

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town & General Purposes Committee
Held on Monday 13th March 2023 at 7pm 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 R Holmes	Cllr B Quayle
Cllr P Clark	

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk	Committee Clerk
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SITTING IN

Cllr S Hitchings	Cllr L Hitchings
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34. PUBLIC SESSION

There were no members of public in attendance.

35. APOLOGIES

Cllr K Herbert

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

None had been submitted.

37. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st November 2022

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

38. COMMITTEE CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing to report.

38. GENERAL UPDATES FROM:

38.1 Blandford Business Support Group – No update or report was received.

38.2 Blandford Police – A report was emailed prior to the meeting. Councillors were concerned about the rise in knife crime and sexual offences and asked where they are occurring (in town or in the home) and asked further clarification. It was agreed that the Committee Clerk would email the PC to query the above.

Post Meeting Note: As the Town Clerk is meeting with the Police next week, she will mention it during the meeting.

Cllr Mieville appreciates how busy the police officers are but asked if it's possible to request they attend the next T & GP. The Town Clerk advised that sending the Police the agenda is their invitation and they either provide apologies and a report or attend the meeting but police work is the priority.

Post Meeting Note: Cllr Lacey-Clarke suggested that we ask for the Police & Crime Commissioner to attend a meeting once a year, which is part of his role.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

38. GENERAL UPDATES Cont/...

38.3 Market Manager – The report was noted (see Appendix A).

Cllr Lacey-Clarke expressed his thanks to the market manager for his hard work and Cllr Mieville agreed that he's done a great job with securing stallholders.

39. DORSET COUNCIL HIGHWAYS

39.1 To consider a request regarding parking issues on Oakfield Street

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

Cllr Lacey-Clarke raised the following points:

- 1) the area is heavily used for residential parking and taking away any parking would have a significant impact on residents. If this was to be considered, then residents must be consulted to see if they would support this.
- 2) if a permit system was considered it would have to be for all residents in the town centre as many Blandford residents use this road for parking.
- 3) there have not been any reported incidents of emergency vehicles struggling to get down this road.

Cllr Holmes queried if the rise in parking charges is influencing the parking and more people are now parking on the streets instead of in the car parks. Cllr Lacey-Clarke said that car park usage has increased and doesn't believe it is having any effect on street parking. Cllr Mieville disagreed as he has noticed that during the day the car park quite empty.

Cllr L Hitchings suggested making it one way as this would help improve the flow of traffic. Cllr Lacey-Clarke said this has been considered in the past, but it was felt that the flow of traffic would increase significantly causing problems for the residents.

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

The Committee proposes that Oakfield Street is made into a one-way system for the safety and ease of residents.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

39.2 To receive a report on Dorset Councils 20mph policy

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

40. REVIEW OF TOWN & GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGETS

40.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget to 28th February 2022

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

40.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves to 28th February 2023

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

40.3 Reserve Accounts to 28th February 2023

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

41. TO CONSIDER PRODUCING A CALENDAR FOR 2024 WITH PROCEEDS GOING TO THE MAYOR'S CHARITIES

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

41. TO CONSIDER PRODUCING A CALENDAR FOR 2024 WITH PROCEEDS GOING TO THE MAYOR'S CHARITIES (cont)

Following a discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Lacey Clarke, and AGREED (6 in favour, 1 against) that

The Committee approves expenditure of £176 and appoints Company B for the production of the Mayor's calendars for 2024 and the theme should be 'Beautiful Open Spaces of Blandford Forum' using budget line 1030 Tourism (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

42. CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

42.1 To consider expenditure authority for the lighting up of Woodhouse Gardens for the month of December

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

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

The Committee supports expenditure authority for the lighting up of Woodhouse Gardens at a cost of £2,364.37 + VAT using budget line 1025 Christmas Town Decorations (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

42.2 To consider options for a crib scene in the churchyard

The paper was noted (see Appendix H).

It was AGREED unanimously that the Town Council will no longer pursue this matter.

43. TO CONSIDER THE REMAINING FREE PARKING DAY

The paper was noted (see Appendix I).

Cllr Lacey Clarke suggested that we wait until there is a day we need to use the remaining day for, which was supported and the Committee will consider this at the next meeting.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

The paper was noted (see Appendix J).

Following a discussion, it was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr and AGREED (3 in favour, 2 against and 2 abstention) that

The Committee supports the project and takes on the administration from the Information Centre, working with the Around Guide publishers offering £600 from the Tourism budget line, with a review after two years (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

SIGNED: DATED: