



# BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

To: All Town Councillors  
Members of the Public & Press

Dorset Council Councillors

Dear Member

## **TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Town Council which will be held **online** using Microsoft Teams on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020 at 7.00 pm** to consider the following items.

Linda Scott-Giles  
Town Clerk  
14<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## **A G E N D A**

This meeting will be held in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ("the 2020 Regulations") which came in to force on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020. The 2020 Regulations enable local councils to hold remote meetings (including by video and telephone conferencing) for a specified period until May 2021. The 2020 Regulations apply to local council meetings, committee and sub-committee meetings in England.

Members of the public are invited to join the meeting [using Microsoft Teams](#). If, as a member of the public, you wish to speak in the Public Session, please notify the Town Clerk prior to the meeting via [admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk) or 01258 454500.

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, belief or disability), Crime & Disorder, Health and Safety and Human Rights.

All in attendance should be aware that filming, recording, photography or otherwise may occur during the meeting.

1. Public Session
  - 1.1 Jo Hutson – Blandford Youth and Community Centre
2. Report from Dorset Council Councillors
3. Apologies
4. To receive any Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations (all Councillors, excluding Cllrs Cross and L Hitchings, for setting the precept at Agenda Item No. 8.1)

5. [Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020](#)
6. [Town Clerk's Report & Correspondence](#)
7. Civic Report (to follow)
8. Recommendations and Receipt of Minutes
  - 8.1 Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting dated 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (**includes the budget for 2021/22**)
    - 8.1.1 Recommendations (to follow in the F&S Committee minutes)
    - 8.1.2 To RECEIVE the Minutes (to follow)
9. To receive an update and consider any requests from the:
  - 9.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +
  - 9.2 Public Art Plan
  - 9.3 Climate Change & Biodiversity (see items in Town Clerk's Report)
  - 9.4 Dorset Council Grant to support the Market Area Enhancement Project
    - 9.4.1 [To receive an update/consider any recommendations from the town centre recovery survey meeting](#) (deferred from 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020)
10. [To approve the council diary for 2021/2022](#)
11. [To consider authority and expenditure approval to proceed with an event to mark the centenary of the cross of sacrifice at the cemetery and the war memorial plaques on the town hall](#)
12. To consider forming a Working Group to respond, with delegated authority, to the [Government Consultation on new Permitted Development Rights](#) (response deadline is 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021, an email was sent to all Councillors on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Cllrs Carter and Stayt would like to join the WG)
13. Reports from Community and Local Organisations (Councillors are requested to advise the Chairman of Council or the Town Clerk if they wish to make a report under this heading)

**A Barnes for a Recreation Trust Meeting  
will take place at 6:15pm, prior to this Town Council Meeting.**

#### **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

23 <sup>rd</sup> December	Office closes at 12.30pm
4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Office re-opens at 9.30am
18 <sup>th</sup> January	Planning Meeting

**Minutes of the Town Council and Committee meetings are available from Blandford Library,  
the Town Clerk's Office and at [www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk](http://www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk)**

Twinned with Preetz, Germany



Town Clerk's Office  
Church Lane, Blandford Forum  
Dorset DT11 7AD



Twinned with Mortain, France



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## Town Clerk's Report & Correspondence

Working Groups – The Shoppers Parking Permit working group meeting was due to meet on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, however, only Cllrs Cross and Osborne were in attendance. It was therefore agreed that Councillors would submit individual comments to the consultation. The working group scheduled to meet on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December, to respond to the DC Climate consultation, only had two members in attendance (Cllrs Lindsay and Osborne) who didn't feel comfortable formulating a response on behalf of the Council when there is a fair bit of scope for differing opinion. They therefore responded as individuals.

Reusable Cups – Litter Free Dorset have been working with Sarah Wise at Wimborne War on Waste to try to tackle the recent increase in number of single-use takeaway cups littering streets and causing public bins to overflow. They are hoping to contact local cafes across Dorset about this issue, as they've recently been sent some pictures of bins in Dorset overflowing with disposable hot drink cups. They've created a generic poster that can be shared with cafes, for them to display if they are currently accepting reusable cups, to encourage their customers to start using their reusable cups again. They hope this will help to reduce the number of single-use cups we're seeing littering the streets. They were also hoping to contact some cafes in Blandford, and have asked Blandford War on Waste and the Town Council if we are able to help with this. I have offered to print the posters and Blandford War on Waste has said they will speak to the cafes and offer the posters to them.

