

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town & General Purposes Committee
Held on Monday 14th March 2022 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange



PRESENT

Cllr H Mieville – Chairman
Cllr L Hitchings – Chairman of Council
Cllr K Herbert

Cllr R Holmes – Vice Chairman
Cllr C Stevens – Vice Chairman of Council
Cllr B Quayle

IN ATTENDANCE

Assistant Town Clerk
Nic Nicol, Town Team
Marten Gregory MCIWM, Dorset Council

Operations Manager
Tom Harness, Blandford Police

IN ATTENDANCE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Cllr P Clark

SITTING IN

Cllr S Hitchings

Cllr N Lacey-Clarke

33. PUBLIC SESSION

No matters were raised.

The Chairman decided to bring agenda item 6 forward.

34. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM MARTEN GREGORY MCIWM (RECYCLING TEAM LEADER AT DORSET COUNCIL) ON HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND WHERE IT GOES

Mr Gregory gave his presentation to Councillors, which was a general overview about the Dorset Council waste collection. He spoke about their different messaging, including on social media, and collection vehicle banners. Mr Gregory also spoke about the different campaigns they are running, to reduce general waste and improve facilities.

Mr Gregory explained that the green lidded bin gets sent to North Wales. Food Waste is recycled in Dorset. Black lidded rubbish is sent to a site in Poole.

Cllr Holmes asked if there is an opportunity for food outlets to use reusable containers. Mr Gregory responded that this is a very good idea, and shops and businesses need to be on board. However, this is something that can be explored.

Cllr Quayle asked if there is something that the Town Council can do to support the Dorset Council Waste Services. Mr Gregory said that the Town Council already provides a lot of support and social media posts are shared on a regular basis.

Cllr Mieville requested for a copy of the presentation to be shared with the Town Council. Mr Gregory will send a copy.

Cllr Mieville spoke about the overflowing bins around the town. Mr Gregory will report that back and he believes that this could be due to staff shortages. Residents and visitors are also encouraged to take their rubbish home.

The Chairman thanked Mr Gregory for this very informative presentation.

35. APOLOGIES

Cllr A Cross

Cllr P Osborne

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

None had been submitted.

37. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH NOVEMBER 2021

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

38. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

38.1 Following the damage to the Public Art canopy, the manufacturer of the canopy has been contacted to provide a quote for the repair. This will be an item for consideration on the Town Council agenda on 28th March 2022.

39. GENERAL UPDATES FROM:

39.1 Blandford Business Support Group

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

39.2 Blandford Police

The paper was noted (see Appendix B) and PC Harness introduced himself and reported that he has returned to working in the Blandford area. Councillors welcomed him back and the Chairman thanked him for his attendance.

39.3 Market Manager

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

39.3.1 To consider extending the Winter rate until 1st July

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

The Committee wishes to extend the Winter rate of £15.00 until 31st July 2022, without the free week in every four.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

39.4 Town Team

Nic Nicol gave an update on the projects they are working on, which includes introducing bus shelters in Blandford St Mary, the 20 is Plenty Campaign, arts workshops and a family fun day in May. He advised that the Town Team is a registered community group and is therefore able to apply for grants other organisations might not have access to. They have aspirations to conduct a clean air campaign sometime in the future. Once the paving slab programme is completed Dr Hixson-Andrews will be looking at disabled access to shops again. The Town Team is looking forward to the town centre enhancement working group starting up again and enquired when Dorset Council will conduct the survey with shops and businesses. Cllr Lacey-Clarke reported that there will soon be a consultation coming out on widening one of the pavements in the town centre. Once this has been completed, they can give a further update on a timeline for the paving slab programme. Cllr Lacey-Clarke also reminded Dorset Council at a recent meeting that the survey was promised, and it was confirmed that this will take place.

The Chairman thanked Mr Nicol for attending the meeting.

40. DORSET COUNCIL HIGHWAYS

40.1 To consider expenditure approval for a shelter for the bench along Wimborne Road

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Holmes, SECONDED by Cllr Quayle and AGREED (4 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention) that

The Committee approves the request for a shelter for this bench and would like to proceed with Option B, at a cost of £2,168 + VAT + Delivery, using budget line DCC Highways (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8). It was agreed to request for Dorset Council to provide a real time information sign, as the Town Council is providing the bus shelter infrastructure.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

41. REVIEW OF TOWN & GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGETS

41.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget to 28th February 2022

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

41.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves to 28th February 2022

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

41.3 Reserve Accounts to 28th February 2022

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

42. CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

The Chairman decided to take agenda item 10.1 and 10.2 together.

42.1 To consider expenditure authority for the lighting up of Woodhouse Gardens for the month of December and to consider expenditure authority for the introduction of Cross Street Decorations

The paper was noted (see Appendix H and I).

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

The Committee agrees to a public engagement/consultation at the Community Expo on 26th March, providing information on the lighting up of Woodhouse Gardens and the town centre, asking the public if they would like to see more / less / the same amount of Christmas lighting. The results of the consultation will be considered by a Working Group, consisting of Cllrs Stevens, Quayle, Mieville, Holmes and L Hitchings. The findings and proposals of the working group will be brought back to the Town Council meeting scheduled for 25th April 2022.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

43. TO CONSIDER PRODUCING A CALENDAR FOR 2022 WITH PROCEEDS GOING TO THE MAYOR'S CHARITIES

The paper was noted (see Appendix J).

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

The Committee agrees to produce 100 calendars with the theme chosen by the Mayor of 2022/23, and would like to engage with company B at cost of £176 + VAT, using funds from budget line 1030 Tourism (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

44. TO DISCUSS THE LACK OF NHS DENTISTS IN BLANDFORD FORUM AND POSSIBLE FURTHER ACTIONS (AS REQUESTED BY CLLR MIEVILLE

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

The Committee agrees for the Chairman of Council to send a letter to the Dorset CCG, Dorset Council, the local MP and any other relevant parties. The letter will be drafted by the Committee Chairman and distributed to all Councillors for approval before submission.

ACTION: CLLR L HITCHINGS

The meeting closed at 8:35pm.

SIGNED: DATED: