

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
Held on Monday 28th November 2022 at 7:02pm in the Corn Exchange

DRAFT
Subject to confirmation

PRESENT

Cllr C Stevens – Chairman of Council
Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr K Herbert
Cllr B Quayle
Cllr L Lindsay
Cllr P Osborne
Cllr P Clark

Cllr H Mieville – Vice Chairman of Council
Cllr A Cross
Cllr L Hitchings
Cllr R Carter
Cllr H White
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Committee Clerk

Operations Manager
Nicci Brown (via Microsoft Teams)

86. PUBLIC SESSION

86.1 Libby Lloyd – TREADS – Mrs Lloyd was in attendance to update on recent activity with new Trustee, Miss Mel Turland. Amongst other work, Treads currently has a ‘Heads Up’ project and ‘Side by Side’ project running. These projects tackle a variety of issues impacting young people. Treads is a safe space where they can work with young people and help build their self-esteem. They work closely with Victim Support and the Social Prescribing team. Another area Treads is working on is with Ukrainian families with The Friendly Food Club aiming to get families together and break down any cultural barriers.

86.2 John Earley – Milton Abbas Emily Faulkner Trust – Mr Earley thanked Councillors for the opportunity to come and speak to the Council. He has been a Trustee of the Milton Abbas Emily Faulkner Trust for approximately 15 years and is now Chairman. The charity dates back 500 years when a free grammar school for boys was introduced. In 1752 Joseph Dahmer bought Milton Abbas, relocated it and let the grammar school slip into disrepair. The school later relocated to Blandford. In 1932 things changed again and financial support was the focus. The Trust has approximately £100,000 in capital and offers small grants to numerous students aged between 14 and 24. Mr Earley left some leaflets for distribution and answered questions from Councillors.

86.3 Blandford Group Practice – Cllr Lindsay attended a meeting with Natalie MacPherson and Matt Lee from the Blandford Group Practice on Thursday and discussed a number of issues. Cllr Lindsay reported that the uptake for vaccinations for over 65s has been very positive but many under 65s have not been attending their appointments that had been booked for them. The surgery is urging patients to cancel appointments if they are no longer able to attend so that the resources can be used elsewhere.

Cllr Mieville queried the availability of the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) and Cllr Lindsay confirmed that the MIU is only open two days a week and appointments are now required.

87. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS

Cllr Quayle delivered the report this month.

87.1 Libraries – The consultation is open and Dorset Council is keen for the community to respond. Cllr Quayle noted that this is also an agenda item.

87.2 Highways Issues – There are temporary closures of various roads across Blandford due to work being carried out by OpenReach, affecting numerous roads throughout the town. In addition, the

87. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS (cont)

footbridge is currently being worked on. The works at Langton Road crossroads continue and it is hoped that the works will be paused on 15th December 2022 until January. There are funding issues with the widening of the Salisbury Street footway scheme and it would mean closing the entire area for a month. Cllrs Quayle and Lacey-Clarke are therefore looking at other schemes for just improving the footway and relocating the budget to the market area. The new paving will still recommence in January when the Dorset Council workers return to site. Cllr Quayle advised that the 20mph speed limit is being extended along East Street and the Market Place.

- 87.3 Funding – The Dorset Council funding for youth projects has now closed. Funding is now available for cost-of-living projects such as warm hubs and projects that address food poverty.
- 87.4 Northern Locality – Residents can collect pre-loved winter coats at Blandford children’s centre that have been donated by other families.
- 87.5 Community Survey – Cllrs Quayle and Lacey-Clarke have set up a community survey that informs how they represent the town.
- 87.6 Grant – Dorset Council has received a grant to fund the upgrade of 240 buildings, to include the installation of energy software, solar panels, etc.
- 87.7 Rangers – In response to Cllr Carter’s concern over the piles of grass being left and the impact it has on trees and safety issues, Cllr Quayle stated that the grass cuttings are being dumped intentionally and that it is beneficial to the area and is eventually relocated to create haylage for local farmers. Cllr Carter added that there is rubble and pipes amongst the piles.
- 87.8 Health – Cllr Quayle continues to urge residents to complain to the Head Office about Boots. He has also been trying to contact the Matron at the hospital regarding the MIU. There is also an issue over mobility scooters being used in NHS properties due to wording in a policy.

Councillors raised various questions with Cllr Quayle.

Cllr Carter raised concern over the line markings in the Marsh & Ham car park and asked Dorset Council councillors to report this. The Town Clerk added Langton long stay car park, which has very faint markings.

7:52pm – Cllr Lindsay left the meeting.

Cllr Mieville asked if it is necessary for the Town Council to come up with a plan for the 20mph speed limit requests.

7:56pm – Cllr Lindsay returned to the meeting.

88. APOLOGIES

Cllr E Bray
Cllr C Jacques

Cllr R Holmes

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

None had been submitted.

90. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17th OCTOBER 2022

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Cross, SECONDED by Cllr Osborne and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 abstention) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

91. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

- 91.1 Remembrance Wash-Up Meeting – As usual, a wash-up meeting has been arranged following the event for Wednesday 23rd November with the Town Council, RBL, Garrison in attendance and feedback sought from the church and band. The Town Clerk will be putting the following points forward for discussion:

Hymn outside – Abide with Me was added this year, propose changing it to I Vow to Thee My Country and asking someone to lead the singing at the west end of the Market Place.

Invitations – There will be a link for invitees to complete an electronic form next year, seeking responses for wreath laying (directing them to the RBL for purchases), outdoor parade, church service (due to high numbers not attending the church service and leaving pews empty near the front).

RSVPs – We will add to the form that if we don't hear back, we assume no attendance and they will not be added to the wreath laying list of reserved a seat in church.

Layout – The Town Clerk will work with other parties to manage the layout for next year because this still needs major improvement.

Overall, the event went well, had record attendance and the sound system worked. SSAFA did not receive many donations, compared to previous years so the Town Council has offered a donation of £50.

- 91.2 Community Fridge – A meeting was held with volunteers on Friday 4th November to review usage and introduce new measures to benefit all involved. New signage has been printed for Ukrainian and Polish visitors and a queuing system is now in place. Chocolate treats have been purchased from House of Sarunds to distribute to visitors during the month of December and a lunch has been arranged for volunteers to thank them for their efforts.
- 91.3 Woodhouse Gardens Lights – The contractor is due to install the lighting scheme on 1st December and the gardens will be lit between 4:30pm and 9pm every day during the festive season apart from Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.
- 91.4 Back Pay – All staff will receive the back pay between 1st April to 31st October within their November salaries. Leavers (of which we have had three in April, June and September) have also been paid without them contacting us to request the payment.
- 91.5 Mayor's Christmas Card – The card has been chosen by the Mayor, Cllr Colin Stevens and is currently being printed locally.
- 91.6 Neighbourhood Plan – The office has been receiving numerous objections from property owners to inclusion on the non-designated heritage list and responses have been sent to them, as well as Bryanston residents. The Regulation 14 consultation for the modification review starts on Wednesday 30th November 2022 and closes on 30th January 2022. Work has therefore been taking place in the office to create an online survey, poster, social media posts, to arrange public facing consultations supported by the monitoring group and compile all the documentation in hard copy and on the website, along with the list of consultees ready for the launch.
- 91.7 Family Christmas Show – Sovereign Housing have funded a Christmas show for its residents on Sunday 4th December 2022, hosted and organised by the Town Council.
- 91.8 Christmas Decorations – The lights have been installed everywhere apart from at the Langton crossroads, which was due to receive new decorations, because of access issues. Cllr Lacey-Clarke offered to liaise with the workers, although this may not be possible due to the contractor needing to hire more equipment for high level working.

92. CIVIC REPORT

The paper was sent to Councillors via email.

93. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES

93.1 Recreation & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 14th November 2022

93.1.1 Recommendations

There were no recommendations.

93.1.2 The minutes were RECEIVED.

93.2 Town & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 10th October 2022

93.2.1 Recommendations

There were no recommendations.

93.2.2 The minutes were RECEIVED.

94. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE AND CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS REGARDING THE:

94.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +

94.1.1 To consider expenditure authority for the B+ consultants to proceed with the modification review project

The paper was noted (see Appendix B) and an update on the project was included in the Town Clerk's Report.

A discussion was held on the apportionment of costs, due to the new developments in the other parishes, and this will be reflected in the MoU once updated figures are confirmed on Dorset Council's website.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mievile, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED (10 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention) that

Councillors authorise expenditure for BFTC's portion for continuation of the modification project at £2,247 + VAT (Expenditure Authority: Localism Act 2011 s1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

95.2 BFTC Commemoration Group

Cllr Carter confirmed that a wash-up meeting is being held this week and invited councillors to submit any comments about the Jubilee exhibition.

95.3 Climate Change & Biodiversity

Nothing to update beyond the notes distributed from the last meeting.

95.4 Dorset Council Grant to support the Market Area Enhancement Project

Nothing to update although a meeting will be held early next year.

96. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE TOWN COUNCIL PLAN (DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY)

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

97. TO CONSIDER RESPONDING TO THE DORSET COUNCIL LIBRARIES CONSULTATION

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

97. TO CONSIDER RESPONDING TO THE DORSET COUNCIL LIBRARIES CONSULTATION (cont)

Cllr Lacey-Clarke urged all Councillors to complete the consultation. Cllr Lindsay stated how much she uses the library and confirmed that she has completed it and said it was simple to do.

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

Cllr Lindsay has delegated authority to submit a response on behalf of the Town Council.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

98. TO CONSIDER RESPONDING TO THE PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY REVIEW

The review was noted.

99. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

No reports.

The meeting closed at 8:19pm.

SIGNED

DATED