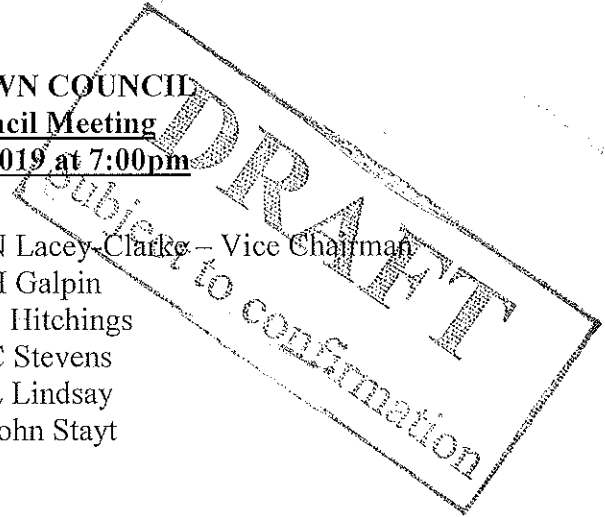


BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
Held on Monday 29th April 2019 at 7:00pm



PRESENT

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

Cllr N Lacey-Clarke – Vice Chairman
Cllr H Galpin
Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr C Stevens
Cllr L Lindsay
Cllr John Stayt

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Assistant Town Clerk
Cllr B Cooper
Members of the public

Operations Manager
Nicci Brown – Press
Cllr J E T Tanner

190. PUBLIC SESSION

190.1 Cllr White thanked Cllr Jackie Stayt for her efforts and contributions over the last 12 years, which was echoed by the Chairman of Council.

190.2 Cllr Galpin thanked the Council for the last 18 years and wished everyone well in the elections.

191. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLORS

191.1 Cllr Quayle – Nothing to report.

191.2 Cllr Cooper – Nothing to report. Cllr Cooper will continue to take a keen interest in the town going forward.

191.3 Cllr Tanner – Thanked the Town Council for 24 years of a being a District Councillor and for being able to work with this Council.

191.4 Cllr N Lacey-Clarke – Nothing to report.

191.5 Cllr J Stayt - Apologies

191.6 Cllr T Handford – Not in attendance.

Cllr Carter thanked all District Councillors for their regular attendance and reports.

192. APOLOGIES

Cllr Jackie Stayt

Cllr D Robinson

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

193.1 Cllr S Hitchings declared an interest in agenda item 8 as he knows the resident personally, and will leave the room during the discussion and voting.

194. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25TH MARCH 2019

It was PROPOSED by Cllr John Stayt, SECONDED by Cllr Clark and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 non-vote) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

195. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

- 195.1 Churchyard – The Activity Consultant currently working on a funding bid for Blandford Forum Parish Church has written to ask if the Town Council would agree to projects to include the following:
- Working with Dorset Wildlife Trust to create a 'Living Churchyard' through planting some pollinator-friendly plants and making the churchyard more wildlife-friendly
 - Taking part in the project 'Caring for God's Acre' which involves surveying the wildlife
 - Running a small 'club' for people to tend one small 'wildlife-friendly' area of the churchyard
- The Town Clerk asked Councillors if they had any objections and their only concern was any increase in maintenance for the grounds staff. The Town Clerk will write to the consultant to find out if it is possible to agree in principle, subject to further details.
- 195.2 SLCC Meeting – The Town Clerk was voted in to continue to be the Dorset Branch Mentor for the Society of Local Council Clerks and is now the Deputy Branch Representative for the National Forum.
- 195.3 Deputy Mace Bearer – The Town Council advertised this post and one candidate was interviewed by the Chairman of Council, Chairman of Finance & Staffing, Town Clerk and the Mace Bearer. It was unanimously agreed to appoint the candidate with a starting date of 7th May 2019, to coincide with the new council.
- 195.4 Accessibility – A resident has expressed disappointment about the Town Council hosting an event with a local business who is not providing disabled access to their new property in the town centre.

196. CIVIC REPORT

The paper was sent to Councillors via email.

197. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM A RESIDENT REGARDING ERECTING A FENCE AT KINGSTON CLOSE AMENITY AREA

Cllr S Hitchings left the room at 7.14pm.

