

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town & General Purposes Committee
Held on Monday 10th October 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 K Herbert	Cllr R Holmes
Cllr P Clark	

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk	Operations Manager
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SITTING IN

Cllr S Hitchings	Cllr L Hitchings – late arrival at 7:08pm
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13. PUBLIC SESSION

Cllr Holmes spoke about an incident during the Steam Fair and concerns over the response from the Police.

Cllr Mieville raised concern about the Boots pharmacy with the queues and the impact on both customers and the staff.

14. APOLOGIES

Cllr C Jacques	Cllr B Quayle
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15. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None had been submitted.

16. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4th July 2022

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Herbert, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED unanimously that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

16. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

16.1 Christmas Decorations – The Town Clerk confirmed that the new decorations ordered in July (for East Street and West Street entrances) have been received.

16.2 Memorial Bench and Bus Shelter – The Town Clerk advised that the memorial bench has been delivered and is now being stored at the depot and the bus shelter is awaited. In addition, the Operations Manager has approached Dorset Council's works department for a quote to install the items on Wimborne Road and this is now awaited, although they have initially raised concerns over the services in the area.

17. GENERAL UPDATES FROM:

17.1 Blandford Business Support Group – The Group was grateful for the sponsorship for the awards event and Catharine Chapman kindly wrote a letter of support for the Town Hall/Corn Exchange project for the purpose of the National Lottery Heritage Fund application.

17. GENERAL UPDATES FROM: (cont)

- 17.2 Town Team – Cllr Mieville advised that the Town Team has now been wound up and the Chairman confirmed that this item can now be removed from the agenda.
- 17.3 Blandford Police – A report had not been received prior to the meeting and Cllr Holmes proposed a meeting with the Inspector and the Police & Crime Commissioner. Cllr Stevens added that the Damory Garage was subject to thefts during the Steam Fair week. Cllr S Hitchings suggested that any points are fed back to the Town Council's Steam Fair representatives who can report back to the wash-up meeting if that hasn't already taken place.
- 17.4 Market Manager – The paper was noted (see Appendix A) and the Chairman thanked him for his efforts in improving the market.

18. DORSET COUNCIL HIGHWAYS

None had been submitted.

19. REVIEW OF TOWN & GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGETS TO 30th SEPTEMBER 2022

- 19.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget
The paper was noted (see Appendix B).
- 19.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves
The paper was noted (see Appendix C).
- 19.3 Reserve Accounts
The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

20. CHRISTMAS

- 20.1 To consider Christmas Window Competition details and expenditure approval for proposed prize money and to appoint the judges for the Christmas Window Competition 2022

The paper was noted (see Appendix E & F).

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

The Committee approves:

The Christmas window competition prizes using funds from the Christmas Town Decorations budget line 1025 (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 sl-8) with the winning prizes as follows:

1st prize - £150.00

2nd prize - £100.00

3rd prize - £50.00

Charity/not for profit organisation £50.00 (to the charity).

Extending an invitation to a representative from the Blandford Business Group to join the judging panel with the judging taking place over the weekend of 9th – 11th December 2022.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

- 20.3 To approve a newsletter to all businesses regarding small Christmas trees and decorations
The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

20. CHRISTMAS (cont)

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

The Committee approves the newsletter to be sent to all businesses regarding the small Christmas trees and decorations.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

20.4 To approve expenditure for installation of the trees and column lights

The paper was noted (see Appendix H).

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

The Committee approves expenditure of £8,650.00 + VAT for the installation of the trees and column lights from the Christmas light budget line 1025 (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

21. TO AGREE THE FREE PARKING DAYS FOR DORSET COUNCIL CAR PARKS IN BLANDFORD FORUM FOR 2023

The paper was noted (see Appendix I) and Councillors agreed to defer the matter until the King Charles III Coronation Day date is known and asked the Town Clerk to clarify the December date should be Friday 23rd December 2022, not Friday 24th December 2022.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

22. TO CONSIDER TAKING ON THE PRODUCTION OF THE OUT & ABOUT BLANDFORD GUIDE FROM THE INFORMATION CENTRE

The paper was noted (see Appendix J).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Holmes to defer until March 2023, but this was not seconded.

It was then PROPOSED by Cllr Cross, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED (6 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Committee agrees in principle to take on the Out & About project and the Committee will consider any associated funding once all the figures are received, along with the amount of officer time involved.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 7:55 pm.

SIGNED:

DATED: