

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
Held on Monday 11th June 2018 at 7:00pm



PRESENT

Cllr R Carter – Chairman
Cllr L Lindsay
Cllr H Mieville
Cllr H White
Cllr D Robinson
Cllr P Osborne

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
District Cllr B Cooper – late arrival

Assistant Town Clerk
District Cllr J E T Tanner

35. PUBLIC SESSION

- 35.1 Cllr White attended a boundary commission review meeting. He reported that the actual number per ward will be 3757, with a 10% up or down. The forecast of the electorate is 2023. It is proposed that there will be 82 councillors in our unitary authority. The public consultation starts on 3rd July for 8 weeks. Elections for the new Council will be in May 2019. Cllr White would like to see single member wards.
- 35.2 Cllr Lacey-Clarke, on behalf of Cllr L Hitchings. invited Councillors to attend a race night organised by Jackie Vacher on 16th June at on 7.30pm in Pimperne to raise funds for charity.

36. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- 36.1 Highways Meetings – Cllr Quayle reported that the temporary works carried out to the sinkhole at Sheep Market Hill were not successful and the sinkhole has reappeared. This has mounted in extra fines being levied onto the utility provider. Cllr Quayle held meetings with Highways this morning and along with the large amount of work that will be needed, DCC will also carry out extra patchwork further up Sheep Market Hill.
Wessex Water will carry out round works in West Street between the 13th and 15th June. A multi-way traffic signal will be in place.
The potholes at Wimborne Road and Victoria Road have been filled in.
The Surface Dressing programme is still scheduled for August. Cllr Quayle will advise of exact dates when known. Residents will be informed in advance by letter.
- 36.2 Shadow Council – Cllr Quayle attended the first meeting of the Dorset Shadow Council in Dorchester last week. He will remain on the Joint Committee and is looking forward to the work streams coming back online.
- 36.3 Grass Verges – Cllr Quayle reported that the grass verges have now been cut and, in his opinion, they look much better than in previous years due to the cut and collect method. He reminded Councillors that Dorset County Council, where possible, will promote wild flowers and not cut areas which are not deemed dangerous for motorists.
- 36.4 Lidl Bus Service – Cllr Quayle held meetings with the Service Director for Economy, Built and Natural Environment about the issues related to the Lidl Bus service, as well as the Town Team. He has also been contacted by the service provider's General Manager about the service.

36. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR(CONT.)

- 36.5 Slab Test – The slab test was carried out last month. Although a positive outcome, Cllr Quayle held further meetings with Highways to discuss the retexturing method, which is not deemed to be an appropriate method. This is due to the damage to the slabs and the very limited time period this method would provide a non-slip surface for. Cllr Quayle is lobbying DCC to change their current policy of replacing slabs with tarmac. There is also the possibility of changing the slabs back to the traditional 400s (purpose built slabs), which work well in other towns. He is currently working on this and will report back.
- 36.6 Points to Note – DCC are currently looking for a privately rented property that the landlord would allow a Syrian refugee family to stay in. The applicant from Tinpot Lane planning application contacted Cllr Quayle following the last Planning meeting explaining that there was a mistake in the paperwork and that Tinpot Lane would be improved to Highways standards and be a minimum of 5.5 metres plus a two-metre safe pedestrian walk. Cllr Quayle reported that reduced speed limits have come into force around Blandford since 8th June. It has been noted by residents that the lanes around the town look far better this year due the joint effort (working together) with the Town Council and County Council. He'll be pushing the Rangers to support this scheme again next year and to provide an increase in funding. He also thanked the Operations Manager and his team for all their hard work. Cllr Quayle is continuing to log road defects with Highways and asked all Councillors to let him know as soon as possible about any issues in their wards. A large amount of drug paraphernalia was found on the Stour Meadows and reported to him late Friday afternoon. He contacted DWP and they cleared the area very quickly to make it safe for residents.
- 36.7 Questions – Cllr Clark would like to know what is happening with the Link Road by Hospital Metal Craft. Cllr Quayle reported, that due to the proposed development in Tinpot Lane the owner of the Link Road has vowed to never open it.

37. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- 37.1 Cllr J Tanner – Negotiations about the Leisure Centre are still ongoing. He is concerned, as time is going on, that this will not be sorted out before the Unitary Council is coming into place. Norden, apart from the Hub is completely closed. Cllr Tanner is concerned that the money coming from the release of assets does not get invested into Blandford. He thinks that NDDC could give the 2/3 of the island in the river to the Town Council. The cutting of vegetation in town should happen automatically without DCC having to be asked. It is great to see litter bins being replaced.
Cllr S Hitchings stated that, now that Norden is closed, there are not enough car parking spaces by the Hub. Cllr S Hitchings spoke to Mike Coker, who arranged for yellow cones to be put out on Salisbury Street, but this did not stop the problem. They need a bigger car parking space for staff and visitors. He also asked that assets that have been leased by Blandford Forum Town Council should be handed back.
Cllr H White stated that NDDC cannot release any money without the approval of the shadow group.
- 37.2 Cllr J Stayt – Apologies
- 37.3 Cllr T Handford – Not in attendance
- 37.4 Cllr B Cooper – late arrival
- 37.5 Cllr N Lacey-Clarke – In response to Cllr White he does not think that NDDC does not need any approval of the shadow authority yet as District Council has the same rights it always had as the moratorium is not in effect yet. He went to the first shadow authority meeting which was very interesting. It was confirmed that no special responsibility allowance will be paid to Councillors. He has been put on the Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee. If Councillors think anything needs to be scrutinised more then they should let Cllr Lacey-Clarke know.
He wanted to mirror Cllr Quayle's comments about DWP dealing with the drug issues so quickly.

38. APOLOGIES

Cllr L Hitchings
Cllr John Stayt

Cllr Jackie Stayt
Cllr H Galpin

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

Agenda item no. 9.1.1. Grant Applications

- 39.1 Cllr Lindsay declared an interest as a Trustee for Age Concern and will leave the meeting during voting and discussion.
- 39.2 Cllr S Hitchings declared an interest as the President of Blandford Opportunity Group and will leave the meeting during voting and discussion.
- 39.3 Cllr Stevens declared an interest as the Chairman of Blandford Opportunity Group and will leave the meeting during voting and discussion.
- 39.4 Cllr Carter declared a personal interest as the Blandford Opportunity Group is one of the Mayor's charities this year and will leave the meeting during voting and discussion.
- 39.5 Cllr Carter declared an interest as part time employee of the Blandford School and will leave the room during discussion and voting.
- 39.6 Cllr Mieville declared an interest in the The Blandford School as a Foundation Governor and will not vote.

40. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

40.1 Annual Town Council Meeting held on 14th May 2018

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Quayle, and AGREED unanimously that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

40.2 Town Council Meeting held on 14th May 2018

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Stevens, SECONDED by Cllr Clark, and AGREED unanimously that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

41. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

- 41.1 Facebook Pages – There is now a separate Corn Exchange page and Mayor of Blandford Forum page on Facebook, that come under the Town Council account. Each year the Mayor will be invited to be an administrator on the Mayor's page, so they can manage this themselves. This has been added to the Mayoral Handbook.
- 41.2 Voting – The sections on voting on appointments have been extracted from the Standing Orders and tabled tonight so that Councillors attending the working group on 16th July 2018 have the opportunity to consider the current situation.
- 41.3 Electric Vehicles – The Assistant Town Clerk will be attending the free EEvent on Monday 2nd July 2018, exploring what local authorities and businesses in Dorset can do to support the uptake of electric vehicles and why this is important. The morning will consist of a series of presentations followed by a question and answer session so please let Billy know if you have any questions you would like her to ask.

41. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE(CONT.)**

41.4 Balmer Road Play Area – The official opening of the play area has been arranged for Saturday 7th July at 12.00pm with the Mayor and staff present and Cllr Lindsay, who worked on the tender process. All councillors are invited to attend. This may be rescheduled subject to weather.

42. **CIVIC REPORT**

The paper was tabled (see Appendix A).

43. **RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

43.1 Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting held on Monday 4th June 2018

43.1.1 Review of end of year accounts 2017/18

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

The end of year accounts for 2017/18 are approved.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

43.1.2 To Consider Grant Applications

Cllr Hitchings spoke about the grant procedure and that it is a very fair process. If Councillors feel that the Town Council should be harder on applications where some documents are missing, then this needs to be discussed. Cllr Robinson feels that this is not the case and the process is not fair. Cllr White responded in favour of Cllr Hitchings and confirmed that a lot of Councillors know the applicants very well and some are very small organisations. Cllr Lacey-Clarke commented that the Town Council needs to show due diligence and there needs to be a happy medium.

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

The grants budget and service level agreement commitments/funding are shown separately on the budgets, with a breakdown of funding provided.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr Lindsay left the meeting at 7.57pm

43.1.3 Age Concern Blandford Forum – Previous grants awarded in 2016/17 £500 towards cost of insurance, applied for SLA in 2017/18 and was awarded £1000.00 and advised to apply for grant in 2018/19

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Robinson, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED (10 in favour, 1 non-vote) that

A grant of £1,000 is approved.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr Lindsay returned to the meeting at 7.58pm

Cllrs S Hitchings, Carter and Stevens left the meeting at 7.58pm

It was PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke and AGREED unanimously that

The Standing Orders are suspended, so the Town Council can vote with only 8 Councillors in attendance.

43. **RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES(CONT.)**

43.1.4 Blandford Opportunity Group – Applied for SLA in 2015/16 and awarded £2000. Applied for SLA in 2017/18 and awarded £1000.00 and advised to apply for grant in 2018/19

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

A grant of £1,000 is approved.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

The Standing Orders are re-instated.

Cllrs S Hitchings, Carter and Stevens returned to the meeting at 8.04pm

43.1.5 Equilibrium Youthwork – No previous grant applications

The grant application has been withdrawn. If the required information becomes available regarding numbers, they are invited to apply for a grant again.

43.1.6 Life Education Wessex – Previous grant awarded 2016/17 for £315.00 to cover shortfall of 1 day's visit

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Lindsay and AGREED (10 in favour, 1 against) that

A grant is not approved.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr Carter left the meeting at 8.12pm

43.1.7 The Blandford School – No previous grant applications

The further information provided by the applicant has been noted.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Lindsay but no vote took place that

A grant is not approved until further information is received regarding financial information and numbers of users that are Blandford Forum residents.

It was then PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Osborne and AGREED (9 in favour, 1 abstention, 1 non-vote) that

A grant is not approved this year.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr Carter returned to the meeting at 8.26pm

43.1.8 Babigloo Music for Babies – No previous grant applications

The additional information provided has been noted.

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

A grant is not approved.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

43. **RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES(CONT.)**

43.1.9 Blandford Men's Shed – No previous grant applications

The additional information provided has been noted.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke and unanimously that

Cllr Carter received a dispensation to stay during discussions but not to take part in the voting.

Cllr Lacey-Clarke read an e-mail from Cllr John Stayt regarding his view on the project.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and (10 in favour, 1 non-vote) that

A grant is not approved.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr Carter will advise the Men's Shed that Screwfix have set up a foundation and provide cheap tools to local organisations.

43.1.10 Dorset ME Group – No previous grant applications

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Lindsay and AGREED unanimously that

A grant of £300 is approved.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

43.1.11 To RECEIVE the Minutes

The Minutes were received.

44. **TO APPROVE SECTION 1 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT OF THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2018**

The paper was tabled (See Appendix B).

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

The Town Council agrees to approve section 1 annual governance statement of the annual return for the year ending 31st March 2018.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

45. **TO APPROVE SECTION 2 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS OF THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2018**

The paper was tabled (See Appendix C).

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

The Town Council agrees to approve section 2 statement of accounts of the annual return for the year ending 31st March 2018.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

46. **TO CONSIDER PUTTING FORWARD RESOLUTIONS TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DAPTC**

The paper was noted (See Appendix D).

The item was noted, and no resolutions were brought forward.

47. **TO CONSIDER FLYING A RED ENSIGN ON MERCHANT NAVY DAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2018:**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Osborne but NOT AGREED (3 in favour, 8 against) that the

Town Council moves on to next business.

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Quayle, and AGREED (8 in favour, 3 against) that

The Red Ensign flag will be purchased and flown on Merchant Navy Day.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

48. **TO CONSIDER ADVERTISING THE COUNCILLOR VACANCY FOR CO-OPTION**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Clark, and AGREED (9 in favour, 2 against) that

The Town Council does not advertise the Councillor Vacancy for Co-Option, due to the proximity of the 2019 elections.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

49. **PLANNING APPLICATION**

49.1 **2/2018/0511/HOUSE – 15th May 2018 – Mr D Young – 56 Philip Road – Erect single storey side extension**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Robinson, and AGREED (10 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council has no objections to the application.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

50.1 **Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +**

50.1.1 **To consider a proposed response to the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan**

The paper was tabled (See Appendix F).

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

50.1.1 To consider a proposed response to the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan(Cont.)

The Town Council accepts the submission form from Blandford+, but thinks the response should have been stronger.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

50.2 14-18 Working Group (First World War Centenary)

Nothing to report.

50.3 Corn Exchange Working Group

Cllr Clark reported that a meeting has been scheduled to meet with the architect to form the brief with the architect.

51. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Cllrs Lacey-Clarke and Quayle have attended the Blandford Museum AGM, who are now known as Blandford Museum Arts and Heritage Trust.

Cllr Lindsay left the meeting at 8.55pm

52. CONFIDENTIAL

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Osborne, 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.

Cllr White left the meeting at 8.57pm

Cllr White returned to the meeting at 8.58pm

Cllr Robinson left the meeting at 8.58pm

Cllrs Lindsay and Robinson returned to the meeting at 8.59pm

52.1 To consider a proposal regarding the allotment relocation

The paper was tabled (See Appendix G).

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

The Town Council defers a decision until receipt of the Heads of Terms and the meeting with Wyatt Homes on 22nd June.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

The Town Council appoints Blanchard's Bailey as the commercial solicitor.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 9:10pm.

SIGNED

DATED