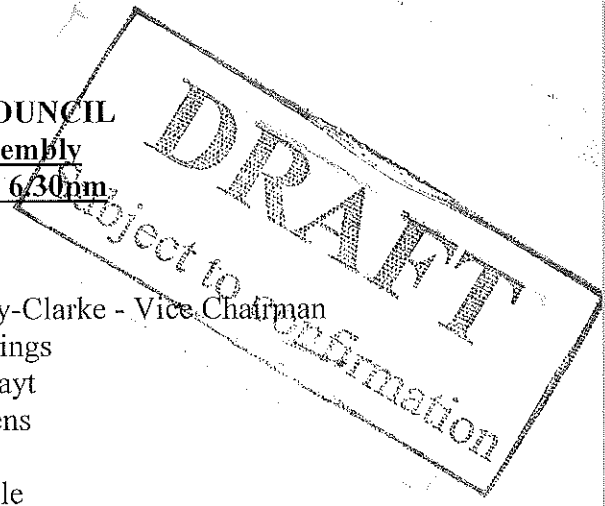


BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Town Assembly
Held on Monday 15th April 2019 at 6.30pm



PRESENT

Cllr R Carter - Chairman
Cllr L Lindsay
Cllr H White
Cllr Jackie Stayt
Cllr L Hitchings
Cllr P Osborne
Cllr H Mieville

Cllr N Lacey-Clarke - Vice Chairman
Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr John Stayt
Cllr C Stevens
Cllr P Clark
Cllr B Quayle

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Assistant Town Clerk
Jo Clarke – Youth Centre
Nic Nicol – Town Team
Mark Williams – Treads
John Tanner – Age Concern
Members of the public

Operations Manager
Nicci Brown – Press
Kate Seeger – Free Expression
Bruce Harding – Stour Valley Band
Daniel Cadisch – Citizens Advice Bureau
Helen Smith – Dorset ME Support Group
Kathryn Reed – Fashion Museum

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr D Robinson

Cllr H Galpin

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY HELD ON 16th APRIL 2018

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Jackie Stayt, SECONDED by Cllr Osborne and AGREED unanimously that the Minutes are APPROVED and SIGNED.

3. CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL'S REPORT

The Chairman of Council, Cllr Carter, read his annual report for the year 2018/2019.

4. QUESTIONS

4.1 Richard James thanked the Council for all its achievements over the year. He would like to know what the Town Council is doing about the current situation with the Nordon building. Cllr Carter advised that a decision from the Secretary of State is awaited.

4.2 Nic Nicol asked what improvements are going to be done to the Corn Exchange and how the money will be spent. Cllr Carter advised that the Town Council is still in consultation with the architect and conservation officer. The priorities are the leaking roof, the stage and making the building safe. The Town Clerk explained further about the issues with this building and Mr Nicol wishes everyone luck with this project.

5. PRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

5.1 Youth Centre, Jo Clarke – Mrs Clarke gave a presentation about what the youth centre offers, how many volunteers they have and that they have young people sign up every week. She explained what skills they provide to the young people, what activities they have on offer each night, helping with various issues and when they are open. She explained about the additional help they receive from the Williams Williams charity to support the young children. They will be open four days a week very soon. Cllr Carter thanked her for the presentation and for all the youth centre provides for the youth.

5. PRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS (CONT.)

- 5.2 Free Expression, Kate Seeger – Mrs Seeger thanked the Town Council for all the support and explained that she is planning another festival for September. She is trying to include the whole community and is in the process of completing various funding application forms. She would also like others to come on board and help with the event. Cllr Carter thanked her for all the hard work.
- 5.3 Town Team, Nic Nicol – The Town Team was incorporated in November and is working on the promotion of the Blandford area. The Town Team is currently viable for another two years, supported by two sponsors. The Town Team is working on providing bikes for hire on the Trailway. Another project is to provide mobility scooters for people. A few months ago, they achieved the introduction of the tourist signs, with support from the Town Council. They are in full support of partial pedestrianisation of the Market Place and would like to help with the introduction of the tourism app. The AGM is on 23rd May in the Community Room, Town Clerk's Office. Cllr Carter thanked Mr Nicol for his report and the support the team gives to the town.
- 5.4 Stour Valley Band, Bruce Harding – The Stour Valley Band provides 10 performances a year to the Town Council as part of their Service Level Provision. The instruments cost a lot of money and they do charge a small amount for their performances. They have 25 member and are looking to recruit more members. Cllr Carter thanked the Stour Valley Band for their outstanding performances.
- 5.5 Tread, Mark Williams – Mr Williams thanked the Town Council for the support. Treads has been in operation for 22 years and Mr Williams explained the difference between Treads and the Youth Club. In the long term they will be working more closely together. He spoke about the different challenges young people face these days. Cllr Carter thanked Treads for the hard work they are doing.
- 5.6 Citizens Advice Bureau, Daniel Cadisch – The team had another busy year and the demand in their services increases every year. The range and complexity increased, and people are coming with more than one issue to the CAB. More than 50% of clients have got serious health or mental health issues. The team do a lot of research and campaign work, based on evidence from their clients. They are now based at the Parish Centre and Mr Cadisch thanked Reverend Jonathan Triffitt for making this possible. He also thanked the Food Bank for providing food parcels. He thanked the Town Council for a further extension to the SLA. Cllr Carter thanked the CAB for all they provide to the residents of Dorset.
- 5.7 Fashion Museum, Kathryn Reed – The Fashion Museum has been in town since 1996. She thanked the Town Council for the grant they receive and reported what they spend their money on. All members are volunteers and they rely on donations and entrance fees. 65% of visitors come from a 30-mile radius. The museum provides talks, lectures and workshops. The majority of the money is spent on the restoration of the original and authentic costumes. Cllr Carter thanked the museum and said it was the hidden gem of Blandford.
- 5.8 Cllr Barry Cooper – Cllr Cooper reported that this will be the last Town Assembly he will be attending as a Councillor. He has been a Councillor since 1984. He thanked all Councillors and staff for working with him to make Blandford a better place. He wishes everyone well in the future. Cllr Carter thanked him, on behalf of all Councillors, for all he has done for the town.
- 5.9 Dorset ME Support Group, Helen Smith – She would like to thank the Town Council for the grant, which has been used for mainly social events for their members. Ms Smith explained what activities they provide to the members with this chronic and long-term illness. Cllr Carter thanked Ms Smith for this great work.

5. PRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS (CONT.)

5.10 Age Concern, John Tanner – He advised that they’re looking for a replacement for Mrs Bunnagar. They’re going from strength to strength. He reported that they’re now providing a home service and gave an example of how they support residents. He thanked the Town Council for the support. Cllr Carter thanked him for his report.

The Chairman thanked all for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 7:45pm.

SIGNED

DATED