Bin Your Butt Campaign – Following a request from the working group re the market area enhancement, the Town Clerk approached Sophie Colley (Litter Free Dorset Coordinator) about the takeaway litter and Sophie has kindly arranged a meeting to discuss this in January. Sophie was then asked about cigarette litter, which is also an issue, and she suggested tackling them separately as they will need different approaches. Sophie advised that the 'Bin Your Butt' campaign is ready to go, so if there are some enthusiastic volunteers this can be easily implemented and posters are available as well as portable ashtrays (stubby packs): <http://www.litterfreedorset.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Bin-Your-Butt-Poster-2020-A4-1.pdf> and <http://www.litterfreedorset.co.uk/current-projects-and-campaigns/binyourbutt/>. Both issues will be discussed at the January meeting.

Application for inclusion in a pharmaceutical list at 25 Salisbury Street, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 7AU in respect of distance selling premises by P & D Cards Ltd – NHS England has considered the above application and has written to confirm that it has been granted. On balance the Committee concluded it was satisfied the application should be GRANTED because the Committee is satisfied that: the proposed premises were not adjacent to or in close proximity to other chemist premises; the premises of the applicant are not on the same site or in the same building as the premises of a provider of primary medical services with a patient list; all essential services are likely to be secured without interruption during the opening hours; all essential services are likely to be secured for persons anywhere in England; all essential services are likely to be secured without face to face contact; all essential services are likely to be secured in a safe and effective manner because it had sufficient information to be satisfied that the procedures adopted by the applicant would be likely to secure the safe and effective provision of essential services.

## **To consider the recommendations from the town centre recovery survey**

The working group have now been meeting monthly for over a year, and because of Covid-19 we now hope to help with regeneration as well as enhancement. With the help of Nic Nicol, Town Team and Nicci Brown from the Civic Society, a successful town survey was conducted, with 18% of the residents and 50% of town business's responding. The results are below in order of preference.

- Pedestrianisation of the markets area
- Wider pavements
- Less motor traffic
- More outdoor seating & greenery
- More public toilets
- Cleaner streets & less litter
- Greater use of riverside & meadows area
- Free parking
- Support for local shops
- Activities for families, live music etc., in town centre

We have now had a meeting with 2 councillors from Shaftesbury who report that since road closure has been in place the footfall and shop sales until the 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown had increased, and shop takings during July/August were higher than last summer. Public transport also reports more people travelling into Shaftesbury.

We have also met with Roland Skeats to discuss ways in which traffic can be reduced through the town. A 20mph zone was mentioned but because of the volume the average speed is lower than 20mph. It was agreed that a Through Traffic sign with arrow towards Wimborne Road is added at the bottom of Damory Street, and the Blandford direction sign is removed from the junction off the A350 and Milldown Road at the end of bypass to discourage traffic from entering the town past the schools and hospital. This will be done within the next week so that traffic can be monitored.

Thanks to Hugh de longh for attending all our daytime and evening meetings and for all his help and guidance. Councillors have been sent the notes he has produced from the last meeting, along with the action plan.

### **Recommendations**

The working group would like to recommend that councillors consider a 3 month trial temporary pedestrianisation of half of the Market Place using funding from the available S106 money from Lidl for town centre enhancement. This would hopefully be carried out in the Spring.

The group would also like to recommend that the council considers appointing one of their councillors to be responsible as a key liaison with town businesses.

Next meeting: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 10:30 am.

Colin Stevens  
Chair of the working group  
16<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Notes of the Dorset Council Grant for Market Area Enhancement**  
**Working Group Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 10:30am online using Microsoft Teams**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cllr C Stevens – Chairman

Cllr R Carter

Cllr A Cross

Cllr Lacey-Clarke – arrived at 10.58am and left at 11.20am

Hugh de longh – Dorset Council

Linda Scott-Giles – Town Clerk

Jon Goodenough – Operations Manager

Sybille Maddock – Assistant Town Clerk

Cllr L Lindsay

Cllr S Hitchings

Cllr L Hitchings

Nicci Brown

Kate Seeger

Dilys Gartside

Andy Reynolds – Market Manager

**1. APOLOGIES**

Cllr P Osborne

**2. TO DISCUSS THE ACTION PLAN AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2020 (DEFERRED FROM MONDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2020)**

Hugh de longh spoke about the s106 funding available (around £17,000), remaining from Lidl, which could be used to trial out part pedestrianisation in the Market Place. This might pay for a short period of time for DC parking charges. This may not be financially viable in the long run, if the pilot is successful. The loss of car parking requires further discussions with the Dorset Council.

Cllr S Hitchings said that the Dorset Council would not agree to the loss of income, which has been made clear with the new proposed charges.

The Town Clerk spoke about the meeting with Dorset Council where it was confirmed that the loss of income has to be paid for. A plan needs to be drawn up and we need to be clear on the charges. Both Dorset Council Councillors will need to be on board with the decision, before going to the Dorset Council for further discussion.

It was discussed that economic development and the climate change needs to play a role in the decision. A discussion was also held about the loss of income and that other car parks in Blandford Forum could accommodate the loss of car parking in the Market Place. A survey could be held to see how many spaces are available in the other car parks and if the spaces are being used on Market days.

Nicci Brown asked how the cars would navigate through and around the town if the bypass was closed.

Cllr Lacey-Clarke explained that the Dorset Council is expected to charge for the loss of income. If the Working Group wants to argue the economic and climate change policies compelling data is required. Highways budget would be affected, and he does not believe that the Dorset Council would give the car park free of charge, but he will make enquiries. Hugh de longh said that this needs to be clarified before the pilot. Cllr Stevens argued that the group are only looking at half the market area, which would be about £50 a day which is not a lot of money. The Dorset Council is getting double money currently as the Town Council is paying loss of income and people park in other car parks.

Cllr Lacey-Clarke said that the Dorset Council would look for overwhelming support of the public and the businesses.

Cllr L Hitchings enquired if the group could obtain figures of income generated for a market day and non-market day. Cllr Lacey-Clarke suggested to write to Matthew Piles at the Dorset Council and see if these are available. Maybe it could prove that the revenue is being shifted from one car park to another.

Hugh de longh suggested putting together a summary of key points for Cllr Lacey-Clarke to take to the Dorset Council. Cllr Lacey-Clarke suggested to talk to businesses to get them on board with the idea.

Dilys Gartside said that Blandford Forum needs to embrace the changes and look at other towns and cities who have made the changes. Shopkeepers will always be fearful of change.

Cllr Lacey-Clarke reiterated that any discussion with the Dorset Council has to be led with exceptionally compelling data if we want to take this forward and the group needs to engage with businesses and gain their support.

Cllr Lacey-Clarke left the meeting at 11.20am.

A discussion was held about signage for car parking and through traffic. A map or traffic management plan needs to be drawn up with suggestions. A meeting should be arranged with the Dorset Council Highways officer and Cllr Lacey-Clarke to discuss this.

The Action Plan will be discussed at the next Town Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> December. It is hoped that two Councillors will come forward to speak to businesses and gain support for the scheme.

Hugh de longh will update the Action Plan slightly to reflect what was discussed today, which can then be shared with the council meeting agenda.

**3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held w/c 11<sup>th</sup> January, a Doodle Poll will be sent to all.

The meeting closed at 12:13pm.

**Blandford Forum Town Centre Working Group**  
**Draft Action Plan**  
**16<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Following the completion of the town centre survey, which closed in September, a Working Group has been analysing the results, looking at the key issues and preferences which came forward from the survey, and working on how these can be implemented. This draft Action Plan is a result of that work.

