

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
Held on Monday 17th September 2018 at 7:00pm

PRESENT

Cllr R Carter – Chairman
Cllr P Clark
Cllr H Mieville
Cllr H White
Cllr B Quayle
Cllr Jackie Stayt
Cllr H Galpin

Cllr N Lacey-Clarke – Vice Chairman
Cllr D Robinson
Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr C Stevens
Cllr P Osborne
Cllr John Stayt
Cllr L Hitchings

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Operations Manager
District Cllr B Cooper
Nicci Brown – Press

Assistant Town Clerk
Mayor's Secretary
District Cllr J E T Tanner
Youth Advisors

72. PUBLIC SESSION

- 72.1 Cllr Carter thanked the Town Council staff for the organisation of a successful Community Expo and celebrations of the 800th Charter Market.
- 72.2 Cllr Carter reminded Councillors of his Charity Night on 12th October in the Corn Exchange and that he has tickets available to purchase.
- 72.3 Cllr Carter is attending the Freedom Parade of the Rifles in Sherborne this weekend and as his wife is not able to attend, and neither is Cllr Lacey-Clarke, he asked if any Councillor would like to attend. It was agreed that Cllr Galpin would attend.

73. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- 73.1 Patch Works Programme – Cllr Quayle has added further roads to the approved road works programme. He is keen to get as many issues logged and approved and asked Councillors and Officers to let him know if they become aware of any problems. Recent roads added are Wimborne Road, East Street, Church Lane, Damory Street (entire length), and Salisbury Road from Salisbury.
- 73.2 Surface Dressing Programme – The programme started early August and has been concluded, in nearly 40 roads. Cllr Quayle is running a review and is inspecting each road. Some of the issues already identified will be corrected in the near future.
- 73.3 Grass Verges and Vegetation – The recent good weather has encouraged some grass verges to grow quicker than expected. Cllr Quayle has asked the Rangers to look into these areas and address them accordingly.
- 73.4 Lidl Bus service – Following the recent meeting between DCC and NDDC officers, the bus services X8 and X8A have moved into the Lidl car park. A survey is being carried out which will form part of the follow-on discussions. Cllr Quayle is currently in discussion with County Council Officers to support The X8A service linking up with local villages including Wimborne and an unbroken link around town.
- 73.5 DWP collection issue in Shorts Lane – A bottleneck in Shorts Lane has caused missed collections over many months. Cllr Quayle has organised for DWP to use their 7.5T vehicle which appears to have worked and clear up the waste. He is in discussion with Highways regarding solving the issue.

73. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR (CONT)

73.6 Town Centre Slabs – In recent months there has been some movement to a common approach to the slab issue in Blandford. Cllr Quayle will be holding a further meeting with NDDC and other interested parties to discuss next steps.

73.7 Points to Note – Military Personnel Grant Funding Success: Military personnel in Dorset have been awarded £234,786 from the MOD – Armed Forces Covenant Fund. Blandford is expected to be one of a number of local hubs set up to support veterans in Dorset. A white line has now been painted on no 6 Damory Court Street. During the Great Dorset Steam Fair, Cllr Quayle was in contact with the head of parking at Dorset County Council regarding the issues experienced with the traffic this year. Community Innovation Grants are available from between £2000 - £8000 but the process closes on the 21st September. Bike racks have been installed by DCC on the Market Place and on the triangle area outside Sleek and Chic.

Cllr Carter asked why the grass along the verges on Holland Way has only been cut once this summer. He praised the Town Council staff for the areas they are responsible for. Cllr Quayle responded that this is the Rangers policy due to the wild flowers, but they will cut again this week.

74. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

74.1 Cllr Cooper – There has been a possible breach of conditions for planning application of land between Langton Road and the Stour, which is being investigated. Regarding the issue of another litter bin at the Marsh and Ham, it has been agreed that they will put another bin there but it will have to be paid for as it is not seen as an improvement. He is pursuing this with a team of Officers. There is no full council meeting at District on the 28th September but there is a shadow meeting on the 27th September and it is hoped that many of the Councillors will attend that. The traffic during the Steam Fair was unacceptable. He hopes the wash up meeting will look at this seriously.

74.2 Cllr Jackie Stayt – The full council meeting on the 28th September has been cancelled but the meeting on the 27th September is still going ahead. Matt Prosser has been named as the CEO of the new Council, subject to approval at full Council. A planning meeting took place last week.

74.3 Cllr Tanner – Cllr Tanner started his yearly campaign to get the Stour sprayed. The Shadow, Overview and Scrutiny committee meeting took place and Cllr Tanner is concerned of the lack of communication between NDDC and town and parish council and feels we should be included more in their deliberations. Sovereign Housing have come to NDDC for new scrutiny and asked about the lack of building of new rentable accommodation in Dorset. Cllr Tanner spoke to a retired police officer regarding the traffic during the Steam Fair and there seems to have been an issue with the entrance to the fair as this has been made too narrow.

Cllr Quayle reported that Cllr Kerby already approved the spraying of the Stour. Cllr Tanner has not been notified.

74.4 Cllr T Handford – Not in attendance.

74.5 Cllr Lacey-Clarke – He is working on the proposal at Nordon and is being asked by residents if other options were looked in to. He has asked for full records and minutes of all the project board meetings to find out what other options were looked into and what suggestions were made by whom. He will report back when he finds out.

75. APOLOGIES

Cllr L Lindsay

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

Cllr Carter, Quayle and Stevens have declared an interest in agenda item 14.2.1 as they are part of the WWI group.

Cllrs Jackie Stayt and Lacey-Clarke declared that taking part in the discussions and vote on new planning applications at this meeting, has been done on the understanding that their decisions are based on the information available at this time and that they reserve the right to change those decisions when the applications are discussed at North Dorset District Council.

77. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23RD JULY 2018

It was PROPOSED by Cllr John Stayt, SECONDED by Cllr Jackie Stayt, and AGREED (12 in favour, 2 non-votes) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

78. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

78.1 Police – The Assistant Town Clerk has arranged for the Chief Constable Mike Vaughan to come to the Corn Exchange on Monday 8th October at 6pm to answer your questions about the merger. If you have specific questions, please submit them to the Assistant Town Clerk in advance.

78.2 Colonel Percival – The letter from the Camp Commander, Col Andrew Percival, thanking the Town Council for its support during his time with the Camp has been shared with Councillors.

78.3 The Blandford School – The Assistant Town Clerk and I were invited to attend The Blandford School's "Enrichment Fayre" of volunteering opportunities for the year 12 students who are entering the sixth form. We talked with students about being a youth advisor to those who are interested in having a say in local matters and it is wonderful to see three join us tonight.

78.4 The Cedar Tree –The Town Clerk was invited to attend a meeting with the owners of The Cedar Tree in Anchor Gateway. They would like to organise a literary festival for Blandford next November and will be hosting an open evening to present their vision in due course.

78.5 Councillor Emails – There are two remaining Councillors who need to be set up with the new email address and then all Councillors will be sent emails to their blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk email address.

78.6 Responses to budget consultation received on Sunday 16th September during the Charter Market:

- More clothes shops
- Milldown and Black Lane – better traffic control near schools
- Empty dog bins more often
- More rubbish bins
- More schools and doctor's surgeries
- Nordon would make ideal central medical centre for the town
- Like to see the bids for Nordon house, under current rules three bids were required as it is a public facility. Total lack of transparency
- Please sort out Tin Pot Lane, it's not fair for us working down there regarding damage to our cars
- More useful things, expand our play park by Blandford St Mary with more equipment
- Maybe some shelters in the Stour Meadows with seats. Sometimes it's nice to sit and admire the surroundings even when it's raining
- Put up town bunting for the week of the steam fair and carnival. It lacks welcoming to all visitors and makes the whole town look bright and cheery
- Something for teenagers to do to get off the streets and to be less bored, i.e. cinema or bowling

The Town Clerk confirmed that she will distribute this list to the appropriate authorities.

78. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE (cont)**

78.7 Town Council advertising – The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council advertises all events in its eight notice boards located around the town, posters attached to posts, the website and Facebook page (including paid sponsorship), the newsletter to 7,000 properties and Forum Focus. The market was small yesterday, but 18 x stallholders had committed to coming. It is beyond our control if people fail to turn up on the day. It is a shame we are criticised when we are taking the initiative to organise events, as a town council, as this is not the norm in other towns.

78.8 War Memorial Rocks – 117 rocks will be painted with the name of each local, fallen serviceman from the Great War 1914-1918, whose names are on the Town Hall war memorials. The rocks will then be photographed outside the Town Hall, at the foot of the war memorials, before the public are invited to come and take them to hide. The details of each serviceman can then be found on our website. The RBL has given permission for the poppy to be used.

79. **CIVIC REPORT**

The paper was sent to Councillors via email.

80. **RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

80.1 Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting held on Monday 10th September 2018

80.1.1 Blandford Town Team – Previous grant awarded 2016/17 for £480.00 to cover Room Hire

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

Although the Committee supports the aims of the organisation, a grant of £250.00 is not approved for room hire at this stage. The Committee asked that the accounts are checked due to queries with the figures (*completed since the F&S meeting*). Representatives are also invited to attend a Town & General Purposes Committee meeting to outline their current strategy/plans/projects (*attendance confirmed for 1st October meeting*). The grant will then be reconsidered by the Finance & Staffing Committee meeting in December.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

80.1.2 To consider a Bring Your Own Device policy

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 against) that

The Town Council adopts the Bring Your Own Device Policy subject to clarification on Cloud Storage.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Post Meeting Note: Although Cllr Lacey-Clarke proposed this resolution at the Finance & Staffing Committee meeting, he voted against it at the full council meeting.

80.1.3 To review the Town Council's investment policy and consider to adopt revised investment policy

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

The Town Council adopts a revised investment policy, subject to the inclusion of the delegated authority and ethical investment paragraph (from the email sent to Councillors dated 30th August 2018) and commits to investing in AA (and above) credit rated institutions only.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

80.1.4 The minutes were RECEIVED.

81. **TO CONSIDER ADOPTING A PUBLIC ART PLAN FOR THE BADBURY HEIGHTS DEVELOPMENT AND FORM A WORKING GROUP TO PROGRESS THE PROJECT**

The paper was noted (See Appendix B).

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

The Town Council adopts the plan, specific to Badbury Heights development, and will start the consultation process at the earliest opportunity.

The Town Council agrees to form a working group consisting of Cllr Mieville, Cllrs Jackie and John Stayt, Cllr Osborne and Cllr Carter. Cllr Lindsay will be asked to join the group, as well as a youth advisor or art student from the Blandford School.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

82. **TO CONSIDER APPROVING GUIDELINES FOR THE MAYOR'S SCOUT / GUIDE / CADET / YOUNG PERSON**

The paper was noted (See Appendix C).

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

The Town Council does not approve the guidelines at this point and this will be brought back to a later meeting after investigating the safe guarding guidelines.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

83. **TO CONSIDER A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CALENDAR OF MEETING FOR 2018/19 TO ENSURE THE MAJORITY OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS ARE RECEIVED AND CONSIDERED WITHIN NDDC'S TIMELINES**

The paper was noted (See Appendix D).

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

The Town Council agrees to the amendments.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

84. **TO REVIEW AND APPROVE TOWN COUNCIL/BLANDFORD + COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO THE RECENT MODIFICATIONS TO THE PRE-SUBMISSION DRAFT WASTE PLAN (COMMENTS TO BE RECEIVED BY 15TH OCTOBER 2018)**

The paper was noted (Appendix E) and Cllr Carter thanked the Project Administrator for all her hard work.

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

The Town Council approves the response.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

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

Cllr Carter advised that the Project Administrator is collecting reports from the Steering Group and is arranging a meeting with both North and South AONB at the moment.

85. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE AND CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FROM THE: (cont)

85.2 14-18 Working Group (First World War Centenary)

Cllr Carter reported that they had a very successful Khaki Kanteen and he would like to thank Sheila Chapman for her hard work. They are looking forward to their final exhibition.

85.2.1 To consider underwriting the costs of a WWI book for Blandford Forum

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

Cllrs Carter, Quayle and Stevens left the room at 8.16pm due to their involvement in the 14-18 working group.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Osborne and AGREED (10 in favour, 1 against, 3 non-votes) that

The Town Council agrees to underwrite the cost of the book up to £3,000 using budget line 1500 General Reserves (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllrs Carter, Quayle and Stevens returned to the room at 8.21pm.

85.3 Corn Exchange Working Group

The Town Clerk reported that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman have signed the appointment of an architect. A surveyor has been appointed and Officers are waiting for the outcome of his work.

85.4 Standing Orders working group regarding Voting on Appointments

The paper was noted (See Appendix G).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Jackie Stayt, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED (12 in favour, 2 against) that

The Town Council approves the recommendations from the working group.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

86. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

None have been received.

87. PLANNING APPLICATION

87.1 2/2018/1044/HOUSE – 31st August 2018 – Mr M Ballard – 15 Orchard Street – Erect detached double garage (demolish existing) (retrospective)

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Jackie Stayt, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council objects to the application due to its overdevelopment of its design, style and size in a conservation area.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 8:36pm.

SIGNED

DATED