

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
Held on Monday 29th October 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 L Lindsay

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 J E T Tanner
Dr Sylvia Hixson Andrews
District Cllr A Kerby

Assistant Town Clerk
District Cllr B Cooper
Nicci Brown – Press
Ms Jo Clarke – Youth Centre
Youth Advisors

88. PUBLIC SESSION

- 88.1 Cllr Carter thanked the Town Team for installing the new tourist signs. Cllr S Hitchings observed that the sign near Sunrise Business Park has an arrow on it which he doesn't feel is correct, as at that point visitors are already in the parish. Cllr S Hitchings also feels that the signs at Wimborne Road look a bit cluttered. Cllr Carter thanked all Councillors who supported the Last Night of the Proms event.
- 88.2 Cllr Kerby reported that public toilets are no longer subject to business rates. He aims to spray for the Blandford Fly in March 2019. This year it could not be sprayed as the product is not licensed but he is looking for alternative providers. He is concerned about 2020 due to there being a new authority and he will be asking for Town Council support in that year.
- 88.3 Dr Sylvia Hixson Andrews – Conservation Area Assessment (CAA) and Conservation Area Management Plan (CAMP)
Dr Hixson Andrews gave an update on the recent meetings and the plan. The aim is to go for a public consultation in Spring 2019, which will be in the museum. She also reported that they have a John Bastard built and owned thermometer and Bastard busts at the museum. Cllr Lacey-Clarke thanked her in her capacity at the Angus Wood Trust for the successful Halloween event held last weekend.
- 88.4 Jo Clarke – Blandford Youth and Community Centre
Ms Clarke reported that it has been a busy period with training the volunteers, who are aged 15 and above. They have been in The Blandford School advertising during the school assemblies. At the moment they have 25 people visiting on a Wednesday and between 56 to 60 on a Thursday. Young people are giving very good feedback and are happy to be able to socialise again. Ms Clarke gave an update on the activities they currently offer, plans they have and subject talks they would like to offer. They are thinking of opening a Community Wardrobe.
Cllr Osborne attended the AGM this week and gave positive feedback on what they are offering.
Cllr White enquired what inhibits the youth centre the most in their work. Ms Clarke responded that they always need more volunteers and funding.
Cllr Jackie Stayt asked if they have a presence on social media. Ms Clarke confirmed that they do have a Facebook page for the children and a separate one for the parents.

89. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

89.1 To receive an update on the town centre paving and indicate surfacing preference subject to the funding being available

Last month Cllr Quayle reported that in recent months there had been some movement to move towards a common approach to the slab issue in Blandford. A cross-council meeting was held on the 20th September to discuss the issues regarding the slabs. Cllr Quayle was rather disappointed with the outcome of the meeting. A plan to look into an options appraisal was agreed. He is now working frantically with DCC officers to get this report out before the substantial amount of money Cllr Quayle managed to get DCC to agree to put towards sorting out our slabs is lost. He will report again on this going forward.

89.2 Highways - DCC will be investing in an extra gully cleaner to target rural roads, which will increase the capacity to clean gullies in Blandford Forum. Cllr Quayle will be setting out on a program to log all the current gullies so that these can get cleared. He requested that all Councillors please report any blocked gullies to him.

DDC has approved an extra £1.4 million for road maintenance, which will mean an increase in patch work program, including Blandford. Cllr Quayle asked Councillors and Officers to get in touch if they notice a problem, which hasn't already got the white markings around it.

Following meeting with Highways a number of the issues created by the surface dressing program have now been corrected and extra sweeping has taken place in Blandford. Areas where vehicles are parked and where residents complain about the excess chippings Highways will place signs and cones out (like during the surface dressing) to clear these areas. However, Cllr Quayle has been receiving e-mails and reports from residents that the road surface is looking better day by day.

89.3 DWP Issue in Shorts Lane – Previously Cllr Quayle reported an issue with bins being missed in Shorts Lane. After organising with DWP to change their method on collecting the bins this appears to be working so far. He will continue to monitor this situation going forward.