Funding. There is the £70k held by the Town Council. There is also some remaining Lidl's Town centre funding remaining. It may be good to use the Lidl's Sect 106 funding, with agreement of partners, for trialling some of the options and small scale initiatives, and keep the £70k for implementing main projects once trialled.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timing</b>
<b>1. Temporary pedestrianisation of market area</b>	Use smart looking barriers to trial full or part pedestrianisation on the market area, to create an attractive outdoor environment for food & drink (Café culture) a variety of markets, entertainment and other activities	<p>The proposal to trial a pedestrianisation of the market area could be for all or part only, east or west end.</p> <p>To consider, when planning the trial, the issue of long term use of all or part of the car park area, and the lost parking income, with Dorset Council.</p> <p>To this end, the first stage is to engage directly with businesses which face the market area at an initial stage (building on the Town Council postal survey), explore in more details what constraints and opportunities pedestrianisation of the Market area (part or whole) would create for them, and whether they would support a trial, and development of a longer term project if the trial is successful.</p> <p>From this, and the Town Centre Survey results, put together a Briefing paper for Cllr Noc Lacey-Clarke, setting out the issues around car parking (&amp; revenue), economic development of town centres, environmental improvements &amp; climate change, to ask if Dorset Council would consider, long term, not charging for the lost car parking spaces if evidence of strong economic and environmental benefits, business and community support, etc came from a trial.</p>	To plan now, but implement from the spring onwards, when the outdoor space will be better used when weather is better

		<p>If Dorset Council is supportive in principle, then to progress with the trial pedestrianisation, e.g. by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• working out how to measure change, economic &amp; environmental benefits, parking impact (need to understand the use of the current short stay car parking better)</li> <li>• ensuring there is a range of activities to use the space to bring people in</li> <li>• deciding on type of quality posts/barrier to be used</li> <li>• costs &amp; funding available to support the trial (Sect 106 Lidl's Town Centre allocation)</li> </ul>	
<b>2. Wider pavements</b>	Wider pavements in the Market Place, Salisbury Street, West Street and East Street	<p>To ask businesses along Salisbury Street of the impact on their businesses, positive and negative.</p> <p>To consider whether pavements can be widened as part of the overall Traffic Management plan (see below)</p>	
<b>3. Trial closure of Market Place to traffic</b>	Trial closure of Market place to traffic, except buses, taxis & Blue Badge holders, between 10:00-16:00 hrs	<p>The first step is to try and reduce traffic in the town centre where some of that traffic could be using the bypass. The suggestions from Roland Skeats are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the bottom of Damory Street, put a Through Traffic/All Other Routes sign pointing left to the Bypass, and possibly Town Centre for right hand lane. Highways could put in traffic counts before and after this change to measure any difference.</li> <li>• Where the Whitecliff Mill Hill road comes off the A350, remove the Blandford sign, so drivers are then encouraged to go on further round the bypass to access Blandford</li> </ul> <p>These could be implemented in a matter of weeks.</p> <p>To ask Cllrs Noc Lacey-Clarke &amp; Byron Quayle, in their roles as Dorset Councillors, to support this initiative, and follow up with DC Highways.</p>	<p>Soon</p> <p>Medium term</p>

		The second step is to develop a robust Traffic Management Plan without any major flaws, so to identify options, what problems there would be with the options, whether these are resolvable or not, and so work out what might be feasible. Car park signage to be part of this.	
<b>4. Reduced Speed limit in town centre</b>	Reduce speed limit to 20 mph	If signposting through traffic away from the town centre reduced traffic sufficiently for it to speed up, then this can be revisited.	
<b>5. Electronic info board in Shambles</b>	Providing updates on 'What's On', etc, to promote activities in the Town Centre.	Town Council to reconsider the proposal for an Information Board at the Corn Exchange	Could be implemented soon
<b>6. Public toilets</b>	Opening the Shambles toilets during daylight working hours whenever possible	The Town Council's plan to upgrade the Shambles toilets, albeit then only open to the public on market days, is an improvement. Once the upgrade is done, the Town Council could consider extending access to the improved Shambles toilets, e.g. in co-ordination with specific activities being held on the market area, linking in with the proposed pedestrianisation of the market area	Medium Term
<b>7. Campaign to reduce litter</b>	Clean Up Blandford is active. Investigate other litter reduction campaigns to improve public awareness and reduce litter	To support the Clean Up Blandford group in their work in reducing litter  Liaise with Dorset Council Environmental Health on good practice re takeaway food litter	Ongoing
<b>8. More use of the Riverside &amp; Meadows</b>		The Riverside; Ongoing enhancement of the Railway Arches  The Meadows; Improve signage from town centre, if needed.  Discuss with Dorset Countryside Rangers the potential to enhance the assets of the Meadows as an open space close to the town	These improvements can be carried out whenever, but the sooner the better in the spring

