

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
Held on Monday 13th May 2019 at 8:54pm in the Corn Exchange

DRAFT
Subject to confirmation

PRESENT

Cllr Lindsay – Chairman
Cllr P Clark
Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr B Quayle
Cllr J Stayt
Cllr R Carter
Cllr C Jacques
Cllr A Cross

Cllr L Hitchings – Vice Chairman
Cllr H Mieville
Cllr H White
Cllr D Russell
Cllr P Osborne
Cllr R Holmes
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Assistant Town Clerk
Robert Taylor - Member of the public

Operations Manager
Nicci Brown – Press

26. PUBLIC SESSION

- 26.1 Mr Taylor thanked all Councillors for their work over the last four years and wished Councillors all the best for the next term.

27. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLORS

- 27.1 Cllr Quayle and Cllr N Lacey-Clarke – The meeting of the new Dorset Council is on Thursday 16th May.

28. APOLOGIES

Cllr C Stevens

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

Cllr Stayt declared an interest in agenda item 8.1 and confirmed he would leave the room before Nomination C is discussed.

30. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

- 30.1 Badger Cross – The Dorset Council has written to advise that Salisbury Street section is was re-opened to allow traffic to use this section for Friday and the weekend. However, the closure was reinstated today as this is required for the safety of the workforce working on the island at this point. The diversion in place will be the same as previous via Whitecliff Mill Street and Park Road. This also has the added benefit of reducing traffic heading towards the SGN work in Salisbury Road. It is planned that this closure will be in place until 24th May and works are due to be completed one month later.
- 30.2 Elizabeth Road Allotment Site – A site meeting has been held with the Allotment Society and the Community Payback Manager on clearing the land at the end of the allotments. A porta-loo will be required for the group carrying out the work. The Town Council does not own this land but this work would be of great benefit to the residents and the Health Champions, who wanted to take on the plot at Davies Gardens, could be invited to tend to the area once it is cleared. Councillors did not have any concerns about this work.

30. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE (CONT.)

- 30.3 Persimmon Homes Grass Cutting – Several complaints have been received at the office by residents due to the long grass within Phase 3 of Badbury Heights. Several emails later, Persimmon Homes arranged to do it and photos showing it being done were sent by the residents.
- 30.4 Escape to the Perfect Town – A BBC afternoon programme is being filmed about Blandford and Shaftesbury, entitled Escape to the Perfect Town. They are due to come to town on Thursday and arrangements have been made with the church for them to access the cupola for filming.
- 30.5 Woodhouse Gardens – An accident occurred on polling day and the Town Clerk and the architect have doubled checked plans for the new DDA compliant access. Following a request from a Councillor, baby change units will also be installed in the new toilets.
- 30.6 Promotional Video – The Crown Hotel was not included in the video and a remark was made about this when it was released. The contractor has therefore been asked if it is possible to edit the general promo video to include some aerial coverage of the building, as it is significant to the town. Details are awaited and Cllr Carter asked that a working group meeting is held to discuss. Cllr Lacey-Clarke asked about Legion House too.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

- 30.7 Budget for 2019/20 – There appears to be some confusion being created on social media over the Town Council's budget for 2019/20. The draft budget taken in December focuses on a wish list with budget lines highlighted which could be lowered without impacting on services, and it was a 8.03% increase, not 8.4%. This budget was not voted on and the only resolution made was that the draft budget is finalised at the Town Council meeting in January, subject to receipt of the necessary figures from NDDC. In January, the draft increase presented to Councillors was 4.13% and Councillors resolved to proceed with a 2.21% increase.
- 30.8 Secretary of State – The response regarding Nordon has been received from the Secretary of State, confirming that they will not be calling the application in. This has been sent to Councillors and Cllr Mieville asked that a response is sent with the following points:
- The letter states that local planning issues should be decided by local councils and communities. That's fine if councils and communities agree, but what if they radically disagree - as in this case? Surely the Secretary of State should be the final arbiter in those cases? That's why we referred the decision in the first place.
 - The letter refers to criteria which are used by the Secretary of State to decide whether to call in a decision but gives no examples of what the criteria are. Without knowing what they are, how can we possibly judge if he is justified in not calling the decision in this case?
- Councillors were asked if they wanted this response to be sent and if they had any points to add to such a letter.

Cllr Carter will send a response to the Secretary of State, the new Dorset Council and Simon Hoare MP.

ACTION: CLLR CARTER

- 30.9 Major Projects – Works start on Wednesday to the arches and the pavilion at Woodhouse Gardens. A site meeting is also being held on Wednesday morning at the football pavilion to discuss the works starting to create the base for the spectator stand and footpath.

31. CIVIC REPORT

The paper was sent to Councillors via email.

32. TO RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR ESSENTIAL WORKS TO THE SKATE PARK

The paper was tabled.

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

The Town Council approves the request for retrospective expenditure using funds of £2,700.00 from the Skate Park accruals budget which has a balance of £70,706.38 (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

33. CONFIDENTIAL

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings 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.

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

The paper was noted (See Appendix A).

Nomination A

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED (12 in favour, 3 against) that

The Town Council accepts the nomination for A.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Nomination B

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED (13 in favour, 2 against) that

The Town Council accepts the nomination for B.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr Stayt left the meeting at 9.22pm.

Nomination C

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay but NOT SECONDED that the Town Council accepts the nomination for C.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 9:26pm.

SIGNED

DATED

