

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town & General Purposes Committee
Held on Monday 18th November 2019 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange



PRESENT

Cllr H Mieville – Chairman	Cllr R Holmes – Vice Chairman
Cllr L Lindsay – Chairman of Council	Cllr L Hitchings – Vice Chairman of Council
Cllr P Osborne	Cllr B Quayle
Cllr C Stevens	Cllr P Clark
Cllr A Cross	

IN ATTENDANCE

Assistant Town Clerk	Nicci Brown – Press, arrived at 7.09pm
Paul Starkey – Dorset Council Highways	Rob Hammond – Blandford Police Representative
Catherine Chapman – Blandford Business Support Group	

SITTING IN

Cllr S Hitchings	Cllr H White
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13. PUBLIC SESSION

- 13.1 Cllr Osborne gave an update from Mrs Donovan from Action Against Foxhunting, who spoke about the Hunt on Boxing Day at the Town Council meeting on 8th July 2019. Mrs Donovan spoke to the Police who recommended that Portman Hunt should request a road closure for the day; however, this has not been done in time for this year's event.

14. APOLOGIES

Blandford Town Team

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

Cllr Quayle declared an interest in agendas item 8.3 as he is a member of the Blandford Arches Railway Trust. He will take part in the discussions but will not vote.

16. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH JULY 2019

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

17. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

- 17.1 Small Christmas Trees – The shops and business in Blandford Forum have been very supportive contributing to the small Christmas trees. So far over 30 contributions have been made, which includes businesses outside of the town centre.
- 17.2 Christmas decorations – The Town Council has received two negative comments on Facebook. One states that the Town Council spent £44,000 on the new lights, which look cheap and nasty. The person was informed that this is not the case and the expenditure on the lights has been confirmed. The other comment states that £17,000 on lights is a lot of money and the Town Council should have just put a tree in the Market Place and given the rest to charity.

18. GENERAL UPDATES FROM:

18.1 Blandford Business Support Group

Mrs Chapman introduced herself and explained the reasons for setting up the group. It has been running for nearly two years and is therefore the longest running business support group in Blandford. The group meets at Mrs Chapman's offices on the first Thursday of each month at 8.30am. Any issues including accounting or tax are discussed and Cllr Lacey-Clarke provides regular updates to the group. The first AGM was held in October and therefore they are now a constituted group. Mrs Chapman would like to include all businesses in Blandford Forum going forward, so they can support each other. She would like for the Town Council to help promote the group and listen to any concerns. If the group expands, they would potentially request for a meeting room.

Cllr Mieville enquired about the difference between this group and the previous Blandford Business Group and the Chamber of Commerce. She is unable to comment as she was not involved in either of those groups.

Cllr Cross asked how many businesses are involved in the group. Mrs Chapman confirmed that between four and 12 businesses are attending the meetings.

Cllr S Hitchings mentioned the BIDs in other towns and wanted to know Mrs Chapman's opinion. She has spoken to various people and does think it is a good idea.

18.2 Blandford Police

PC Hammond advised that Sgt James Dimmack left the team to move to a different position and they will be advertising for a new Sergeant in the next few weeks. It is planned that PC Hammond will be back on full duties in the new year. PC Hammond reported that due to the ANPR cameras they have been able to make various arrests and target drug drivers in the recent weeks. Previously Blandford has been targeted by the County Lines, but this is being tackled. In the coming weeks they will be working with partner agencies visiting pubs, targeting drink driving and bad behaviour.

PC Hammond told Councillors that they had 102 incidents last October, compared to 113 this October. Last October there were 59 crimes and 43 non crimes, compared to 54 crimes and 59 non crimes this October. PC Hammond provided a breakdown of the crimes to the Committee.

Cllr Holmes enquired how the Police knew about the professional beggars and how to identify them. They were identified through Facebook.

PC Hammond thanked the Town Council for the CCTV and ANPR cameras and thanked the volunteers viewing the system for their commitment.

Cllr Mieville thanked PC Hammond for attending.

18.3 Market Manager

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

18.4 Town Team

Apologies were noted.

18.5 Parking Review Working Group

Cllr Quayle reported that there is no update on the parking review and he is unable to provide a timeframe as it is currently being worked on. The review has to go through various departments at Dorset Council. It is taking longer than he had hoped but he is striving for an actual change which includes the infrastructure of the town.

19. DCC HIGHWAYS

Mr Starky spoke regarding agenda item 7.1 and explained that there is often a perceived speed issue. A speed indicator tube could be installed for a week to perform an analysis, at a cost of £300. Speed humps are not installed anymore. Cllr White is of the opinion that Blandford Forum should be

19. DCC HIGHWAYS (CONT.)

20mph throughout the town centre. Cllr Quayle said he had spoken to Mr Skeats at Dorset Council Highways who confirmed that there is a certain criterion that needs to be met to change the speed limit. Cllr Quayle explained that he is having discussions with the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment at Dorset Council to work on the criteria.