89.4 Points to Note - Social worker level two and three positions are currently available in Blandford. The footpath off St Leonards Avenue past the fire station will be closed from 31st October for 5 days from 0930 – 1530. Dorset Library Service are running a survey on how residents use the service and what they would like to see from it. This will run till the 2nd December.

Cllr Carter enquired if the Highways department are aware of the issues in The Close and at the bottom of Damory Street and if there are plans to resurface that area. Cllr Quayle is not aware of this and he needs these issues reported.

Cllr Robinson advised that she completed an online form regarding an issue she has with Holland Way, and noted that she has not had a response. Cllr Quayle will look into it.

90. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

90.1 Cllr Jackie Stayt – In the latest Cabinet meeting it was discussed that Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan can proceed to referendum. Council election recharges are split 50/50, but ballot papers will be recharged in full. Matt Prosser has now become the CEO of the Shadow Council. Five roles of senior management team have been advertised internally and externally. All six new Councils will have a budget of £290m.

Cllr White is displeased that town and parish councils will be charged even if they have to provide a location for the elections. He enquired where the election papers go and where the count will be. Cllr Jackie Stayt confirmed that, as it stands at the moment, the count will be in Weymouth in a school. If that changes she will let Councillors know. The count for the new Dorset Council will be on the Friday, the count for town and parishes on the Saturday. As Monday is a Bank Holiday the results will not be out until Tuesday.

90. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (CONT.)

The Town Clerk confirmed that she has been informed that there will be a collection point in Blandford and she will confirm the location once known.

90.2 Cllr Tanner – At the last District meeting he enquired about Electric Vehicle charging points and will report back. He concurs with Cllr Quayle that blocked drains need to be reported. GCSE results at The Blandford School were very positive. Cllr Tanner thinks it would be good if the Corn Exchange rate would be the same as Pimperne parish hall, as they are exempt.

90.3 Cllr T Handford – Not in attendance.

90.4 Cllr Lacey-Clarke – Cllr Lacey-Clarke has requested the minutes of the Nordon project board meeting, he has been unsuccessful so far but will keep chasing. The bin outside Ganesh, the shop in East Street, has now been replaced, but has gone missing five times in as many weeks. One bin has turned up again. DWP do not want to replace it and are looking at other options.

90.5 Cllr Cooper – Reported that there is a £15m gap currently for the new Councils.

Cllr White is disappointed with the lack of consultation regarding election costs.

91. APOLOGIES

None

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

None

93. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON:

93.1 Monday 17th September 2018

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr John Stayt, and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 non-vote) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

93.2 Monday 14th May 2018 (Annual Meeting – changes require following Internal Audit)

Cllr Mieville left the meeting at 7.51pm.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Quayle, and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 non-vote) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED, subject to changes to minutes 17, 19 and 20.

Cllr Mieville returned to the meeting at 7.53pm.

94. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

94.1 H&S Audit – The Ellis Whittam consultant has visited to assess the overall level of health and safety performance and compliance at the Town Council. He remarked that ‘there were no significant weaknesses identified. There is an effective system in place for managing health and safety, and compliance is being achieved. Documentation is comprehensive and, generally, well kept. Management are committed to giving health and safety importance. There is good communication at all levels, and people are aware of the importance of working safely. Most of the items from the previous visit have been addressed, and those remaining are being progressed and have been discussed and, where still pertinent, integrated into the report for completion’.

94. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE CONT.)

94.2 Cemetery Remembrance Service – The Royal British Legion, Blandford & District Branch, has invited all Councillors to attend the Blandford Commonwealth War Graves memorial Service on 4th November 2018 at 11am at Blandford Cemetery.

94.3 Corn Exchange Update – An email was received from the architects on 15th October 2018 to confirm that they 'had a briefing meeting this morning and are now starting to build a 3D model of, in the first instance, the area of the Council Chamber/staircase and the void between this and the start of the Corn Exchange. It's quite an extensive survey so our model will be built in stages relevant to the phasing of works we produce. This will take at least a couple of weeks to produce the initial section. We are meeting again on Wednesday morning this week to prioritise work on the project and ought to be able to return to you with a schedule of actions later in the week. This will include inviting quotations from a list of consultants.'

