT.)

- 127.5 C13 road works – Cllr Quayle has been informed by Dorset County Council that there will be 12 weeks of road works on the C13, with a 24/7 closure in Melbury Abbas from Spredaeagle Hill through to B3081.
- 127.6 Blandford Hospital Hub – The Clinical Commissioner Group have been in touch with Cllr Quayle regarding the decision to make the Blandford Community hospital a local NHS hub. They would like to discuss a number of options with the Town Council and Cllr Quayle will be in touch with the Town Clerk to organise a meeting in the new year.
- 127.7 Badger Cross traffic lights – An improvement scheme has been approved to upgrade the traffic lights and pedestrian crossing at Badger Cross, which will start in February and run for around 12 weeks. This is one of the projects Cllr Quayle has put forward for improvements, therefore he is delighted this will happen. It shows that projects can be earmarked before moving to a unitary authority.
- 127.8 General update – A vandalised sign in the market place has been replaced. Highways have confirmed that this is happening quite regularly. There is an overflowing gully in Heddington Drive due to an issue with the soakaway.

128. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- 128.1 Cllr J Tanner – Cllr Tanner believes that permission to spray against the fly has not been given yet. There should be some flood warning signs placed at the overflowing gully in Heddington Drive. Cllr Tanner reported that there has not been an update with the Nordon site. He reported on the exam results for The Blandford School, which have been very good. It is one of the highest scoring schools in Dorset.
- 128.2 Cllr B Cooper – Nothing to report.
- 128.3 Cllr Jackie Stayt – Apologies.
- 128.4 Cllr N Lacey-Clarke – Cllr Lacey-Clarke reported a tree that fell down at Fairfield Bungalows, owned by Sovereign Housing association. He has been in contact with them and received confirmation that they will remove the tree. They have also assured him that they will get on top of their maintenance work in their other areas. The next Planning site meeting is on Tuesday 18th December. There has not been an update on the Nordon planning application. He is hopeful Jack Rabbits will get their permission for the sign shortly.
- 128.5 Cllr T Handford – Not in attendance.

129. APOLOGIES

Cllr Jackie Stayt
Cllr P Osborne

Cllr John Stayt
Cllr H Galpin

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

- 130.1 Cllr Lacey-Clarke declared that taking part in the discussions and votes on new planning applications at this meeting, has been done on the understanding that his decisions are based on the information available at this time and that he reserves the right to change those decisions when the applications are discussed at North Dorset District Council.
- 130.2 Agenda Item No. 9.1.1 – Service Level Agreements - Cllr White declared an interest in this agenda item and will remain in the room for discussion but will not take part in the vote (regarding the Blandford Stour Valley Band).

130. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS (CONT.)

- 130.3 Agenda Item No. 9.1.1 – Grant Application for NOCS Charity - Cllr Lacey-Clarke declared an interest as he is integrally involved in NOCS and, although it is not a pecuniary interest, he confirmed he would leave the room during discussion and voting.
- 130.4 Agenda Item No. 9.1.1 – Grant Application for the Town Team - Cllr Mieville declared an interest as Town Council representative to the Town Team but it was confirmed he did not need to.
- 130.5 Agenda item 15.1 – Cllr White declared an interest in this agenda item as he is a neighbour of the applicant and will not vote.

131. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26TH NOVEMBER 2018

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Stevens, SECONDED by Cllr Robinson, and AGREED (10 in favour, 1 non-vote) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

132. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

- 132.1 Carol Tompsett, Chairman of Bryanston Parish Council has written to thank the Mayor for inviting her and her husband to the tree lighting ceremony and Carol Service on Friday 7th December. She has also thanked everyone involved in organising the events, which were very enjoyable and marked the start of Christmas for them. Cllr Tompsett also passed on her thanks and appreciation, on behalf of Bryanston, for the beautiful Christmas decorations around Blandford and said the town looks really festive.
- 132.2 Allotments – Councillors considered requesting a long-term lease from NDDC for the provision of allotment land at Philip/Elizabeth Road at the last meeting and NDDC has confirmed that it is subject to formal Member approval, but it is not anticipated that there will be any rent payable for the lease and therefore the costs will be restricted to the Town Council's own legal fees.
- 132.3 Davis Gardens Update – The Town Clerk has written to the daughters of the doctors the diseased tree was dedicated to, seeking their views on a suitable replacement.

133. CIVIC REPORT

The paper was sent to Councillors via email.

134. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES

134.1 Finance and Staffing Committee Meeting held on Monday 10th December 2018

134.1.1 Blandford Town Team – Previous grant awarded 2016/17 for £480.00 to cover Room Hire

It was PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED (8 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions) that

A grant is approved for room hire of the Community Room for a period of one year (6 meetings).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

134.1.2 New Opportunities for Community and Support (NOCS) – First Request

Cllr Lacey-Clarke left the room at 7.36pm.

