

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
Held on Monday 25th February 2019 at 7:00pm

DRAFT
Subject to confirmation

PRESENT

Cllr R Carter – Chairman
Cllr P Clark
Cllr H Mieville
Cllr H White
Cllr B Quayle
Cllr L Hitchings
Cllr John Stayt
Cllr H Galpin

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Nicci Brown – Press
District Cllr J E T Tanner
District Cllr A Kerby
Mr S Adamson
Member of the public

Operations Manager
District Cllr B Cooper
Dr S Hixson Andrews
Mr R Goulding (Cranborne AONB)
Mr N Nicol

157. PUBLIC SESSION

157.1 Roger Goulding, Cranborne Chase AONB (tourism app)

Cranborne Chase AONB has obtained a grant of £132,000 from Dorset LEADER to provide a new tourism application for mobile phones/devices using virtual tourism guides with historic characters from the town. Representatives from Blandford Forum groups requested a Bastard brother to be displayed within the app, instead of Alfred Stevens. Mr Goulding said the number of referrals from this app is expected to be very high and he is seeking funding from local councils and other organisations for the marketing. The Chairman of Council reminded Mr Goulding that the Town Council has a Grants process and welcomed him to apply for a grant.

157.2 Dr Sylvia Hixson Andrews (disabled access to shops/businesses)

Dr Hixson Andrews and her daughter had to call the fire brigade when a lift in Dorchester Town Council's Corn Exchange broke down when they were in it. They went back to attend a council meeting to hear the incident being discussed but could not access the meeting because the lift was still out of service. Dr Hixson Andrews also raised Councillors' awareness of the lack of disabled access in Blandford Forum's town centre, with numerous shops, cafés, and businesses being impossible to enter.

157.3 Nordon

Cllr D Robinson would have wanted the Town Council to hold a public meeting regarding the Nordon application had there been adequate notice of the District Council's Planning meeting.

157.4 District Cllr Kerby

Cllr Kerby thanked the Town Council for its financial support for the Youth & Community Centre and updated Councillors on the progress being made. The NDDC Dog related Public Spaces Protection Order has now been made and signage will be provided to officers to erect in local areas. Research will be carried out on the Blandford Fly which will be used as supporting evidence for future treatment of the insect.

158. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

158.1 Highways

- The works at Black Lane / Wimborne Road junction have been completed. Unfortunately, the white road markings were painted in the wrong place and therefore there is still a pinch point at the junction.

158. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR (CONT)

Cllr Quayle spoke to the Works Manager, who had his team correct the issue. The new layout does seem to be working, if used properly. Cllr Quayle noted that there is an issue with the pedestrian crossing at that point and will be following up with Highways to investigate this matter further.

- Cllr Quayle followed up with Highways regarding several areas in Blandford requiring patch works to improve the road surface. Councillors may notice extra white markings appearing on roads around town. East Street, Alexandra Street (at the bottom, before the bridge) and Oakfield Street have been put onto the works program for resurfacing and improvements.
- Cllr Quayle reminded Councillors to let him know about any potholes or blocked gullies. The St Leonard's Avenue footpath closure starts on Monday 25th February and will be in place for a week.
- He has also asked for a pedestrian walkway at Shorts Lane, which has been approved to help the residents.

158.2 Elizabeth Road Roundabout – Cllr Quayle held further meetings with Highways and has been in discussions with Damory to find a joint solution.

158.3 Badger Cross Junction – Road works are carried out at the same time as urgent gas works. There will also be various road closures spanning the length of the works, which he will report on at the time.

159. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

159.1 Cllr N Lacey-Clarke – Cllr Lacey-Clarke reported that the new Dorset Council's council tax is increasing and due to the harmonisation of council tax North Dorset residents will be paying more than in other areas of Dorset. Some meetings of the new council will be held in the evenings, but Cllr Lacey-Clarke is pushing to have more evening meetings (e.g. Planning) so the public are able to attend. The Nordon planning application is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday 26th February 2019 in the afternoon.

159.2 Cllr J Tanner – Cllr Tanner is hoping for a recorded vote on the Nordon application and anticipates that the meeting will be very well attended. The last meeting of NDDC will be held on 8th March 2019. The Shadow Council set the budget which results in Blandford residents experiencing a 6.29% increase in its council tax for the new Dorset Council. The Stour is going to be sprayed and Cllr Tanner thanked Cllr Kerby and the NDDC officer involved.

159.3 Cllr B Cooper – Approximately 30% of the Shadow Council did not support the new budget. Cllr Cooper supports the Boxing Club's request for use of the Town's crest.

159.4 Cllr Jackie Stayt – Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to NDDC and all comments must be received by 29th March 2019.

159.5 Cllr T Handford – Not in attendance.

160. APOLOGIES

None

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

None had been submitted, however Cllrs Jackie Stayt and Lacey-Clarke declared that taking part in the discussions and votes 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.

162. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28TH JANUARY 2019

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

163. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

- 163.1 Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion Extension – The tender package went online on 11th February and two intentions to tender have since been received.
- 163.2 Community Expo – This year we are holding two community expos; one in March and one in September, instead of just one in September. An attendance form is attached to the Register. This event will double up as the face to face consultation for the Public Art Plan at Persimmon Homes.
- 163.3 Development Working Party – NDDC has arranged the next meeting to be hosted by the Town Council and this will be held on Thursday afternoon.
- 163.4 Service Level Agreement – The treasurer at the Fashion Museum has thanked the Town Council for the generous grant.
- 163.5 High St Fund – The Expression of Interest for the High Street Fund has been submitted to NDDC and the Economy Board is meeting this Thursday morning to consider the submissions.
- 163.6 Allotments – A meeting will be held tomorrow with the external consultants for the land north of the bypass and a confidential meeting has been arranged for 6:00pm on Monday 11th March 2019 in the Corn Exchange. Please diarise for this meeting.