95. CIVIC REPORT

The paper was sent to Councillors via email.

96. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES

96.1 Town & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 1st October 2018

96.1.1 Recommendations

None

96.1.2 The minutes were RECEIVED.

97. TO RECEIVE THE APPROVED EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR 2017/18 AND TO NOTE THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The paper was noted (See Appendix A).

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

The Town Council acknowledges the recommendations, receives and notes the External Auditor's report.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

98. TO CONSIDER RETROSPECTIVE EXPENDITURE APPROVAL FOR FEES RELATING TO THE LAND NORTH OF THE BYPASS

The paper was noted (See Appendix B).

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

The Town Council approves retrospective expenditure of £3,500.00 using funds from budget line General Reserves (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

99. **TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS FROM DAPTC FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The paper was noted (See Appendix C).

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

The Town Council supports Motion 1 from Beaminster Town Council as detailed in Appendix C.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

The Town Council supports Motion 2 from Bryanston Parish Council as detailed in Appendix C.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

The Town Council supports Motion 3 from Chideock Parish Council as detailed in Appendix C.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

The Town Council supports Motion 4 from Lyme Regis Town Council as detailed in Appendix C.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

The Town Council supports Motion 5 from Silton Parish Council as detailed in Appendix C.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

The Town Council supports Motion 6 from Studland Parish Council as detailed in Appendix C.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

100. **TO CONSIDER SUPPORT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY INITIATIVES THE TOWN COUNCIL IS TAKING**

The paper was noted (Appendix D).

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

The Town Council supports Officers in their aim to be environmentally friendly in a positive and practical way, leading by example and showing commitment to the environment and the community.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

101. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN PROJECTS

The paper was noted (Appendix E).

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

102.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +

Cllr Carter thanked the Project Co-ordinator and the consultant for their work on this Pre-Submission Plan.

102.1.2 To consider approving the pre-submission plan and authorising delegated authority to the Project Co-ordinator for Regulation 14

The paper was noted (See Appendix F).

Cllr L Hitchings left the meeting at 8.20pm.

Some Councillors expressed concern over the request for delegated authority to carry out minor amendments. The Town Clerk confirmed that these would not be policy changes. The Chairman confirmed it would be typographical changes or additions to the evidence base and not major policy changes.

Cllr L Hitchings returned to the meeting at 8.22pm.

8.22pm – At this point in the discussions, Cllr Lacey-Clarke asked Cllr John Stayt to leave the building for making an offensive remark. Cllr John Stayt apologised and the Chairman advised that it was his determination and no clear proposal to request that he leaves was made, or therefore seconded, and the meeting continued.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Jackie Stayt and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 against) that

The Town Council approves the content of the Draft Pre-Submission Plan as it stands and delegates authority to the Blandford + Steering Group to finalise the plan ready for Public Consultation, subject to minor adjustments with no huge policy changes.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

102.2 14-18 Working Group (First World War Centenary)

Cllr Carter reported that they will have their final exhibition on the weekend of 2nd November with a trench and poppy making, which are going to be planted on the trench.

102.3 Corn Exchange Project

The paper was noted (See Appendix G).

103. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

103.1 BLCCG - Cllr Lindsay shared the minutes from the last Blandford Leisure Centre Consultative Group on the 17th July 2018.

103.2 Cllr Galpin reported on the Allotment Management Committee meeting and the questions he has received regarding the existing lease.

103.3 Both the TIC and CAB are having their meetings next month and Cllr Jackie Stayt will report following the meetings.

104. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE – CIVIC PROTOCOL AND BRIEFING

The paper was noted.

105. **CONFIDENTIAL**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Jackie Stayt 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.

The Chairman took the decision to take a break at 8.33pm.

The Chairman resumed the meeting at 8.36pm.

105.1 To consider a nomination for Freeman of Blandford Forum (Stage 1)

The paper was noted (See Appendix H).

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

The nomination proceeds to the second stage of the procedure.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 8:39pm.

SIGNED

DATED

