

**BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7:02pm in the Corn Exchange**



**PRESENT**

Cllr L Lindsay – Chairman  
Cllr H White  
Cllr S Hitchings  
Cllr R Carter  
Cllr C Jacques  
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke  
Cllr C Stevens

Cllr L Hitchings – Vice Chairman  
Cllr P Clark  
Cllr B Quayle  
Cllr R Holmes  
Cllr P Osborne  
Cllr J Stayt  
Cllr H Mieville

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Town Clerk  
Operations Manager  
David Jardine – Poppy Appeal  
John Scott

Assistant Town Clerk  
Nicci Brown – Press  
Tom Snape – Cricket Club

**152. PUBLIC SESSION**

- 152.1 Cllr Holmes spoke about the person that vandalised the area by Holland Way and the cemetery with white paint. She hopes that the Police will follow it up and that the offender will have to clean it up. The Town Clerk confirmed that she will follow it up with the offender when she meets with him and the Police.
- 152.2 Tom Snape spoke on behalf of the Cricket Club. He is currently running on a 7% overspend, which equates to £30,000. This does not include the £13,000 overspend to the roof. He is looking for consent from the Town Council to pay for remedial works to the exiting roof, the soak away and veranda. He would like to apply for a loan from the ECB at a reasonable rate. This would allow them to continue with some overheads, which would also include buying a kitchen. To obtain the loan they would need a legally binding 25-year tenancy agreement with the Town Council.
- 152.3 David Jardine, on behalf of Robert Taylor, presented a Poppy Appeal corporate certificate to the Town Council. He also presented a 5-year certificate to John Scott.

**153. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Quayle gave the report this month.

- 153.1 Parking Review – Councillors Quayle and Lacey-Clarke are looking into a full feasibility work together with Dorset Council. A local consultation will be held in April following the feasibility work. Cllr Quayle will give a presentation to Town Councillors in March.
- 153.2 Dorset Council Budget – The budget has been passed with substantial support from the two major political parties.
- 153.3 Dorset Plan – The Plan was passed on 18<sup>th</sup> February and will provide direction until 2024.
- 153.4 Executive Advisory Panel – It is planned for an EAP to look into youth service offerings within the county.
- 153.5 Blandford Library – The library will be closed for refurbishment from 9<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> March. These will be internal works only and further external works are planned for later in the year.

**153. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS (CONT.)**

- 153.6 Community Grant Consultation – The consultation is still open, and Cllr Quayle requested for Councillors to complete the survey. The Community Grant scheme considers direct contributions to voluntary organisations.

**154. APOLOGIES**

Cllr D Russell

Cllr A Cross

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

Cllr Quayle declared an interest in agenda item 11. He will remain in the room but not take part in the vote.

**156. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Quayle and AGREED (12 in favour, 2 abstentions) that the Town Council Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED, subject to changing the word Interest to Information in Minute 142.5.

**157. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE**

- 157.1 Royal Corps of Signals – The first meeting has been held between the Camp, the Police and the Town Council to discuss the Freedom Parade taking place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020 to mark the centenary of the regiment.

- 157.2 Staffing – A new groundsman is starting on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020.

- 157.3 Events – The evening with Kate Adie went very well and raised funds for The Community Kitchen. The free Mr Merlin event held last Friday was also successful, with excellent feedback from parents.

- 157.4 Parish Church – The Reverend Canon Jonathan Triffitt has written to advise that, at the request of the Bishop of Salisbury, he is to begin a six months secondment as the Interim Director of Mission, Ministry & Communication for the Diocese of Salisbury. This secondment will officially commence on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020. During this time, he will be based in Salisbury for four days a week, whilst retaining a Blandford presence two days a week including Sunday, though his parochial responsibilities will be reduced during this period of time.

**158. CIVIC REPORT**

The paper was sent to Councillors via email.

**159. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

None.

**160. CRICKET CLUB**

- 160.1 To consider expenditure authority for additional works to the existing pavilion

The paper was noted (See Appendix A).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Stayt and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention) that

**The Town Council agrees to approve expenditure for essential works to be carried out to the existing pavilion, taking funds of £13,117.66 + VAT from General Reserves (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**160. CRICKET CLUB (CONT.)**

**160.2 To consider a request for a loan**

The paper was noted (See Appendix B).