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

It was PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Lindsay and AGREED (7 in favour, 3 abstentions, 1 non-vote) that

A grant of £1,000.00 is approved for this financial year to meet a proportion of the rental costs and equipment, and the Committee advised that they would look favourably upon a further grant during the 2019/20 financial year.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr Lacey-Clarke returned to the room at 7.37pm.

134.1.3 To consider extending the Service Level Agreements beyond 31st March 2019

It was PROPOSED by Cllr S Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED (10 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council amends the period for the Service Level Agreement from two years to three years for the CAB.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Quayle but NOT AGREED (4 in favour, 6 against, 1 abstention) that the Town Council holds off the requests until a business plan is produced to show the viability of the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

It was then PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings and AGREED (8 in favour, 3 against) that

The Town Council increases the Citizen's Advice Bureau Service Level Agreement from £2,000 to £2,500 a year for a three-year period.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

It was PROPOSED by Cllr S Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings and AGREED (7 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions, 1 non-vote) that

The Town Council amends the period for all Service Level Agreement from two years to three years.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings and AGREED (9 in favour, 1 abstention, 1 non-vote) that

The Town Council agrees to extend the Service Level Agreements for a further three years:

- **Fashion Museum £2,000**
- **TREADS £4,000 a year**
- **Town Museum £2,000**
- **Information Centre £2,000**
- **Stour Valley Band £1,500 (service provision agreement)**
- **Blandford Youth & Community Centre £15,000**

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

134. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES (CONT.)

134.1.4 Consideration of the overall budget for the year 2019/20 and recommendation of the precept for 2019/20 (please note this is a draft document for Councillor consideration and it includes the committee recommendation above)

It was PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED (10 in favour, 1 against) that

The draft budget is finalised at the Town Council meeting in January, subject to receipt of the necessary figures from NDDC.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

135. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE TOWN TEAM REGARDING THE INSURANCE COVER FOR THE SIGNS ON THE BYPASS

The paper was noted (See Appendix A).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED (10 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council considers the request from the Town Team and agrees to add the signs to its insurance portfolio at the Town Team's cost, subject to clarification on the issue of ownership when making a claim and an annual review of the cost agreement (excess/premium etc.).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

136. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE FREE EXPRESSION ARTS FESTIVAL

The paper was noted (See Appendix B).

The Operations Manager advised that the Remembrance banners were only put up as a one off for the Centenary event. There are no proper hooks on the Corn Exchange façade to attach these to, they were attached to the radiator in the Town Hall and the gates in the Shambles, preventing them from being opened.

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

The Town Council considers the request from the Free Expression Arts Festival and does not agree to hanging banners on the front of the Town Hall prior to and during their event on the 15th September 2019 due to Health and Safety reasons. The Town Council offers advertising on the AV screen which is due to be installed or banners on the railings.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

137. TO APPROVE THE COUNCIL DIARY FOR 2019/20

The paper was noted (See Appendix C).

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

The Town Council approves the council diary for 2019/20.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

138.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +

Cllr Carter advised that at the next meeting in January the group will consider the results from the Reg 14 Consultation.

138.2 14-18 Working Group (First World War Centenary)

No update.

138.3 Corn Exchange Working Group

The Town Clerk advised that the architect has been in to perform further surveys at the Corn Exchange, but there is no further update.

138.4 Public Art Plan Working Group

The Town Clerk advised that the first consultation has been delivered and responses are coming in slowly.

139. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

None.

140. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

140.1 2/2018/1680/HOUSE – 28th November 2018 – Mr B Lockyer – 10 Newman Close – Erect 1 No. two storey extension

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED (10 in favour, 1 non-vote) that

The Town Council has no objections to the application, as there is limited impact on amenity of neighbouring property.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

140.2 2/2018/1677/FUL – 3rd December 2018 – Cawdor Construction Devs Lt – 1 Overton Walk – Erect dwelling and attached garage. Form new vehicular and pedestrian access and 2 No. parking spaces.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings and AGREED (9 in favour, 2 abstentions) that

The Town Council objects to the application on grounds of overdevelopment and highways access.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

141. **CONFIDENTIAL**

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

The public and press may be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity might be prejudicial to the public interest as per the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

141.1 Town Clerk's Report

Nothing to report.

141.2 To consider a request regarding the future of the Old Bath House

The paper was noted (See Appendix D).

Cllr Clark declared an interest in this agenda item and left the room during discussion and voting.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Quayle and AGREED (9 in favour, 1 abstention, 1 non-vote) that

The Town Council have considered the request and advice and agree to put the building on the open market.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 8:27pm.

SIGNED

DATED