

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
Held on Monday 25th November 2019 at 7:00pm in the Corn Exchange



PRESENT

Cllr Lindsay – Chairman
Cllr H White
Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr J Stayt
Cllr P Osborne
Cllr R Holmes
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke
Cllr C Stevens

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Operations Manager
Barrie Cooper
Cllr Andrew Kerby – Blandford Youth and Community Centre
Jo Clarke – Blandford Youth and Community Centre

Assistant Town Clerk
Nicci Brown – Press

103. PUBLIC SESSION

103.1 Jo Clarke spoke regarding the very busy Blandford Youth and Community Centre. She explained the different sessions the centre is running and the activities they are offering. They are now a one stop shop providing support for young people; offering uniform, food parcels and advice on personal health. The Blandford Youth and Community Centre is working with various partnership organisations, including the Police.

Cllr Carter enquired about the number of young people they are catering for. Mrs Clarke advised that last week they had 148 children.

Cllr Osborne thanked the youth centre for making him feel welcome and for opening the youth centre for one of the volunteers to celebrate his birthday.

Cllr White and the Chairman of Council thanked Jo Clarke for all the great work that takes place.

103.2 Mr Cooper spoke about the Parking Review, outlining the initial project timeline, which has not been met. He is asking for an update on the timescale as soon as possible. Mr Cooper referred to the T&GP Minutes from 18th November 2019 where Cllr Quayle reported that he is looking to incorporate infrastructure changes. Mr Cooper would like to know what this entails. Cllr Quayle will respond in his Dorset Council report.

104. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS

Cllr Quayle gave the report this month.

104.1 Permit Scheme – The Dorset Council permit scheme for road and street works undertaken by utility companies is currently under consultation to comment on by residents, with the deadline of 6th December.

104.2 Milldown Play Area – The Dorset Council is looking to have the play area updated by Spring 2020 and have earmarked £52,000 for this.

104.3 The Rangers Visitor Centre – The Rangers would like to not just have a visitor centre but create a North Dorset park, which requires substantial funding.

104. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS (CONT.)

- 104.4 Climate and Ecological Emergency – The Dorset Council has changed the name of the group and further information on future plans is available on the Dorset Council website.
- 104.5 Highways – A white H-line will be installed on the corner of Charles Street. Cllrs Quayle and Lacey-Clarke are working on further recommendations, as well as looking into a 20mph in Edward Street.
- 104.6 Making Blandford Special Event – A follow up event will be held on 3rd December at 10am at the Methodist Church, to talk about the issues that arose during the first event. All Councillors are welcome to attend.
- 104.7 Parking Review – Cllr Quayle responded to Mr Cooper regarding the parking issues, including the lack of parking at the Blandford Hospital. 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. Cllr Quayle explained that just installing white or yellow lines would achieve very little and therefore the whole infrastructure needs to be looked at. This could include parking in Damory Street, a car park at the DWP Wimborne Road depot and changing streets to be one-way. However, this requires funding and conversations with various departments, i.e. Parking, Highways and Conservation. He wants to see actual change and he is aware that it is taking longer.
- 104.8 Dorset Council Plan Consultation – The consultation runs until 28th December and he will welcome any feedback from Councillors.

Cllr Carter spoke about the bollards placed on the junction opposite Holland Way. They seem to have improved the safety of the road and Cllr Carter enquired if double yellow lines will be installed. Cllr Quayle reported that double yellow lines could be installed as no-one should park opposite a junction, however the survey didn't meet the required criteria. This has been taken up with the relevant Portfolio Holder in the hope that the criteria can be changed.

- 104.9 To consider submitting a response to the Dorset Council's Plan 2020-2024 (circulated to Councillors by email on 28th October 2019 and available online at: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/your-council/about-your-council/dorset-council-draft-plan/dorset-council-plan.aspx>)

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

The Town Council approves delegated authority to a Working Group, consisting of Cllrs Carter, White, Stayt, Osborne and Lindsay to formulate a Town Council response to the Plan. The outcome will be e-mailed to all Councillors for comments, before submitting a response to the Dorset Council.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

105. APOLOGIES

Cllr H Mieville

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

Cllr Quayle declared an interest in agenda item 9. He will stay in the room but will not take part in the discussion and will not vote.

107. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28TH OCTOBER 2019

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Holmes, SECONDED by Cllr Stayt and AGREED unanimously that the Town Council Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED, subject to an amendment to Minute No 84.1, changing Mrs Williams to Mr Williams.

108. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

108.1 Donation – The Town Council has received a cheque from Durweston Parish Council for £300.00 as a contribution to the public conveniences.

108.2 Newsletters – The Blackmore Vale Magazine is no longer able to distribute the Town Council's newsletters with the Magazine to our 7,000 households in the town. Legislation has been checked and this is not a legal requirement and we will still comply with the Local Council Award Scheme for Quality Gold if we continue with other methods of distribution. The Town Clerk has also checked with fellow clerks and many do not distribute a paper copy of their newsletter. This would also be in line with our Climate Change & Biodiversity Action Plan to reduce on use of paper as 7,000 copies are printed each time and the printer is used to do this. The budgets have been checked and we can increase our news items and articles in the Forum Focus instead which covers the majority of residents in the town. Cllr Jacques suggested email newsletters and Cllr Holmes suggested approaching the Royal Mail for distribution of the leaflets (door to door service).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

108.3 Remembrance – The feedback for this event has been very positive apart from the sound, which is an annual complaint. A meeting has therefore been arranged with a sound technician in December to explore options, for which costs will be presented to the Town Council for consideration in January.