The paper was noted (See Appendix A).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Clark, SECONDED by Cllr Quayle and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 non-vote) that

The Town Council approves the residents' request to extend their boundary by approx. 1m onto Town Council land to allow them to install a new fence, replacing the rotten and damaged on currently there and clearing the vegetation taken on from NDDC.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr S Hitchings returned to the room at 7.16pm.

198. TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY FOR A REPLACEMENT MOWER

The paper was noted (See Appendix B).

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

The Town Council approves the expenditure of £6,200.00 using funds from the accruals budget line (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

199. TO CONSIDER EXTENDING THE CURRENT IT SUPPORT CONTRACT

The paper was noted (See Appendix C).

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

The Town Council approves the expenditure of £5,000 + VAT from the IT Maintenance & Software budget line for IT support (being ten days of engineering time at a cost of £500.00 per day) (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

200. TO ADOPT A SALE OF ALCOHOL POLICY FOR TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS IN THE CORN EXCHANGE

The paper was noted (See Appendix D).

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

The Town Council adopts the Sale of Alcohol Policy for Town Council events in the Corn Exchange.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

201. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN PROJECTS

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

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

202.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +

Cllr Carter advised that an examination date is expected soon.

202.2 BFTC Commemoration Group

The group is preparing for the D-Day Commemoration on 8th June.

202.3 Corn Exchange

202.3.1 To consider proceeding with associated works to refurbish the stage area

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

Cllr L Hitchings requested that the Working Group looks at disabled access from the stage to the back entrance.

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

The Town Council notes the contents of the report and proceeds with the proposals (tabled). The architects are also asked to proceed with pre-app with HE, discussions with Conservation/Planning on the pre-app advice received to date and the subsequent planning application for the approved proposals. Councillors noted that a structural survey and M&E consultants are in the process of being appointed to carry out the relevant surveys prior to any plans being finalised.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

202.4 Public Art Plan Working Group

202.4.1 To consider the specification of the public art for Badbury Heights and confirm the bench locations and designs

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

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

The Town Council agrees to publish the brief as well as contact artists, with the final design choice being voted on by Badbury Heights residents and confirms the bench locations and designs as detailed in the report (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

203. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

203.1 BLCCG – A report for the Blandford Leisure Centre Consultative Group was distributed by Cllr Lindsay.

204. CONFIDENTIAL

It was PROPOSED by L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Clark 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 7.39pm.

The meeting continued at 7.43pm.

204.1 To consider nominations to present a certificate of appreciation to members of the community

The paper was noted (See Appendix H).

204.1 To consider nominations to present a certificate of appreciation to members of the community (Cont.)

Nomination A

It was PROPOSED by Cllr S Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Stevens and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 against) that

The Town Council accepts the nomination for A.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

204.1 To consider nominations to present a certificate of appreciation to members of the community (Cont.)

Nomination B

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr White and AGREED (11 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council accepts the nomination for B.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Nomination C

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Quayle and AGREED (10 in favour, 3 against) that

The Town Council accepts the nomination for C.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Nomination D

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

The Town Council accepts the nomination for D.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

204.2 To receive a report on amenity land and consider how to proceed

The paper was noted (see Appendix I).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr John Stayt, SECONDED by Cllr Osborne and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 against) that

The Town Council agrees to allow the small section highlighted in the report to remain, with the proviso that it is put back to its original state when it has to be replaced.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

204.3 To receive feedback from the agent/developers on the Allotment land and consider how to proceed

There is no update.

204.4 To receive an update on the Old Bath House and consider how to proceed

The paper was noted (see Appendix J).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville but NOT AGREED (5 in favour, 6 against, 2 abstentions) that the Town Council declines the offer and attempts to obtain planning permission for an entrance from Church Walk, then put the Old Bath House on the open market with a reserve of £20,000.

It was then PROPOSED by Cllr Osborne, SECONDED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke and AGREED (7 in favour, 5 against, 1 abstention) that

204.4 To receive an update on the Old Bath House and consider how to proceed (Cont.)

The Town Council declines the offer and resolves to appoint an architect (and approves associated expenditure) to apply for planning permission to create an entrance from Church Walk but reserves the decision to put the Old Bath House on the open market (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8), using funds from the Old Bath House/Town Pump/ Churchyard budget line.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 8:23pm.

SIGNED

DATED