

**BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Town & General Purposes Committee**  
**Held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange**

**DRAFT**  
Subject to confirmation

**PRESENT**

Cllr A Cross – Chairman	Cllr N Lacey-Clarke – Vice Chairman
Cllr C Stevens – Chairman of Council	Cllr H Mieville – Vice Chairman of Council
Cllr B Quayle	Cllr K Herbert
Cllr R Holmes	

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Town Clerk	Operations Manager
Nicci Brown (via Microsoft Teams)	

**SITTING IN**

Cllr H White	Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr L Hitchings	

**1. PUBLIC SESSION**

Cllr Holmes asked the committee about introducing double yellow lines on Milldown Road due to parking and passing issues. Cllr Quayle reminded the committee that it was raised before, after a detailed report was carried out by Dorset Council, and the Town Council had not supported the proposal.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Cllr P Clark	Cllr C Jacques
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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 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Holmes, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED (6 in favour, 1 abstention) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

**5. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

- 5.1 Wimborne Road bench and shelter – The manufacturer has advised that the bench, commissioned by one of Blandford Forum's Freemen, has been made and just requires painting. Anticipated delivery is the end of July (all being well as they close for the first two weeks in July). Unfortunately, the production team have advised of extreme difficulties in the supply of steel required for the shelter and as such they still have not been able to manufacture this yet. They are hoping to have everything in order by the time they reopen in July and thereafter an anticipated delivery for October.
- 5.2 GDSF Tickets – The office has received 100 free tickets and a code for 500 residents to use for 50% discount.
- 5.3 Information Centre – The Town Clerk confirmed that the office staff have been sending events to the Information Centre, as part of the events checklist, although only the Jubilee Thanksgiving service had been emailed over and not all the Jubilee events, due to staff absence/vacancies at the time.

6. **GENERAL UPDATES FROM:**

- 6.1 Blandford Business Support Group – A representative was not in attendance, but the committee chairman advised that the next meeting is scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022.
- 6.2 Blandford Police – A report had not been received in time for the meeting, however it was noted that the Police & Crime Commissioner, David Sidwick will be attending a meeting with the Town Council later this month.
- 6.3 Market Manager – The paper was noted (see Appendix A) and the Committee agreed unanimously to proceed with the Dorset Food & Drink Sunday monthly market, with no cost to the Town Council, as they will pay Dorset Council for the loss of parking income. This is to be reviewed at the next committee meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

- 6.4 Town Team – Cllr Stevens spoke, combining an update for both the Town Team and the Business Support Group, and informed members that the support group will be holding their awards ceremony again this Autumn. The Town Team may be disbanding at a meeting later this week and there is a possibility that it will merge with the support group due to a lack of resources/volunteers to run the two organisations.

7. **DORSET COUNCIL HIGHWAYS**

None had been submitted.

8. **TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE APPROVAL TO ENHANCE THE AREA AT BADGER CROSS**

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

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

**The Committee approves expenditure approval of £1,200 to install custom made planters either side of the concrete pad at Badger Cross and to plant bulbs and wildflower plugs at the appropriate time using funds from the DC Highways budget line as it is a Dorset Council-owned area (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

9. **TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE APPROVAL TO PROGRESS THE LITTER FREE DORSET 'ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN' PROJECT**

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

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

**The Committee supports the project and proposed locations, to enable officers to seek consent from the Dorset Council Highways and Conservation teams and that funds of up to £500 are approved from the Town Improvements budget line to cover the costs of paint for The Blandford School (subject to them agreeing to proceed) (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**10. TO CONSIDER NEW INFORMATION FOR THE ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

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

**The committee selects two new lights of the Twist Design at £427 each for East Street and three Petite Quadrille Design at £292 for West Street using the Christmas Lights budget line (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**11. TO CONSIDER CHANGING ONE OF THE FREE PARKING DATES**

The paper was noted (Appendix E).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Cross but not SECONDED that the Committee agrees to change the free date of Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August for the Skatefest and instructs the Town Clerk to advise Dorset Council.

It was then PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville that the date remains as Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

Following a discussion, it was then PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED (6 in favour, 1 abstention) that

**The Committee agrees to change the free parking date from Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August if Dorset Council intends to charge for the closure of Stour Meadows car park for the Skatefest. If there is no charge for this event, the free date is to be changed to Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

In addition, the Town Clerk is instructed to inform the Safety Advisory Group of the event.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**12. REVIEW OF TOWN & GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGETS TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2022**

**12.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget**

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

**12.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves**

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

**12.3 Reserve Accounts**

The paper was noted (see Appendix H).

The meeting closed at 8:00 pm.

**SIGNED: .....**

**DATED: .....**