164. CIVIC REPORT

The paper was sent to Councillors via email.

165. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES

None

166. SKATE PARK

- 166.1 To approve retrospective expenditure authority for works to the skate park

The paper was noted (See appendix A).

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

The Town Council retrospectively approves the expenditure using funds of £5,623.00 from the Skate Park accruals budget line (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

- 166.2 To consider expenditure authority a company to deliver a SkateFest 2019

The paper was noted (See appendix B) and Councillors agreed unanimously in principle that the SkateFest should take place.

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

166. SKATE PARK (cont)

Subject to confirmation of qualified first aiders being present, public liability insurance and risk assessments, the Town Council engages with Company A to provide a SkateFest using funds of £1750 + VAT from General Reserves (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

167. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM BLANDFORD BOXING CLUB TO USE THE TOWN CREST

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

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

The Town Council approves the request to use the Town Crest.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

168. TO CONSIDER TAKING ON THE SMALL CHRISTMAS TREES IN THE TOWN CENTRE

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Quayle and AGREED (13 in favour, 2 abstentions) that

The Town Council approves taking on responsibility for, and the installation and removal, of the small Christmas trees in the town and any significant costs will be brought back to council for consideration.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Councillors asked officers to approach businesses for voluntary contributions.

169. TO CONSIDER PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DORSET COMMUNITY PAYBACK SCHEME

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr John Stayt that

The Town Council approves the request for expenditure using funds of £160 + VAT per day for a group from the Community Payback scheme to carry out work at the allotments using funds from the Contingency budget line (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

Cllr Lindsay PROPOSED an amendment to this that **only one day is committed to and a further commitment is made by the new council following the elections**, which was SECONDED by Cllr Jackie Stayt and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 against).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

170. TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR THE TOILET CLEANING AGREEMENT

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

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

170. **TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR THE TOILET CLEANING AGREEMENT (cont)**

The Town Council renews the cleaning contract with the existing contractor for a period of 1 year only using funds of £7,439.96 from budget line 6650 (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

171. **TO CONSIDER A GRANT APPLICATION FROM KISSING MY ELBOW PRODUCTIONS**

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

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

The Town Council approves the grant for free hire of the Corn Exchange (for bookings totalling a maximum of £1,749 + VAT as requested in the grant application) subject to venue availability.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr White suggested that the free hire of the venues is reconsidered by the Town Council as this is becoming a more common occurrence.

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

172.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +

Cllr Carter reiterated that the Plan has been submitted to NDDC and is now out for public consultation until 29th March 2019.

172.2 14-18 Working Group (First World War Centenary)

Cllr Carter updated Councillors that the WWI group has become the Commemorative Group and will be marking the D-Day 75 anniversary in June.

172.3 Corn Exchange Working Group

Cllr Clark updated Councillors on recent progress regarding the Corn Exchange project. A working group meeting was held recently and another one is scheduled for Wednesday morning.

172.3.1 To approve expenditure for additional works to the flagstones in the Shambles

The paper was noted (see Appendix H).

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

The Town Council approves expenditure authority for the works using funds of £3,072.00 from budget line 1105 Corn Exchange Regeneration (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

172.3.2 To approve expenditure authority for replacing fire alarm panels

The paper was noted (see Appendix I).

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

172.3.2 To approve expenditure authority for replacing fire alarm panels (cont)

The Town Council approves expenditure authority for Option B using funds of £3,465.40 from General Reserves (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, s1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

172.3.3 To consider approval to upgrade the Corn Exchange Kitchen using S106 monies

The paper was noted (see Appendix J) and it was PROPOSED by Cllr Jackie Stayt, SECONDED by Cllr John Stayt and AGREED unanimously that

The Town Council approves the upgrade to the kitchen at a cost of £3,950.00 using allocated S106 monies subject to officers applying via the s106 application procedure (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, s1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

172.4 Public Art Plan Working Group

Cllr Osborne updated Councillors that 20 responses were received on the first consultation, which targeted Persimmon Homes residents only, and so far we have received 28 responses from the rest of the town. The face to face consultation is scheduled for Saturday 16th March in the Corn Exchange at the Community Expo and a working group meeting has been arranged for 1st April to consider all the responses. To date, the majority of respondents have indicated a preference for nature and wildlife themed public art. Cllr Osborne thanked the Assistant Town Clerk for her update.

173. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

None

174. PLANNING (DEADLINE IS 28TH FEBRUARY 2019)

2/2019/0151/TECHD – Land West of Luton Mews, Shorts Lane, Blandford Forum, Dorset – Application applying for Technical Details Consent on a site that has been granted Permission in Principle 2/2018/0889 to erect 9 No. flats, retain 6 No. parking spaces and create 9 No. cycle spaces. Carry out ancillary works in association with this.

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

The Town Council objects to the application for the following reasons:

- **Overdevelopment**
- **Concerns over highways issues and public safety**
- **Concerns over suitable access for emergency vehicles**
- **Loss of amenity**
- **Loss of light**
- **The development is not fitting within the Conservation Area**

And requests that a site visit is held before the matter is referred to Committee.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 8:49pm.

SIGNED

DATED