		centre.	
<b>9. Parking</b>	The survey highlighted the benefit for residents and others of free parking. Give priority to wider pavements, pedestrianisation of the markets area and more seating & greenery in the town centre	That the Town Council and others continue to work and lobby for a car parking structure which fits the needs of the town centre	Ongoing
<b>10. Activities for families etc in town centre</b>	Town Museum, Arts organisations and Town Team to draft a programme of entertainment and culture when circumstances permit	To develop a menu of activities, around markets cultural activities, live music, other entertainment, etc	Post Covid-19 restrictions, so there can be open air events
<b>11. Support local shops</b>	Survey shows robust support for shopping locally. Build on this with the BBSG and the Town Team to promote local shops, including pop-ups and bring more people into the town.	Support the Blandford Business Support Group work and other initiatives in supporting local businesses, both to manage under Covid restrictions and to growth and adapt to a different town centre future thereafter  Shaftesbury Town Council has nominated one of their Councillors as Portfolio Holder for Economy, and that Councillor has regular contact with retailers and other businesses in the town centre. Is this an idea that Blandford could consider? This role could co-ordinate with the Town Team and the BBSG.	Start planning now, to implement soon  Now

Drafted by Hugh de longh, Community led Development Officer, Economic Growth & Regeneration, Dorset Council, as support for the Working Group.

16/11/2020

## To approve the Council Diary for 2021/22

MAY 2021	
Monday 3	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 4	Annual Meeting of the Town Council (followed by Town Council meeting)
<b>Friday 14</b>	<b>Mayor Making Ceremony</b>
Monday 17	Town Council Meeting (Corn Exchange)
Monday 24	Planning Meeting
Monday 31	Bank Holiday
JUNE 2021	
Monday 7	Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting
Monday 14	Recreation & Amenities Committee Meeting
Monday 21	Town Council Photograph at 6.30pm / Town Council Meeting (Trust AGM) 7pm (raise a flag for Armed Forces Day)
Saturday 26	Armed Forces Day
Monday 28	Planning Meeting
JULY 2021	
Monday 5	Town & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Monday 12	Town Council Meeting
Monday 19	Town Council Meeting (Corn Exchange)
Monday 26	Planning Meeting
AUGUST 2021	
No meetings are scheduled for this month, although a Planning meeting may be necessary	
SEPTEMBER 2021	
Friday 3	Merchant Navy Day
Monday 6	Planning Meeting
Friday 11	Dorset Architectural Heritage Week (DAHW) (Cemetery Chapel) (Date TBC)
Monday 13	Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting
Saturday 18	Community Expo (including budget consultation) Dorset Architectural Heritage Week (Corn Exchange, Town Hall & Council Chamber) (Date TBC)
Monday 20	Recreation & Amenities Committee Meeting
Monday 27	Town Council Meeting
OCTOBER 2021	
Monday 4	Planning Meeting
Monday 11	Town & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Monday 18	Town Council Meeting (followed by Trust Meeting)
Monday 25	-
NOVEMBER 2021	
Monday 1	Planning Meeting
Sunday 7	Royal British Legion Cemetery Service
Monday 8	Recreation & Amenities Committee Meeting
Thursday 11	Armistice Day 11am
Friday 12	Remembrance School Involvement at 10.30am at the churchyard
Sunday 14	Remembrance Sunday Parade & Church Service 2.30pm
Monday 15	Town & General Purposes Committee Meeting

Monday 22	Town Council Meeting
Monday 29	Town Council Meeting (Corn Exchange)
<b>DECEMBER 2021</b>	
Friday 3	Yuletide Festival
Saturday 4	Small Business Saturday
Monday 6	Planning Meeting
Monday 13	Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting
Wednesday 15	Civic Christmas Carol Service
Monday 20	Town Council Meeting (followed by Trust Meeting)
Thursday 23	Office closes at 12.30pm
Monday 27	Bank Holiday
<b>JANUARY 2022</b>	
Monday 3	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 4	Office re-opens at 9.30am
Monday 10	--
Monday 17	Planning Meeting
Monday 24	Town Council Meeting
Monday 31	--
<b>FEBRUARY 2022</b>	
Monday 7	Planning
Monday 14	Recreation & Amenities Committee Meeting
Monday 21	Town Council Meeting (Corn Exchange)
Monday 28	Town Council Meeting
<b>MARCH 2022</b>	
Monday 7	Raise the Commonwealth Flag at 10am in Market Place (robes)
Monday 7	Planning Meeting
Monday 14	Town & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Monday 21	Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting
Saturday 26	Spring Community Expo in the Corn Exchange
Monday 28	Town Council Meeting
<b>APRIL 2022</b>	
Monday 4	Planning Meeting
Monday 11	--
Friday 15	Good Friday
Monday 18	Easter Monday
Monday 25	Annual Town Assembly (Corn Exchange) at 6pm followed by Town Council Meeting (followed by Trust Meeting) at 7pm
<b>MAY 2022</b>	
Monday 2	Bank Holiday
Monday 9	Annual Meeting of the Town Council (followed by Town Council meeting)
Monday 16	Town Council Meeting (Corn Exchange)
Friday 20	Mayor Making Ceremony
Monday 23	Planning Meeting
Monday 30	Bank Holiday

**To consider authority and expenditure approval to proceed with an event to mark the centenary of the cross of sacrifice at the cemetery and the war memorial plaques on the town hall**

**Recommendation**

Earlier this summer, the Chairman of the Blandford & District branch of the RBL, Terry Clarkson, raised the point that 2021 marks the centenary of the war memorial plaques on the Town Hall and the cross of sacrifice at the cemetery.

The Town Council, Town Museum and Civic Society do not appear to have detailed information on how this came about.

The Town Clerk approached the Dorset History Centre for information from the Borough Council minutes but to no avail. However, they did have an article within the council minute book (pictured at [Appendix A](#)) which was subsequently purchased for £7.00. This has since been shared with the RBL, Civic Society and the BFTC Commemoration Group.

The Commemoration Group is meeting with the RBL to discuss what type of event they would like to see in Blandford to mark this significant centenary and more details follow.

The Town Clerk has advised that the invitations can then be distributed by the Mayor's Secretary.

It is anticipated that expenditure will be low and any event will, of course, depend on COVID-19.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that councillors approve the proposal to hold an event with associated expenditure from the civic budget.

Linda Scott-Giles  
Town Clerk  
4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 1921.

"FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH."  
UNVEILING OF BLANDFORD WAR  
MEMORIALS.

GENERAL SIR THOMAS SNOW'S TRIBUTE  
TO THE FALLEN.

The ceremony of unveiling the two war memorials which have been erected in Blandford took place, on Sunday afternoon, in the presence of a large assembly of townspeople. The first portion of the ceremony took place at the Market-place, where the cast bronze tablets which have been affixed to the two principal pillars at the entrance to the Municipal Buildings were unveiled by Lieut. General Sir Thomas Snow, K.C.B. A temporary platform had been erected immediately outside the Municipal Buildings, and on this Sir Thomas Snow was accompanied by the Mayor (Mr. L. B. Bence), Aldermen C. H. Curtis, S. J. Norman, J. J. Lamerford, and G. Dyke; Councillors G. H. Jones, A. A. Haynes, E. D. Horsey, C. G. Bozie, G. Best, A. J. Hicks, R. H. Groves, G. E. Gould, and A. Hobbs; Mr. W. H. Wilson (town clerk), Mr. H. Sharp (borough treasurer), Mr. R. W. Ashman (borough surveyor), Mr. E. G. Combs (deputy town clerk), and the macebearers (Messrs. Goddard and Sheppard). Others on the platform were Mr. T. H. Webb, C.C., the Revs. F. E. Overton (rector), A. R. Dittmer (curate), Gomer Evans, (Congregational), J. R. Rowe (Wesleyan Methodist), and A. W. Welford (Primitive Methodist), and Mr. L. C. Jesty (hon. secretary of the War Memorial Committee). The united choirs of the various churches and the Town Band were immediately in the rear of the platform, and led the singing of the hymns, under the conductorship of Alderman C. H. Curtis. Seats for the relatives were placed near the platform. Amongst other representative bodies present were the local Territorials, the Fire Brigade, Girl Guides and Brownies, Boy Scouts, and Comrades of the Great War.

The service commenced with the singing of the hymn "Lord of our life, and God of our salvation," after which the Rev. A. W. Welford offered prayer, and the Rev. Gomer Evans read Rev. xxi. During the singing of the hymn "O God, our Father, Christian Soldiers," an offertory was made on behalf of the Memorial Fund.

Lieut. General Sir Thomas Snow, K.C.B., said they had assembled there that day to do honour to the memory of 117 Blandford men who died during the Great War—117 men who loved life and who loved Blandford just as all those present loved it. Anyone who had anything to do with the troops in the war could not help being struck by the immense love the men had for their homes and for their native places. Who one was in a foreign country the love of home always came uppermost, and this was especially the case during active service. And during the late war the love of home was so strong that it became almost unbearable. Being a Blandford man himself he knew the feeling during the war of all Blandford men. Whether they were in France, Flanders, Gallipoli, or elsewhere, when they looked around them and saw the ruin and desolation, the strife, and the noise, their thoughts turned to peaceful Blandford. They thought of their homes, of the dear old Market-place, of the beautiful downs, of the "Stour," and of the bridge, and how they longed to be there. Their own hope was to be spared to see all those dear places again. In the majority of cases that hope was fulfilled, but it was not so in the cases of those men whom they were gathered there that day to honour. Instead of seeing their homes again they lay in a foreign soil. Their hearts went out in pity to their friends and to their relatives. But how could they pity those men? They envied them rather. Those men died the grandest death that men could die—fighting for their King, their country, and their loved ones. They went straight from the miseries of the battlefield to everlasting happiness. If, as many believed, the spirits of those who had passed into the beyond came down on earth, they could imagine their spirits visiting dear old Blandford, and being with them that day and rejoicing in the fact that their friends and relations were gathered there to honour their memory. They could never repay the debt they owed those men who died that they might live. Those of them who still lived could do something to rebuild the Empire on the foundations those men laid by their deaths. That was the best and honour their memory and pay the debt they owed them. Forty years hence few of them present that day would still be here. Then the war would be a thing of the past, and almost forgotten. A new generation would have sprung up, and to the younger ones present that day it would be a duty to bring up their children and their children's children and show them those tablets, to tell them about the war, and how those men fought and died. They must point to the names on those tablets, and tell their children they were the names of peaceful citizens who at the call of duty came forward, and after short training, fought as men never fought before, and conquered and won. They must impress upon them that if in their time the old country was ever again in danger it would be their duty to come forward and give up all, even to life itself, for their country and their King.

Sir Thomas then drew away the Union Jacks which covered the tablets, the Territorials fired three volleys, and the buglers sounded "The Last Post." This part of the service concluded with the singing of the hymn "For all the Saints." A procession was then formed, and, accompanied by a large crowd, the party made their way to the Cemetery. The base of the memorial cross, on which was the inscription "To the glory who laid down their lives for their country in the Great War of 1914-1918. This cross was erected together with the tablets in the Market-place, 1921," was also draped with the Union Jack, and four Territorials stood at the corners with arms reversed.

The hymn "Jesus, lover of my soul," having been sung, and prayer offered by the Rev. J. R. Rowe.

The Mayor gave a short address, in the course of which he remarked that the proceedings of that day were the fulfilment of a solemn duty. It had been not only the greatest, but it was the most terrible war, in that they had seen millions go forth in the full strength and energy of early manhood, and many thousands would never return. Blandford had taken its full share in the great cause of freedom, and they would cherish and keep ever green the memory of those 117 men, many of whom they had known from boyhood. Those memorials would continually remind them and future generations of the great sacrifice that their sons had made, and it should and would be an inspiration to them to do their duty. The war had proved that British pluck and endurance were as great as ever, and that the men of the British race were not decadent, and their hours were sound. It had taught them that the highest form of service was to die and their country, and if they quietly and consistently did their duty, the sacrifice of those men would not have been in vain. He then unveiled the memorial.

The Rector also gave a short address, in the course of which he said he thought the message of those men, if they could be there amongst them that afternoon, would be that their deaths were worth while. It was up to them to remain to prove that the sacrifice had been worth while. Those men had fought the good fight; they had finished the course; their course here on earth was ended, and yet they had passed over from this world into a fuller life to carry on the work of their Master. They had kept the faith. These men with all their weaknesses, their shortcomings, and infirmities had made the great sacrifice. They were faithful to their duty, and they had passed into the realms of the faithful, and their names were enrolled in the Lamb's Book of Life.

The Territorials then fired three volleys, and the buglers again sounded the "Last Post." The final hymn was "O God, our help," followed by "Reveille" and the Benediction.

