

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town & General Purposes Committee
Held on Monday 5th July 2021 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange

DRAFT
Subject to confirmation

PRESENT

Cllr H Mieville – Chairman	Cllr R Holmes – Vice Chairman
Cllr L Hitchings – Chairman of Council	Cllr C Stevens – Vice Chairman of Council
Cllr A Cross	Cllr B Quayle
Cllr P Osborne	Cllr P Clark

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk (via Microsoft Teams)	Assistant Town Clerk
Nicci Brown – Press	Nic Nicol – Town Team

SITTING IN

Cllr S Hitchings (via Microsoft Teams)

1. PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public were in attendance.

2. APOLOGIES

Blandford Business Group	Blandford Police
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3. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None had been submitted.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH MARCH 2021

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Quayle and AGREED unanimously that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

5. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing to report.

6. GENERAL UPDATES FROM:

6.1 Blandford Business Support Group

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

The Chairman remarked that it is very positive to see the group being so active.

6.2 Blandford Police

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

The Chairman found it encouraging that there has been only a small increase in crime, compared to last year, given that society has opened up a lot more. Both the Chairman and Cllr L Hitchings thanked the police for the detailed and comprehensive report.

6. GENERAL UPDATES FROM (cont.):

6.3 Market Manager

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

Nic Nicol from the Town Team commented that the Market Manager is always very helpful to all stall holders.

Cllr L Hitchings requested for the Market Manager to look at some strategies to encourage the Saturday market to be as vibrant as the Thursday market. One example could be to offer a reduction in rent. Councillors would like the Market Manager to attend the next meeting to present some ideas.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr L Hitchings voiced his disappointment that the market might be moved to another location for the next 12 weeks due to the slab replacement project, although he does understand that the works are necessary. He would like for the Dorset Council depot to be in the Marsh & Ham.

Cllrs Osborne and Holmes commented that the slab work is very important and that there could be other options for the market, i.e., moving to another day for it to be more vibrant. Cllr Holmes also felt that visitors would visit the market in other locations if it was to be moved temporarily.

6.4 Town Team

Nic Nicol spoke about the actions from the Town Team in recent months and sent the following report prior to the meeting.

- 6.4.1 Successful Delivery of the Town Centre Recovery Survey – In the fog of the pandemic, the successful delivery of the Town Centre Recovery Survey was a major Town Team achievement, working in collaboration with the Town Council. Directors and members put in a huge amount of time and effort to deliver the survey and analysis of SurveyMonkey and off-line results. The detailed Action Plan compiled by Dorset Council's Community Led Development Officer, is currently on hold because of the long-anticipated paving replacement programme, planned to start in June and complete by the end of August 2021. The key findings of the survey were that people would like 'cleaner streets, less litter, more outdoor seating, more toilets, pedestrianised areas, wider pavements and less motor traffic'. We will not lose sight of the outcome of the survey. Its findings should form part of the analysis by Dorset Council in its survey on the impact of pedestrianisation next year. Similarly, through membership of the Town Centre Enhancements Working Group, the Town Team will do its utmost to ensure promotion of the local view of what people in the town want.
- 6.4.2 Town Centre and Arches Entertainment – Late August and September – Programme of entertainment for late August and September this year put together with costs and resource requirements to help bring the town back to life post pandemic. Organiser unable to proceed without funding.
- 6.4.3 Clean-up Blandford Campaign – Despite the pandemic restrictions the CUBC had a good year. A number of litter picks were held throughout 2020, including a weekly Saturday litter pick during August. More to follow in the coming months, including support for events in the town.

6.4 Town Team (cont.)

6.4.4 20 is Plenty in Blandford – Proposal supported by Town Team and presentation made to Town Council.

6.4.5 Dorset Council's – Bus Back Better – The Town Team will continue to promote – in the strongest terms – requirements for the Dorchester bus to stop at the hospital and for buses that enable commuters to get to and from work in Wimborne, Poole and the Ferndown Industrial Estate (the largest in Dorset).

Cllr L Hitchings requested for Cllr Quayle to look into options for the bus to include a stop at the Dorchester hospital when the next tender is due with the bus companies. Cllr Quayle will provide a written response.

ACTION: CLLR QUAYLE

7. **DORSET COUNCIL HIGHWAYS**

7.1 To consider supporting a one-way system in The Plocks, leading from the Post Office out onto Church Lane and Salisbury Street (as requested by Cllr Holmes)

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

The Town Council expresses their aspiration to see improved traffic flow management throughout the town, with the safety of pedestrians a priority.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

7.2 To consider a request for HGV traffic management along Salisbury Road

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Quayle, SECONDED by Cllr Osborne and AGREED (7 in favour, 1 against) that

The Town Council wishes for a letter to be sent to the Dorset Council to request written or verbal conversations are held with local businesses and building contractors reminding them of the existing TRO and that alternative routes are available.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

8. **REVIEW OF TOWN & GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGETS TO 31ST MAY 2021**

8.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

8.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

8.3 Reserve Accounts

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

9. TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF A FINGER POST IN LANGTON ROAD CAR PARK

The paper was noted (see Appendix H).

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

The Town Council approves the request for two finger posts (Langton Road and Marsh & Ham car park) and the associated number of fingers, and chooses contractor C, using funds of up to £3,000 from budget line 1020 Town Maps, Boards and Fingerposts. This expenditure includes the removal and installation of both posts (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 8:08pm.

SIGNED: **DATED:**