Regarding agenda item 7.2 Mr Starky reported that the safety team investigated the right turning from Langton Long this year and decided that it is not necessary to make a change. Vegetation has been cleared to provide a better view and the situation is being monitored. Cllr Quayle spoke to Cllr Brown, Dorset Councillor for Langton Long. He recommended the Town Council to send a letter to Cllr Brown to request a no right turn from Langton Long.

Cllr S Hitchings requested, through Cllr Quayle, for the information from the Safety team to be sent to the Committee to see why it did not meet the criteria.

ACTION: CLLR QUAYLE

Cllr Lindsay left the meeting at 7.51pm.

Regarding agenda item 7.3 Mr Starky confirmed that a white line will be installed at Damory Court Street next month.

Cllr Lindsay returned to the meeting at 7.54pm.

Cllr Holmes spoke regarding agenda item 7.4 and explained that there are posters all along the bypass. These are not being removed after the event and she asked why Dorset Council don't remove them. Mr Starky confirmed that he is the person picking them up. Cllr Lindsay confirmed that the Town Council has taken a more relaxed view on fly-posting for local events and if there are any issues, they should be reported to Dorset Council directly.

Cllr White asked if white lines at the traffic lights coming from Shaftesbury Lane into town can be put down to reduce the speed. Mr Starky confirmed that he will look into it.

Cllr Stevens left the meeting at 7.56pm.

Cllr Cross spoke about the pinch points and parking along Milldown Road and enquired if there is some way that this could be dealt with. It was confirmed that yellow lines were requested previously by Dorset Council, but the Town Council was not in favour of it at the time.

Cllr Stevens returned to the meeting at 7.59pm.

19.1 To consider traffic calming measures in Edward Street

The paper was noted (See Appendix B).

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

The Committee approves expenditure of £300 for traffic monitoring tubes in Edward Street using budget line 1021 DCC Highways (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

The Committee supports efforts to establish a 20mph in Zones 1 and 2 of the Parking Review.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

19. **DCC HIGHWAYS (CONT.)**

- 19.2 To request a no right turn from Langton Long onto the bypass and a no right turn from the bypass to Langton Long (as requested by Cllrs L Hitchings and Holmes)

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

The Committee writes a letter to Cllr Brown, Dorset Councillor for the area, in support of a no right turn from Langton Long onto the bypass and a no right turn from the bypass to Langton Long.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

- 19.3 To request a white line on the corner of Charles Street/Damory Court Street (as requested by Cllr L Hitchings)

No vote took place as Mr Starky confirmed that a white line will be installed next month.

- 19.4 To consider the increase of fly-posting in Blandford Forum and to request for Dorset Council to take appropriate action (as requested by Cllr Holmes)

The response from the Highways Officer was noted.

20. **REVIEW OF TOWN & GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGETS TO 29TH OCTOBER 2019**

- 20.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

- 20.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

- 20.3 Reserve Accounts (to 25th October 2019)

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

21. **TO CONSIDER FURTHER PUBLIC ART AT BADBURY HEIGHTS/PERSIMMON**

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

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

The Committee agrees to use the remainder of the S106 monies to keep in reserves for maintenance works of the Public Art installation along Shaftesbury Lane.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

22. **TO SET THE FREE PARKING DAYS FOR 2019 AND 2020**

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

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

The Committee agrees to request the following free parking days for 2019 and 2020;

- **11th December and 21st December 2019 for all car parks**
- **7th December and 14th December 2019 for Sheep Market Hill and Market Place**
- **11th April 2020, Easter weekend**
- **8th and 9th May 2020 for VE Day**

22. TO SET THE FREE PARKING DAYS FOR 2019 AND 2020 (CONT.)

- 5th December, Small Business Saturday
- 9th or 11th December 2020 for Yuletide Festival (Date TBC)
- 12th and 19th December, Christmas Parking

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

23. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGE POINT IN LARKSMEAD CAR PARK

The paper was noted (see Appendix H).

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

The Committee would like to explore the option of an EVCP in Larksmead car park, in light of this new information.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

24. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2020/21 AND RECOMMENDATION TO TOWN COUNCIL

24.1 Revenue Budget

The paper was noted (see Appendix I).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED (8 in favour, 1 against) that a **RECOMMENDATION is made to the Finance & Staffing Committee that**

The Town & General Purposes Committee Revenue budgets are approved for the 2020/2021 financial year.

ACTION: FINANCE & STAFFING COMMITTEE

24.2 Earmarked Reserves

The paper was noted (see Appendix J).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED (8 in favour, 1 against) that a **RECOMMENDATION is made to the Finance & Staffing Committee that**

The Town & General Purposes Committee Earmarked Reserves are approved for the 2020/2021 financial year.

ACTION: FINANCE & STAFFING COMMITTEE

24.3 Reserve Accounts

The paper was noted (see Appendix K).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Stevens and AGREED (8 in favour, 1 non-vote) that a **RECOMMENDATION is made to the Finance & Staffing Committee that**

The Town & General Purposes Committee Reserve Accounts are approved for the 2020/2021 financial year.

ACTION: FINANCE & STAFFING COMMITTEE

The meeting closed at 8:49pm.

SIGNED: DATED: