

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
Held on Monday 27th June 2022 at 7:00pm in the Corn Exchange



PRESENT

Cllr C Stevens – Chairman of Council
Cllr S Hitchings – late arrival at 7:14pm
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke
Cllr H White
Cllr L Lindsay
Cllr K Herbert
Cllr E Bray
Cllr C Jacques

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Nicci Brown

Operations Manager

27. PUBLIC SESSION

The Chairman of Council congratulated Cllr White on his 82nd birthday and 61st wedding anniversary!

Town Council caretaker, John Scott was presented with a certificate of appreciation – nominated by Cllr Lynn Lindsay and supported by councillors – with today being the 20th anniversary of his employment with the Town Council.

Cllr White raised the Deer Park estate proposal and Cllr Carter referred to the Neighbourhood Plan and confirmed that the matter will be discussed at the Planning meeting scheduled for Monday 11th July 2022. The Town Clerk confirmed that she had emailed the member of the public who is calling a public meeting about the Deer Park proposal, clarifying that individuals should voice their support or objections to Dorset Council as the planning authority, which Cllr Lacey-Clarke reiterated.

28. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS

Cllr Lacey-Clarke gave the report this month.

Accounts Receivable – Cllr Lacey-Clarke advised that spam/phishing emails are being sent out suggesting they are from Dorset Council, which they are not.

Citizen's Advice – Dorset Council is working with the Citizen's Advice to provide help and support for the cost of living crises.

Replacement Slab Programme – The Dorset Council Councillors have both been receiving positive feedback from residents and businesses and Cllr Lacey-Clarke noted the consultation on widening the lower part of Salisbury Street and thanked the Town Council for its support.

7:14pm – Cllr S Hitchings arrived.

29. APOLOGIES

Cllr P Clark

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

Cllr Stevens declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 11.

31. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3rd MAY 2022

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

32. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

- 32.1 Footfall Monitoring Data – The footfall monitoring data is now being shared with the Town Museum, Market Manager, Councillors and the Information Centre.
- 32.2 Blandford, Massachusetts – Following an email to Councillors, a certificate will be sent to The Blandford Historical Society in Massachusetts (via Mr Stokoe) along with a framed compilation of images of the town, past and present and a council photo. In addition, Cllr Rosemary Holmes has donated a painting gifted to her by Reverend Chris Ward, the Military Padre when she was Mayor of Blandford Forum. It is a painting of the parish church and can be viewed in the Town Clerk's Office. Cllr Stevens has written a letter, as Mayor of Blandford Forum, which will be sent to Mr Stokoe for inclusion when he will be speaking on behalf of the town at the 200th anniversary events in September.
- 32.3 Royal Death Policy – The National Association of Civic Officers has written to advise of an update on the timings of the Proclamations in the plans for Operation London Bridge as there had been some discrepancy between information being sent out by them and the Government Department. It is helpful also to see that the timings of the more local proclamations are suggested at a later time to enable Civic Leaders to attend the High Sheriff's proclamation at 13.00 before returning to their communities to make their own. The Town Council's policy has therefore been updated accordingly.
- 32.4 Bastard Brother Portraits – Anne Shire has written on behalf of the Parish Church to say 'a big thank you to you and all the Council staff who kindly opened the Town Hall and allowed us to bring parties from Year 8. Blandford School are very enthusiastic about further similar events next year. We are so lucky to live here where everything is so close together and everyone is so co-operative so that such events are possible'.

33. CIVIC REPORT

The paper was sent to Councillors via email.

34. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES

34.1 Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting held on Monday 13th May 2022

34.1.1 Recommendations

Minute No. 9 To approve the updated Asset Register

The paper was noted (see Appendix I).

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

The updated Asset Register is approved.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Minute No. 10 Review of end of year accounts 2021/22

The paper was noted (see Appendix J).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 abstention) that

34. **RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES (cont)**

The Annual Accounts 2021-22 are approved.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Minute No. 11.1 Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley

Cllr Osborne PROPOSED a grant of £150, which was SECONDED by Cllr Lindsay and Cllr Mieville a grant of £250, which was not seconded. An amendment was made by Cllr White, which was SECONDED by Cllr Mieville that a grant of £150 is also approved for Milldown CE Academy.

It was therefore AGREED (13 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention) that

Grants of £150 are approved for the purchase of items for Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley for both Archbishop Wake Primary School and Milldown CE Academy (Expenditure Authority: Localism Act 2011 s1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Minute No. 11.2 The Vale Pantry

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Cross, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 against) that

A grant is not approved on this occasion.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Minute No. 11.3 The Jolly Good Company

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

Two afternoons a month are approved for free venue hire at a cost of £648 (incl. VAT) (Expenditure Authority: Localism Act 2011 s1-8).

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

A grant is not approved on this occasion.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

34.1.2 The minutes were RECEIVED.

34.2 **Recreation & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 20th June 2022**

34.2.1 **Recommendations**

There were no recommendations.

34.2.2 The minutes were RECEIVED.

35. **TO APPROVE SECTION 1 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT OF THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2022**

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

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

The Town Council approves Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Return for the year ending 31st March 2022.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

36. TO APPROVE SECTION 2 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS OF THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2022

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

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

The Town Council approves Section 2 – Statement of Accounts of the Annual Return for the year ending 31st March 2022.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk confirmed the dates of the Exercise of Public Rights as 29th June 2022 to 9th August 2022 and the required information and Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance & Accountability Review will be published on the Town Council's website from Tuesday 28th June 2022.

37. TO CONSIDER THE ONGOING MANAGEMENT OF THE BLANDFORD COMMUNITY FRIDGE

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

Cllr Lacey-Clarke thanked the Town Clerk for her efforts in establishing the Community Fridge and Cllr Holmes added the volunteer involvement and that the fridge is for everyone with the focus on reducing food waste.

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

The Town Council continues to manage the Blandford Community Fridge.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

38. TO CONSIDER PROPOSING MOTIONS FOR THE DORSET ASSOCIATION OF PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS (DAPTC) AGM

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

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

Any Town Councillor with a proposal prior to the deadline of 30th September 2022 should inform the Town Clerk, who will circulate it to all members for consultation prior to Cllr White delivering the motion on the Town Council's behalf at the DAPTC AGM in November.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

39. TO CONSIDER WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BLANDFORD GROUP PRACTICE FOR PPG MEETINGS/EVENTS

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

The Town Council authorises free hire of a Town Council venue three times a year for The Blandford Group Practice to provide public-facing consultation sessions.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

40.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford+

Cllr Carter thanked Councillors who have stepped up to contribute to the task groups and he confirmed that a steering group meeting is due to take place on 28th June 2022. Cllr Carter also thanked Nicci Brown who has worked tirelessly on this scheme.

40. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE AND CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FROM THE: (cont)

Cllr Mieville thanked Cllr Carter for all the work he has put into it and suggested amalgamating the groups due to low attendance.

40.2 BFTC Commemoration Group
Nothing to report.

40.3 Climate Change & Biodiversity (notes from the meeting held on 16th June circulated to councillors on 17th June)

Cllr Osborne reported that the current focus is on marine citizenship and the impact on the River Stour and subsequently the sea. A motion, and other related projects, will be brought back to council in due course.

40.4 Dorset Council Grant to support the Market Area Enhancement Project

The chairman of the working group, Cllr Stevens would like to have a meeting at the earliest opportunity due to the relevance to the Neighbourhood Plan.

41. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

41.1 Cllr Mieville distributed the minutes of The Blandford School Foundation meeting held on Wednesday 8th June 2022.

41.2 Cllr Bray attended the Information Centre meeting and reported back that they were not aware of the Jubilee events and would like to receive information about Town Council events.

The meeting closed at 8:10pm.

SIGNED

DATED