Immediately at the close of the service the members of the Fire Brigade pronounced to the memorial, and one of their number placed thereon a laurel wreath to the memory of a fallen comrade. The relatives and friends subsequently laid their floral tributes round the base of the cross.

The tablets are of cast bronze, and the lettering, border, and borough arms (the latter of which are placed at the top of each tablet) stand out in massive relief, the inscription reading: "To commemorate the self sacrifice of those whose names

are inscribed hereon, who gave their lives for their country in the Great War, 1914-1918." Appended is a list of the names—

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| ALEXANDER, G. B. | HUNT, ED.         |
| ANDREWS, J. J.   | HUNT, E.          |
| ARNDSON, G.      | HUNT, G.          |
| ARNDSON, J. J.   | HALL, H. J.       |
| ARNDSON, J. J.   | HALL, H. J.       |
| BALL, W. J.      | KELLY, H. E.      |
| BARNETT, C. B.   | LAMBERT, S. H.    |
| BARTLEY, C. H.   | LAMBERT, S. H.    |
| BARTLEY, B.      | LANS, F. J.       |
| BARTLEY, E.      | LANS, F. G.       |
| BARTLEY, H. G.   | LANS, B. B.       |
| BAVINGTON, G.    | LANS, B. B.       |
| BAVINGTON, H. W. | LANS, B. B.       |
| BELLOWS, H.      | LAWER, C.         |
| BESANT, J. J.    | LEWIS, C. H.      |
| BESANT, M. W.    | LETTERS, GRADERS  |
| BLANDFORD, F.    | LETTERS, GRADERS  |
| BLANDFORD, F.    | MAXWELL, F.       |
| BLANDFORD, W. J. | MELROSE, T. L. V. |
| BONE, E.         | MISS, W.          |
| BONNY, F.        | MOORE, G.         |
| BROWN, S. H.     | NAYLOR, A. J.     |
| BURKE, W. C. P.  | NEVE, E.          |
| BUTCH, J.        | NORRIS, W.        |
| LEDD, W. J.      | PARRER, E.        |
| CATES, W. E. E.  | PARRONS, H. G.    |
| CATER, C.        | PITMAN, F.        |
| CATER, T.        | PORTSMOUTH, G.    |
| CHEERY, A. D.    | PRATT, F. G.      |
| CHEERY, B.       | PRICE, A.         |
| CLARK, WALTER    | READ, J. H.       |
| CLARK, W.S.      | REYNOLDS, R.      |
| COX, W. H.       | ROOS, C. E.       |
| CURTH, W. A.     | SKAYDON, C.       |
| DANIEL, H.       | SMITH, F. J.      |
| DANIEL, F. E. L. | SMITH, B. P. G.   |
| DANIEL, F. E.    | SMITH, P. E.      |
| DONOVAN, F.      | SMITH, P. E.      |
| DUNN, H.         | SMITH, W. J. G.   |
| EASTON, W.       | SOUTH, J.         |
| FORD, C. E.      | SOUTH, J.         |
| FORD, S. H.      | SPRENG, R. J.     |
| FRENCH, H.       | SPRENG, W. J.     |
| GEORGE, J. W.    | SCOTT, F. J.      |
| GEORGE, S.       | STURLEY, F. B.    |
| GILBERT, M.      | STURLEY, F. B.    |
| GOODE, G. L.     | TANWELL, P.       |
| GOT, W. G.       | TANWELL, R.       |
| GOSDARD, H. G.   | THOMAS, L.        |
| HARR, A.         | TOWNSEND, J.      |
| HARRAR, W.       | TUCKER, E. J.     |
| HARRIS, A.       | TUCKER, T.        |
| HARRIS, E.       | VANE, W.          |
| HARRIS, A.       | WATTS, W.         |
| HARRIS, A.       | WEDMORE, A. J.    |
| HARRIS, H.       | WELLS, M. J.      |
| HOLLOWAY, T. S.  | WEDMORE, E. J.    |
| HOLLOWAY, W. G.  | WYATT, F. L.      |
| HOLLIS, G.       |                   |

The memorial cross has been erected on the grass space between the two chapels, and is in a direct line with the entrance gates. The memorial is 11ft. high, the width of the base 5ft., and stands on a concrete foundation.