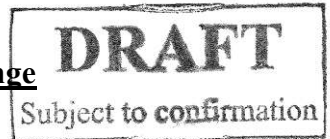


BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
Held on Monday 28th October 2019 at 7:00pm in the Corn Exchange



PRESENT

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Operations Manager
Libby Lloyd, Youth Support Worker TREADS
Kayleigh Herbert
Liz Rawlings
Joyce Carter

Assistant Town Clerk
Nicci Brown – Press
Mark Williams, TREADS
Yvonne Mieville
Sam James

84. PUBLIC SESSION

- 84.1 Mark Williams thanked the Town Council for the grant received again this year. TREADS have now been operating for 22 years. They are leaving their current premises and moving to a new one in April 2020, to reduce overheads and to ensure more of the funding goes to the frontline. Mr Williams introduced Mrs Lloyd, the main project worker. Mrs Lloyd explained that TREADS work very closely with The Blandford School putting on various workshops each week. The bullying workshop is very popular. They also started offering workshops for young girls covering sensitive topics, as well as courses for volunteering, for people with difficulties at school. TREADS operate a drop-in centre for referrals from GP's. Mrs Lloyd told Councillors that they are hoping to offer workshops on obesity and healthy living soon. Mrs Williams explained that TREADS works closely with Dorset Council and follows their strategic direction. Cllr Mieville enquired if TREADS works closely with the youth centre. It was confirmed that they are to an extent and are hoping to have a much closer working relationship. However, both centres are offering different functions currently. Mrs Lloyd explained that the youth centre is too big for some of the TREADS visitors because of the number of children attending. Cllr Carter thanked TREADS for the fantastic job they're doing. He enquired if they will receive funding from Dorset Council going forward and if so for how long. Mr Williams advised that it is not certain if they will receive funding again but has confirmed that it is critical to them. Cllr Cross enquired if they have a positive relationship with the social support worker at The Blandford School? Mrs Lloyd confirmed that they do. The Chairman thanked both Mr Williams and Mrs Lloyd for attending the meeting and providing a report to Council.
- 84.2 Sam James spoke regarding the Corn Exchange stage. He thanked the Town Council for the support of Oh No It Isn't, which is funded by ten local businesses. Last year, and again this year, they have been giving people from the autistic spectrum an opportunity. A high percentage of visitors to the panto came from outside of Blandford. The decision Councillors are taking on the stage is making a difference to the wider community. A good stage brings people into the town, who are then spending money in local businesses. The stage, the lighting and the acoustics need to be looked at to bring in more acting to the Corn Exchange.

85. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS

Cllr Lacey-Clarke gave the report this month.

- 85.1 Dorset Community Impact Fund – Charities and residents have until midnight 10th November to apply to one of the four grants available under this fund.
- 85.2 Highways – Dorset Council and Highways have held various meetings regarding the paving slabs. Cllrs Lacey-Clarke and Quayle are arranging a demonstration of the proposed materials to be used in Blandford. Cllr Lacey-Clarke thanked residents and Councillors who reported the pothole in Damory Street, which has been dealt with. They have received positive feedback from residents that the cones placed in Fairfield Bungalow/Heddington Drive/Holland Way are making a difference to cars and buses driving in the area. Cllr Mieville enquired if there is an update on the Parking Review. Cllr Lacey-Clarke responded that there is no update as yet.
Cllr Cross queried the funding of the pavement slabs. Cllr Quayle confirmed that there are a number of pots but nothing specific has been set aside. Cllr Lindsay advised that the Working Group is looking into it and meeting again.
- 85.3 Milldown Play Area – The play area is in need of updating, and meetings are being held.
- 85.4 Dorset Plan – Cllr Lacey-Clarke requested for comments and feedback. The Dorset Councillors will report further updates at the November Town Council meeting.
- 85.5 Making Blandford Special again – The event was well attended, and groups got together networks and discuss how to make the town the best it can be.

86. APOLOGIES

None

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

Cllr Quayle declared an interest in agenda item 11 as a member of the Railway Arches Trust. He will stay in the room but not take part in the discussions or vote.

Cllrs Lacey-Clarke and Quayle declared an interest in agenda item 16.3.1.

88. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30TH SEPTEMBER 2019

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 abstention) that the Town Council Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

89. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr S Hitchings arrived at the meeting at 7.28pm.

- 89.1 Citizens Advice Dorset – Daniel Cadisch has written to thank the Town Council for the £2,000 grant for 2018/19. He has said that “they are a small local charity reliant on grants and donations for the continuation of the service and they are therefore very grateful for the Council’s ongoing support”.
- 89.2 Elizabeth Road Allotments – Councillors will be aware that an approach has been made to the Dorset Council for the freehold of the Elizabeth Road allotment land, which has been received favourably, and is awaiting approval by the town’s Dorset Councillors and the Cabinet.

89. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE (CONT.)

- 89.3 Town Team Insurance – Councillors will recall that it was agreed that the signage insurance costs be included in the Town Council's insurance cover, which is paid to the Town Council by the Town Team. This has now been set up and invoiced.
- 89.4 Toilets – Pimperne Parish Council has agreed to pay £50 towards the running of the public toilets.
- 89.5 Legacy – A £10,000 legacy has been left to the Barnes for a Recreation Trust for improvements at Park Road Recreation Ground. Unfortunately, this was done confidentially so we cannot acknowledge this generous donation.
- 89.6 Africa Trust – The Town Council has recently purchased two hot water boilers, one for Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion and one for the Corn Exchange kitchen. The company these were purchased from donates on behalf of their customers to the Africa Trust. These funds are used to directly build fresh drinking water wells in areas in Africa where it is needed the most, like in schools and villages. They have selected the Town Council to aid the project that they are running which involves installing additional water wells (which are referred to as Elephant Pumps) in Africa. They have requested that we put a badge on our website and will provide us with an article, to be published in the Forum Focus. Once the badge is on the website, they will begin the installation of the Elephant Pump. The pump will be inscribed with the Town Council's name and a photo, a certificate and letter of thanks from the villagers / pupils will be presented to us.

90. CIVIC REPORT

The paper was sent to Councillors via email.

91. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES

None.

92. TO RECEIVE THE APPROVED EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR 2018/19 AND TO NOTE THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

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

The Town Council receives and notes the External Auditor's report and notes there were no recommendations.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

93. TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS FROM DAPTC FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The paper was noted (See Appendix B).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED (15 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council supports Motion 1 from Sherborne Town Council as detailed in Appendix B.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

93. **TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS FROM DAPTC FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (CONT.)**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Quayle and AGREED (15 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council supports Motion 2 from Langton Matravers Parish Council as detailed in Appendix B.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

It was PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED unanimously (7 in favour, 1 against, 8 abstentions) that

The Town Council does not support Motion 3 from Chideock Parish Council as detailed in Appendix B.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED (15 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council supports Motion 4 from Hazlebury Bryan Parish Council as detailed in Appendix B.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Motion 5 was noted voted on as it is the Town Council's own motion.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED (10 in favour, 3 against, 3 abstentions) that

The Town Council does not support Motion 6 from Lulworth Parish Council as detailed in Appendix B.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED (15 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council does not support Motion 7 from Beaminster Town Council as detailed in Appendix B.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Russell, SECONDED by Cllr Osborne and AGREED (14 in favour, 2 abstentions) that

The Town Council supports Motion 8 from Langton Matravers Parish Council as detailed in Appendix B.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

The Town Council supports Motion 9 from Weymouth Town Council as detailed in Appendix B.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

94. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE RAILWAY ARCHES**

The paper was noted (See Appendix C).

Councillors noted the update and will consider this item on 25th November once further information has been received.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

95. **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 White, SECONDED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke and AGREED unanimously that

The Town Council agrees to re-nominate the Methodist Church, the Royal British Legion and the Knees Up Hall on the Community Right to Bid register because these community buildings are an asset to the town, are important architecturally and offer services to the town which fall in line with Dorset Council policies.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The Chairman decided that this item will be brought back to the next meeting so Councillors have time to think of other buildings they would like to add to the register.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

96. **TO ADOPT AN ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT FOR THE WEBSITE**

The paper was noted (See Appendix E).

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

The Town Council approves and adopts the website accessibility statement.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

97. **TO CONSIDER ADOPTING A CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN AND APPROVE INCLUSION OF NON-COUNCILLORS TO THE WORKING GROUP**

The paper was noted (See Appendix F).

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

The Town Council approves the Climate Change & Biodiversity Action Plan and approves non-Councillor membership of the working group.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr Osborne is attending a Dorset Council seminar on 19th November. At the last Working Group meeting a speaker from Dorset Community Action attended, who recommended the Climate Action Fund bids from the National lottery for any grant funding. However, this is not applicable to the Working Group currently as the projects are not of enough impact. Cllr Osborne thanked officers for the changes that have been made already.

98. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN PROJECTS

The paper was noted (See Appendix G).

The Chairman thanked Officers for the work on the projects.

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

99.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +

The B+NP Public Hearing is taking place on Tuesday 12th November, commencing at 9.00am in the large Meeting Room (The Badgers Sett) at The Crown Hotel, Blandford Forum.

A site visit will take place in the morning, with agreed participants being invited to suggest viewpoints / discussion points. Representatives supporting the B+NP will include Roger Carter, O'Neill Homer, Dorset Council (Planning & Education), Wyatt Homes and Savills. Sally Gardner will be taking the meeting notes. Representatives opposing the B+NP will include CCAONB, Pimperne PC, Local Resident & Wates Development.

The examiner has sent out a detailed agenda and discussion notes for the Hearing. It is expected that the Hearing will mainly focus on the policies B2 & B3 - proposing development on Land to the NE Blandford. The Examiner has indicated previously that, in order to retain policies B2/B3 he will need to reach a different conclusion than the previous examiner, so the B+ working assumption is that he is making certain that he can make a contrary judgement on the merits of the Plan to avoid challenge later.

The key argument / main driver for the development proposed within B+NP is the provision of the new 2FE Primary School. Discussions will no doubt circulate around whether the associated (and necessary) housing development, situated in and adjacent to the AONB, can be justified on the grounds of 'Public Interest'.

99.2 BFTC Commemoration Group

No update.

99.3 Corn Exchange

99.3.1 To consider the stage plans and recommendations from the working group

The paper was tabled (See Appendix H).

Cllr Carter gave an update on the meeting with the Conservation Officer and Historic England. It was a successful meeting, and both have been very helpful and supportive.

Councillors approved the plans for the stage, in principle, subject to the findings of the historic condition survey.

This item will be discussed further in a confidential session at the end of the Town Council meeting.

99.4 Public Art Plan working group

99.4.1 To note the requested amendments (distributed to Councillors 14th October 2019)

The amendments were noted.

Cllr Lindsay left the meeting at 8.01pm.

99. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE AND CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FROM THE (CONT.):

Cllr Lindsay returned to the meeting at 8.04pm.

99.5 VE75 Planning Group

99.5.1 To consider various requests

The paper was noted (See Appendix I).

There are no expenditure requests to date and Forum Drama has sadly withdrawn their request for a performance, due to logistics and ill health.

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

The Town Council agrees the value of the prizes for the Window competition, with 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize being donated to a local charity of choice by the winner (which will be publicised), as;

1st Prize £150.00, 2nd Prize £100.00, 3rd Prize £ 50.00 and Charity/not for profit organisation £50.00 with the funds being taken from budget line T&GP Tourism (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

The Town Council appoints the following judges; the Town Mayor, the Chairman of the T&GP Committee, the editor of the Forum Focus, the Mayor's Scout and Guide and a representative of the RBL.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

99.6 Dorset Council Grant to support the Market Area Enhancement Project

The paper was tabled (See Appendix J).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Lindsay and AGREED (13 in favour, 3 abstentions) that

The Town Council accepts the document.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

100. TO CONSIDER RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION PAPER THAT SETS OUT THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENDED APPROACH FOR THE 2020 TO 2021 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT WITH A DEADLINE OF 31ST OCTOBER 2019 – <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-finance-settlement-2020-to-2021-technical-consultation>

The paper was noted (See Appendix K).

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

The Town Council approves the draft response.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

101. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

101.1 BSSF governors meeting held 9th October 2019, minutes provided by Cllr Carter (distributed by email on 14th October 2019)

The report was noted.

Councillors agreed that it was necessary to go into confidential session to continue discussions about the Corn Exchange project.

102. CONFIDENTIAL

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings 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.

The Chairman decided to take a break at 8:15pm.
The meeting convened at 8.30pm.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Stayt and AGREED (15 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council terminates the contract with the Corn Exchange architect.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

The Town Council votes in favour of the draft plans to progress the overall project.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 8:41pm.

SIGNED **DATED**