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

**The Town Council writes to the Cricket Club to request further information on the details of the loan before the request is discussed further.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**160.3 To consider a request for a formalised legal agreement to enable the Club to see additional funding**

The paper was noted (See Appendix C).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Osborne, SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings and AGREED (12 in favour, 2 against) that

**The Town Council approves the request for a formalised legal document to secure their use of the pavilion and recreation ground for at least the next 25 years along with associated expenditure for half the cost of the legal fees (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**161. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE PARISH CHURCH TO DISPLAY THE BASTARD BROTHER PORTRAITS**

The paper was noted (See Appendix D).

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

**The Town Council approves the request from the Parish Church to display the two Bastard brother portraits from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March to Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, providing the relevant insurance is in place.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**162. RAILWAY ARCHES – TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM BRAT AND EXPENDITURE APPROVAL FOR ESSENTIAL WORKS**

The paper was noted (See Appendix E).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Stayt and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 non-vote) that

**The Town Council approves for BRAT to organise the relocation of the panel and to raise funds for this.**

**The Town Council approves expenditure of £4,793 + VAT for the required works to enable public access to the arches using funds from the Railway Arches budget line (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**163. TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR PORTABLE TOILETS FOR THE SKATE PARK EVENT 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020**

The paper was noted (See Appendix F).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Quayle, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 abstention) that

**The Town Council approves all expenditure for this event, including the hire of two standard and one disabled toilet for £260+VAT, using budget line R&A Earmarked Reserves instead of General Reserves (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism ACT 2011 S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**164. TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR THE TOILET CLEANING CONTRACT FOR 2020/2021**

The paper was noted (See Appendix G).

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

**The Town Council approves the renewal of the cleaning contract with the existing contractor for a period of one year only, using funds of £7,439.96 from budget line 6650 (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

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

**165.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +**

The paper was noted (See Appendix H).

Cllr Carter advised that the referendum is on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020, to coincide with the Police and Crime Commissioner election. The Town Council is able to advertise the referendum but not allowed to canvas for it. The next Steering Group meeting is on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the referendum and decide how the Plan will be incorporated into Town Council business.

**165.2 BFTC Commemoration Group**

No update.

**165.3 Public Art Plan**

Cllr Osborne reported that the Public Art is in production and the installation date will be beginning of April, instead end of March.

**165.4 Corn Exchange**

Cllr Clark gave an update on the meeting with The Morton Partnership, who carried out the historic condition survey.

**165.4.1 To consider a recommendation from the Working Group to progress the project and approve expenditure**

The paper was noted (See Appendix I).

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

165.4.1 To consider a recommendation from the Working Group to progress the project and approve expenditure (cont.)

**The Town Council agrees to appoint Ingham Pinnock Associates to progress the project using funds of £5,600 from the Corn Exchange Regeneration Reserves (n/c 1105) committed for this purpose (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

165.5 VE75 Planning Group

165.5.1 To confirm the VE & VJ bench design and associated expenditure

The Chairman left the meeting at 8.29pm.

The paper was noted (See Appendix J).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Holmes, SECONDED by Cllr Jacques and AGREED (11 in favour, 3 against) that

**The Town Council approves the bench design by a local graphic designer and associated expenditure of up to £1,200 using funds from the New Benches budget line (1042) (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

The Chairman returned to the meeting at 8.30pm.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr White and AGREED (11 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention) that

**The Town Council will only install one bench.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

Cllr Lacey-Clarke left the meeting at 8.34pm.

165.6 Climate Change & Biodiversity

Cllr Osborne reported that the Carbon Footprint report has been completed and distributed to Councillors. The next working group meeting is scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> March.

The Town Clerk reported that the Littler Pick Board outside the Corn Exchange has been well received. Unfortunately, the two litter pickers have been stolen and will be replaced next week.

165.7 Dorset Council Grant to support the Market Area Enhancement Project

The next meeting is scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> March and an update will be provided at the next Town Council meeting.

## **166. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

166.1 The latest meeting minutes from the Secondary School Foundation meeting were distributed by Cllrs Carter and Mieville.

The meeting closed at 8:37pm.

SIGNED .....

DATED .....