108.4 Toilets/TIC – The developer for the site has updated the Town Council to confirm that he was refused planning consent at the appeal and is therefore 'back to square one'. He gathered from the inspectorate's decision that the building was too big and the residential element failed on the sequential test. A wholly commercial building possibly would be permitted provided it was a lesser height/bulk so instead of four storey it may be two storey, possibly rising to three storey as it got closer to Magnolia Court. With regards to timelines, he confirmed that at best a planning consent on the site is at least a year away, and then to build it out another year. In light of this information, officers have sought a quote to carry out essential refurbishment works to the toilets and this will be brought back in due course.

108.5 Bryanston School – A new relationship has been forged with the school since the arrival of the new Headmaster. Since then, the school attended the Remembrance service in the churchyard and the Town Council lent them a WW1 soldier silhouette for their Field of Remembrance at Bryanston School. The Reverend Jo Davis at Bryanston School wrote to thank the Town Council for this loan stating that the 'overall effect was very powerful, and so many people have commented on how special it was'.

109. CIVIC REPORT

The paper was sent to Councillors via email.

110. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES

110.1 Recreation & Amenities Committee Meeting held on Monday 11th November 2019

The Minutes were RECEIVED

110.2 Town & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 18th November 2019

The Minutes were RECEIVED

111. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE AND CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR THE RAILWAY ARCHES

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

Cllrs Carter and Cross thanked officers for their hard work on this project.

Cllr Clark left the meeting at 7.57pm.

Cllr Clark returned to the meeting at 8.03pm.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Cross, SECONDED by Cllr White and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 non-vote) that

The Town Council does not approve the proposed location of the large interpretation panel at the top of the arches/railings.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Osborne and AGREED (9 in favour, 5 against, 1 non-vote) that

The Town Council retrospectively approves the additional expenditure, to be covered by s106 monies and the balance of £1,614 to be taken from the Railway Arches budget line (Expenditure Authority; General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8), however no further money is spent on this project until further information on the legalities of relinquishing the lease and ongoing costs to the Council have been determined. In the meantime, supervised visits can take place.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Nicci Brown confirmed that BRAT would like to contribute financially.

112. TO APPROVE THE COUNCIL DIARY FOR 2020/21

The paper was noted (See Appendix B).

Cllr S Hitchings provided the background on merging the Blandford Yuletide Festival and the tree lighting event and the initial thought is 4th December 2020. The Carol Concert could take place on 9th December.

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

The Town Council approves the Town Council Diary for 2020/21.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

113. TO CONSIDER RENEWING THE FOUR-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH MVS BLANDFORD LTD

The paper was noted (See Appendix C).

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

The Town Council approves the renewal of this agreements for a four-year period from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2023.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

114. TO CONSIDER NOMINATING PROPERTIES FOR INCLUSION ON THE COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID REGISTER

The paper was noted (See Appendix D).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Stayt, SECONDED by Cllr White and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 against) that

The Town Council nominates Common Lane car park as it provides much needed amenity and service space to the town.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

The Town Council nominates the Post Office, as it is a building used by the community and should not be made available to property developers.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

It was PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 against) that

The Town Council nominates Nordon, as it is a community hub, surrounded by car parking and land, in a residential area, which is in line with Dorset Council policy. It is a valuable local heritage asset, and architectural special for the area.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

The Town Council nominates the Library as it has the potential to be a hub for the community, in a central area of the town.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

The paper was noted (See Appendix E).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Quayle and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council does not retrospectively approve the installation of the water tank, until further information has been received about the possible requirement of planning permission.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

116. TO RECEIVE THE FINAL ACCOUNT FOR WOODHOUSE GARDENS PAVILION EXTENSION AND RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR THE PROJECT OVERSPEND

The paper was tabled (See Appendix F).

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

116. TO RECEIVE THE FINAL ACCOUNT FOR WOODHOUSE GARDENS PAVILION EXTENSION AND RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR THE PROJECT OVERSPEND (CONT.)

The Town Council retrospectively approves expenditure using funds of £679.68 from the PPM budget line (Expenditure Authority; General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

117.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +

Cllr Carter gave an account of the hearing and thanked the Project Co-Ordinator for all her hard work.

117.2 BFTC Commemoration Group

Cllr Carter reported that there is no update.

117.3 Public Art Plan

Cllr Osborne reported that the artist has started the fabrication of the Public Art.

117.4 Corn Exchange

Cllr Clark updated Councillors that the Dorset Property Team are currently not engaging with the Town Council. A new architect needs to be chosen, with the decision being brought back to a Town Council meeting.

117.5 VE75 Planning Group

Cllr Lindsay left the meeting at 8.46pm.

Cllr Stevens explained that the day will be run like the Georgian Fayre, with road closures, stalls and music stages. The idea is to have tables and chairs in the Market Place for people to enjoy the music until 10pm, with the roads being re-opened at 11pm. The next meeting is in January.

117.6 Climate Change & Biodiversity

Cllr Lindsay returned to the meeting at 8.50pm.

Cllr Osborne advised that the Town Clerk sent the Climate Change & Biodiversity Action Plan plan to Low Carbon Dorset, with positive as well as constructive feedback being received back. This will be analysed, and any work will start in the new year. He also attended a seminar on the matter at which the Town Council's Plan was praised and information provided on next steps

117.7 Dorset Council Grant to support the Market Area Enhancement Project

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Stayt and AGREED (12 in favour, 3 abstentions) that

