

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town & General Purposes Committee
Held on Monday 19th February 2018 at 7.02pm

PRESENT

Cllr H Mieville – Chairman
Cllr R Carter – Vice Chairman of Council
Cllr Jackie Stayt
Cllr B Quayle

Cllr L Hitchings – Vice Chairman
Cllr P Clark – Chairman of Council
Cllr C Stevens
Cllr D Robinson

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Nicci Brown – Press
Youth Advisors

Assistant Town Clerk
PCSO J Burt – Blandford Police

SITTING IN

Cllr H White
Cllr Lacey-Clarke – late arrival

Cllr S Hitchings

44. PUBLIC SESSION

Cllr Stevens talked about the Man Shed project, which already exists in Shaftesbury and Dorchester. It is a chance for retired trades people to come together. Blandford Forum will have its first meeting on Thursday 22nd February 2018 at 12pm in the Library to prepare a draft for this project, set it up and get it registered. Cllr Stevens invites Councillors to attend.

45. APOLOGIES

Mrs Moore – Blandford Business Group

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

Cllr Stevens declared an interest in Agenda item 10 and will take part in the discussions but will not vote.

47. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th NOVEMBER 2017

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Stevens, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED (7 in favour, 1 abstention) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

48. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

48.1 Tabernacle Bench – The Town Clerk informed Councillors that the circular cedar bench is going to be installed on Monday 26th February and it will take two weeks to install. One of the Rotary Clubs has agreed to pay for it. NDDC have now confirmed that it would not be straightforward to transfer the land to the Town Council, due to issues on ownership.

48.2 Bicycle Racks – The DCC consultation has now ended and feedback received from the public was positive.

48. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE (CONT.)

48.3 Dog Warden Hours - The Assistant Town Clerk has received confirmation from NDDC that the additional hours requested last year will not be carried out now, as the contract with SDK has come to an end. At this stage it is not clear if NDDC will offer any extra patrolling hours.

49. GENERAL UPDATE FROM

49.1 Blandford Business Group

The report was tabled (see Appendix A).

Cllr Mieville updated Councillors about his recent meeting with Mrs Moore and read out her report. He will meet again with Mrs Moore to keep discussions open.

49.2 Blandford Police

PCSO Burt reported on the latest crime figures for January and February. Blandford's overall crime rate has dropped. Blandford had 22 reported crimes compared to Bridport having 43 and Gillingham 46 in January. In February, Blandford had 22 reported crimes, Bridport 30 and Gillingham 23. The crime figures are based on the reports coming into the control room. North Dorset's rate is 5% compared to the overall force. Inspector Danny Thompson has now taken over from Inspector Rob Chalkley permanently.

Cllr Robinson enquired if there will be any links with the new Game On shop as younger and older people will be mixing and how online use will be policed. PCSO Burt will be looking into it and will visit the shop.

Cllr White enquired about the use of the police low loader that carries vehicles using the space in front of the Police station and asked that the Police look into using the space behind the Police station instead.

One of the youth advisors enquired if the police could introduce themselves to the school. PCSO explained that due to the reduced staffing and the project 'safe the schools' the local police officers are not visiting schools anymore. He requested for specific areas where they could visit and will look into going to see groups of young people.

Cllr Clark thanked PCSO Burt for his report and the statistics he provided. Cllr Quayle also thanked the Police for all the work they do.

PCSO Burt reported that three of the cameras were not working when he needed to look at them and suggested to replace them with better quality ones.

The Chairman brought agenda item 8 forward as PCSO Burt was in attendance.

49.2.1 TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE APPROVAL FOR AN UPGRADE OF THE CCTV CONTROL EQUIPMENT AND CAMERAS TO HD

PCSO Burt reported that the current cameras are ten years old, the quality is very poor, and it is very hard to see any detail. He explained that, with newer cameras, it would be easier to see crimes and potential witnesses. He offered for Councillors to have a look at the existing system at the police station.

The paper was noted (see Appendix H).

49.2.1 TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE APPROVAL FOR AN UPGRADE OF THE CCTV CONTROL EQUIPMENT AND CAMERAS TO HD (CONT.)

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Clark, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED unanimously that a RECOMMENDATION is made to full Council that

The Committee approves expenditure for a new system (one recorder and four cameras), providing other quotations are sought and presented to Councillors.

ACTION: TOWN COUNCIL

49.3 Market Manager

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

The Market Manager talked about his report and provided further information. Discussions were held with the youth advisors around the planned youth markets.

49.3.1 To consider and adopt a Tenant Mix Policy

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

The policy is not ready to be adopted yet and the item will be brought back to the July 2018 T&GP meeting, after consultation with stall holders.

ACTION: MARKET MANAGER

49.4 Parking Review Working Group

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

Cllr Quayle reported on the current stage of the Parking Review, explaining the data review and areas that the Steering Group will be looking at. He explained the Parking Review to the youth advisors and requested for their feedback to be sent in.

50. REVIEW OF TOWN & GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGETS TO 30TH JANUARY 2018

50.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

50.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

50.3 Reserve Accounts

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

50.4 To consider the virement of unspent funds

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Jackie Stayt, but NO VOTE took place that the Committee commits £3000 towards employing a dog warden.

50.4 To consider the virement of unspent funds (Cont.)

It was then PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr P Clark and AGREED unanimously that

The Committee asks officers to explore the possibility of employing a dog warden service up to the expenditure of £3000 and will discuss the virement of funds at the next T&GP Meeting on 16th July 2018.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

51. TO CONSIDER PRODUCING A CALENDAR FOR 2019 WITH PROCEEDS GOING TO THE MAYOR'S CHARITIES

The paper was noted (see Appendix I).

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

The Committee approves the purchase of 200 calendars at a cost of £399.00 (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

52. TO AGREE NDDC'S FREE PARKING DAYS IN THE TOWN

The paper was noted (see Appendix J).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED (7 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Committee agrees that two of the four remaining free parking days are for Monday 7th May for the Georgian Fayre and Saturday 15th September during Dorset Architectural Heritage Week.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr S Hitchings asked the Committee to note the request from the Yuletide Festival for a free parking day, which will fall into next year's allowance.

53. TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE APPROVAL FOR THE SUMMER BEDDING AT £2,426.90 + VAT (WAS £2,487.91 + VAT IN 2017)

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

The Committee approves the summer bedding at £2,426.90+VAT (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

54. DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:

54.1 DCC Orders – Various Roads, Blandford – Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting

The paper was noted (see Appendix K).

Cllr Quayle explained that patients complained to the hospital that one-hour parking limit is not enough. During the Parking Review he received the feedback that people support the two-hour parking limit.

54.1 DCC Orders – Various Roads, Blandford – Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting (Cont.)

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

The Committee supports the changes to the parking restrictions along Jubilee Way.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

54.2 To consider expenditure approval for a grit bin to be located on Windmill Road

Cllr Quayle explained that he has received feedback from residents who would benefit from a grit bin. Cllr L Hitchings enquired if Dorset County Council would refill the bin for us. The Town Clerk explained that it depends if the bin is classed as strategic or community.

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

The Committee approves the expenditure of up to £400 for a grit bin to be located on Windmill Road from budget line 1021 DCC Highways. (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

54.3 To consider a parking request from a resident who is a First Responder

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED (7 in favour, 1 against) that

The Committee does not support this request due to long term implications for other requests.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 9:07pm.

SIGNED: **DATED:**

