

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town & General Purposes Committee
Held on Monday 21st November 2022 at 7.07pm 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	Cllr B Quayle

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk	Committee Clerk
Operations Manager	

SITTING IN

Cllr S Hitchings	Cllr L Hitchings
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23. PUBLIC SESSION

There were no members of public in attendance.

24. APOLOGIES

Cllr Jacques

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

None had been submitted.

26. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10th October 2022

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED (7 in favour, 1 abstention) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

27. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

27.1 20mph Schemes News Release – Dorset Council has issued a news release stating that town and parish councils can now apply online for 20mph speed limits and zones, following the introduction of a new policy. Schemes will need to meet certain requirements, and there should be community support.

Town/parish councils or local ward members (Dorset councillors) should submit an application form to begin the process. Dorset Council's Road Safety Team will work with town and parish councils to complete an assessment once an application is submitted. Each application will be assessed against a set of requirements, and Dorset Council will fund those schemes deemed to be a high priority. Town and parish councils will have the opportunity to self-fund lower priority schemes.

Schemes must offer the maximum benefit for the affected communities. This includes quality of life, healthier lifestyles, sustainability and environmental benefits, alongside other important considerations such as reduction of collisions. Residents interested in the implementation of new 20mph speed limits in their local area should contact their town or parish council or local Dorset councillor (ward member).

27. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE (cont)

Communities considering a 20mph scheme are strongly encouraged to establish a Community Speed Watch Scheme as a way of gaining evidence of existing speeds and encouraging improved compliance with the speed limit.

Dorset Council will also actively promote the installation of 20mph schemes, where appropriate, on new residential developments. Such developments have long been designed in a way to encourage speeds at or below 20mph. Where practical, the extent of a 20mph scheme associated with a new development should look to include any adjoining residential areas to ensure consistency in a residential area.

- 27.2 Temporary Closure of Public Footpath E1/1 – Dorset Council has made an Order under Section 14 [1] of the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984, as amended. All pedestrians will be prohibited from proceeding along Footpath E1/1, from point A, grid reference ST8874 0662 to Point B, grid reference ST8878 0666, a distance of approximately 50 metres. The Order is needed in order to comply with health and safety regulations, which require the provision of safe working areas and to minimise the likelihood of danger to highway users. It will come into operation on 28th November for a period of 21 days, but it will remain in force for 26 weeks and can be extended with the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport, if necessary. This Order is required to allow Dorset Highways to maintain the bridge over the old railway line. The alternative route is shown in blue below



Cllr Lacey-Clarke confirmed that there is still full access to the railway, it is just the bridge being worked on.

28. GENERAL UPDATES FROM:

- 28.1 Blandford Business Support Group – No update or report was received.
- 28.2 Blandford Police – Apologies had been sent by the Police and a paper was tabled (see Appendix B). Cllr Mieville expressed his appreciation to the police for the time spent on providing the report.
- 28.3 Market Manager – No updates since the last meeting in October.

29. DORSET COUNCIL HIGHWAYS

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

29. DORSET COUNCIL HIGHWAYS (cont)

29.1 Holland Way onto Fairfield Bungalows

Cllr Lacey-Clarke agreed to investigate providing a stop sign but explained that there is no data to support it. He explained that residents need to report accidents, near misses and speeding then data can be collected and reported back to Dorset Council. It was agreed not to vote on the matter.

29.2 Milldown Road

Councillors agreed that parking around the chicanes is an issue but, again, data needs to be collected. It was agreed not to vote on the matter, however Cllr Quayle will investigate with Highways and will bring back to full council.

29.3 To consider a request to relocate the taxi rank

Cllr S Hitchings declared an interest as a taxi driver, although he was sitting in on the committee meeting.

Cllr Quayle explained that this matter was investigated years ago and many Blandford residents were against the proposed relocation. Dorset Council needs to be assured that the vast majority of taxi drivers support it. Cllrs Quayle and Cllr Lacey-Clarke agreed to follow up but pointed out that historically there was not any interest.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Herbert and AGREED (6 in favour, 2 abstentions) that

The proposal is not supported.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

30. REVIEW OF TOWN & GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGETS TO 31st October 2022

30.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

30.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

30.3 Reserve Accounts

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

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

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

It was proposed by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville, and AGREED (6 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention) that

The free parking dates for 2023 are as follows:

- **Georgian Fayre – May 2023**
- **Coronation – Saturday 6th May and Monday 8th May 2023**
- **Small Business Saturday – 2nd December 2023**
- **Christmas Shopping – Friday 22nd December 2023**
- **The final day to be decided at a later date.**

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

32. TO CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR THE CRIB SCENE ON THE CHURCHYARD

The paper was noted (see Appendix H).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes but NOT AGREED (2 in favour, 5 against and 1 abstention) that the Committee purchases the decoration priced at £124.99 and requests a donation from the church or locates it elsewhere.

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

The Committee awaits the church’s response before discussing further.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

33. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2023/2024 AND RECOMMENDATION TO FINANCE & STAFFING COMMITTEE MEETING

The paper was noted (see Appendix I).

Cllr S Hitchings suggested using some of the budget towards a bench for the King’s Coronation.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Clark and AGREED unanimously that a **RECOMMENDATION** is made to the Finance & Staffing Committee that

The Town & General Purposes Committee earmarked reserves are set at £15,000 and £500 is included in the Capital Projects for the Railway Arches for the 2023-24 financial year.

ACTION: F&S COMMITTEE

The meeting closed at 8.03pm.

SIGNED:

DATED: