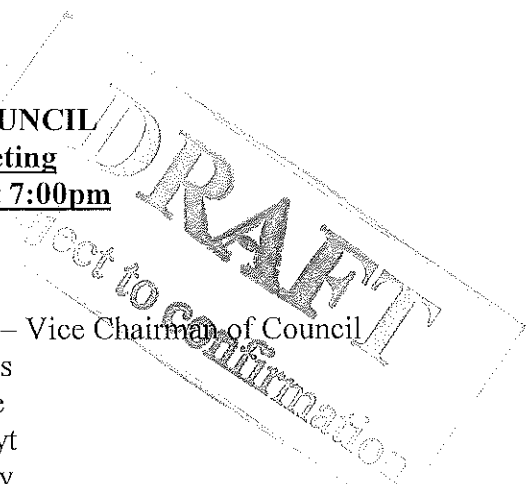


**BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7:00pm**



**PRESENT**

Cllr P Clark – Chairman  
Cllr H White  
Cllr D Robinson  
Cllr Jackie Stayt  
Cllr H Galpin  
Cllr P Osborne  
Cllr H Mieville  
Cllr S Hitchings – late arrival

Cllr R Carter – Vice Chairman of Council  
Cllr C Stevens  
Cllr B Quayle  
Cllr John Stayt  
Cllr L Lindsay  
Cllr L Hitchings  
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Town Clerk  
Grounds & Property Manager  
Administrative Assistant  
District Cllr B Cooper  
John Turnbull

Assistant Town Clerk  
Responsible Financial Officer  
Nicci Brown – Press  
District Cllr J Tanner

**151. PUBLIC SESSION**

151.1 Mr Turnbull explained that he does not consider that the current process of selecting an architect for the Corn Exchange Project Board meets the Public Contracts Regulations. He explained that the Royal Institute of British Architects provides a service that will advise on process and potential architects. He outlined the institutes of accreditation that he believes are required to take this project forward. Mr Turnbull suggested that not all architects were given a fair playing field when invited to quote. The Chairman asked what Mr Turnbull was trying to achieve. Mr Turnbull explained that he wanted to see the right process and the right project for this building to become viable for the community. Cllr Lacey-Clarke enquired which process Mr Turnbull considers that the Town Council has not followed. Mr Turnbull explained that he believes the Public Contracts Regulations procurement process has not been followed and the current tenders have not been provided with a level playing field. The Town Clerk explained that she, and her colleagues, are familiar with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and that this is an initial process, in line with both the Financial Regulations and the Public Contracts Regulations. Officers are currently using Contracts finder, in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations, for the Persimmon play area. The information provided tonight is not enough to make a final decision and this will be explained when the agenda item is discussed.

Cllr S Hitchings arrived at the meeting at 7:11pm.

151.2 Cllr Stevens asked Cllr White to thank the Stour Valley Band for the concert in the church last week. It was a very enjoyable night, however Cllr Stevens was disappointed in the number of people attending, particularly Councillors.

151.3 The Assistant Town Clerk reported that there was a similar lack of turnout at the Parking Review on the same day.

**152. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

152.1 Previous Question - Cllrs Lee Hitchings and Lacey-Clarke contacted Cllr Quayle about road resurfacing which was happening in Charles Street and why residents had not been informed. As reported previously a

## 152. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR (CONT)

number of roads in Blandford are due for surface dressing later in the year. In preparation for this work a number of degraded areas or potholes will need to be addressed to get roads up to a standard where they can be surfaced dressed. This is what's happened in Charles Street last week. Unfortunately, due to the condition of Charles Street, a larger area had to be addressed. In most cases, this inconvenience is just a small area or even just a pothole. DCC should have put up signboards before informing residents that work would be carried out in their area. Cllr Quayle will be discussing this issue with the Surface Dressing Site Agent to find a way to mitigate any further issues where residents are not informed. Bayfran Way was done today, Nordon Road is due to be done Tuesday/Wednesday and Salisbury Road on Wednesday.

- 152.2 Dorset Joint Area Committee 18<sup>th</sup> January - At the last meeting of the Joint Committee the structural change order was discussed and voted on. This involves a lot of information which can be accessed online at <https://dorsetareacouncils.wordpress.com/agendas-reports-and-minutes/>. Two main areas which the council may be interested in are: Name - Dorset Council and DJAC voted on two 5-year terms from 2019 to link into other regional council cycles. This would include town and parish councils.
- 152.3 Lidl Bus Service – A number of residents have complained to Cllr Quayle about the service not meeting expectations. He has been in discussions with the transport team at DCC and Damory. Currently the service provider will look at the feasibility to move the existing bus stop or at installing a hard standing. If residents wish to complain about this service, they will need to complain to NDDC who is responsible for why this service has been provided in this way. Cllr Quayle urged Councillors to log formal complaints to NDDC about this issue.
- 152.4 S106 Funding - Due to the successful S106 grant of £30,000 Cllr Quayle is intending to apply for a further £19,000 from the Lidl money and would like the Town Council support for this application.
- 152.5 Waste and Cycle consultation - Both consultations close on the 31<sup>st</sup> January.
- 152.6 Cllr Stevens enquired when Anne Close would be completed and Cllr Quayle agreed to look into this matter.

**ACTION: CLLR QUAYLE**

- 152.7 Cllrs White and Osborne raised concerns about the Joint Committee information being communicated and that it is not being communicated well enough. Cllr Quayle clarified that the Joint Committee asked for a Boundary Review and the Secretary of State requires a fall-back position if the review is not completed in time. The proposal for two-member wards amounting to 82 councillors is the fall-back position.
- 152.8 Cllr Robinson suggested that the Lidl bus information, and how to complain, is published on Facebook. Cllr Quayle confirmed that he would do this. Cllr Lindsay explained that it is a very expensive, £2-50 return, service and is also empty.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Quayle for his report.

## 153. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- 153.1 Cllr John Tanner – Cllr Tanner reported that the new hub at Nordon will be open on the 15<sup>th</sup> February, and that he is also trying to arrange a meeting of the Nordon Project Board to revisit what is happening to the remainder of the site. The latest update being that the preferred developer has prepared plans for the site but none have yet been submitted. A decision has been made by North Dorset District Council that Town and Parish Councils will pay for contested elections. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee discussed the procedures that it will follow in procurement for the Leisure Centres in 2019.

**153. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (CONT)**

- 153.2 Cllr Cooper – Cllr Cooper reported that the dog warden service, currently outsourced to SDK, will now be provided in house.
- 153.3 Cllr Lacey-Clarke – Cllr Lacey-Clarke reported that he had many people approach him complaining about the Lidl bus. North Dorset District Council will not act unless there is a catalogue of complaints and urged Councillors to submit them. The original agreement was for two extra buses an hour and one extra stop which is not what has been made available. The bus stop is also not on the Lidl site, but next to it which is not in spirit of what was planned.
- 153.4 Cllr Jackie Stayt – Cllr Jackie Stayt reported that she has visited the hub and that it is very well thought out and something Blandford Forum can be proud of.
- 153.5 Cllr Handford – Apologies.

**154. APOLOGIES**

None

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

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

**A dispensation is granted to all Councillors, except Cllrs Galpin and L Hitchings (as they do not live in Blandford Forum), to enable them to participate in discussion and vote on the setting of the council tax.**

**156. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr John Stayt and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 abstention) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

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

- 157.1 Freedom of the Town – The Town Clerk received a phone call from an ex-councillor who, with a group of residents, wanted to nominate Cllr Butler as a Freeman of the Town. The Town Clerk confirmed that the honour had already been accepted by Cllr Butler's family who will be presented with the scroll at the Mayor Making Ceremony on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
- 157.2 Staffing Update – The Assistant Town Clerk's last day is Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 and the Mayor's Secretary has been successful at interview for the role. A new Mayor's Secretary will now be recruited.
- 157.3 Precept – NALC has reported that the government intends to defer the setting of referendum principles for town and parish councils for three years.

**158. CIVIC REPORT**

The paper was tabled (see Appendix A).

Cllr White left the meeting at 7:47pm.

**159. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

159.1 Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017

159.1.1 To confirm the overall budget and precept for the year 2018/19 (originally discussed at the Finance & Staffing Committee meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017)

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

Cllr S Hitchings explained when the Finance & Staffing Committee initially looked at the budget it had an 8.09% increase. Subsequently staff and Cllr S Hitchings looked at it again and were able to adjust it to a 6.81% increase. Cllr S Hitchings also explained that North Dorset District Council's collection rate is now 98%.

Cllr White returned to the meeting at 7:50pm.

Cllr Lindsay congratulated staff and Cllr S Hitchings on working hard to get the budget down while still maintaining services and projects that the Town Council is committed to.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Jackie Stayt and AGREED (10 in favour, 3 against, 2 abstentions) that

**The Town Council confirms the precept for 2018/2019 at £757,881, which equates to an increase of 6.81% on the Band D figure, which now amounts to £219.79.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

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

160.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +

The project has now been handed over to the Project Administrator. The grant funding available is less than already awarded and officers are working to secure a new grant. Documentation to agree a scope of works with the Local Planning Authority is also being prepared.

The Chairman thanked the Assistant Town Clerk for her time with the Town Council and presented her with flowers. The Assistant Town Clerk thanked Councillors.

160.2 14-18 Working Group (First world War Centenary)

Cllr Carter reported that the next Khaki Canteen would be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> February and invited Councillors to attend.

160.3 Corn Exchange

160.3.1 To receive the recommendations from the Working Group

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

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

**The Town Council approves the recommendations by the working group and appoints Councillors Carter, Lindsay, S Hitchings, Stevens, Clark and Robinson to the working group and instructs officers to amend the Planning Remit accordingly.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

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

**160.3 Corn Exchange (cont)**

**160.3.1 To receive the recommendations from the Working Group (cont)**

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

**The Town Council delegates authority to the Working Group to review the proposals in full and for a recommendation to be brought back to a future Planning or Town Council meeting for a decision.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**161. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE TOWN TEAM REGARDING THE PROPOSED SIGNAGE ON THE BYPASS**

The paper was tabled (see Appendix D).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr S Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings and AGREED (9 in favour, 6 against) that

**The Town Council would like to revisit the project but is clear that ‘Blandford Forum’ and ‘Unique Georgian Town’ must be included on the signs as well as the crest.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**162. TO CONSIDER THE DATE AND ORGANISATION OF THE CIVIC TREE LIGHTING EVENT**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Jackie Stayt, SECONDED by Cllr Lindsay and AGREED (10 in favour, 3 against, 2 abstentions) that

**The Yuletide Festival and the Tree Lighting event are kept separate.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**163. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

**163.1 Blandford Leisure Centre - Cllr Lindsay**

The report was distributed to all Councillors on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

The meeting closed at 9:10pm.

SIGNED .....

DATED .....

