

**BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7:50pm in the Corn Exchange**



**PRESENT**

Cllr Stevens – Chairman of Council  
Cllr A Cross  
Cllr S Hitchings – late arrival  
Cllr R Holmes  
Cllr L Lindsay  
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke  
Cllr L Hitchings

Cllr H Mieville – Vice Chairman of Council  
Cllr Quayle  
Cllr Clark  
Cllr H White  
Cllr E Bray  
Cllr P Osborne

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Town Clerk

Committee Clerk

**IN ATTENDANCE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Cllr S Hitchings (beginning of the meeting)

Nicci Brown

**163. PUBLIC SESSION**

Cllr Bray spoke about the queues for the pharmacy in Boots, concerned that the delays are still being blamed on the previous issues with the GP surgeries when she feels the problems are due to their operating procedures. Cllr Bray also mentioned the new barriers in Tesco that have been installed to stop trolleys exiting because she is concerned that they're dangerous as trolleys come to an abrupt stop.

Dr Sylvia Hixson Andrews attended the meeting to ask Councillors if the Blandford Town Museum's SLA could be increased by £500. The museum now supports many other groups and overheads have risen, including electric and insurance (especially PLI). They can access grants for projects but not for core costs.

**164. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Quayle and Cllr Lacey-Clarke have been in contact with Dorset Council (DC) regarding the traffic lights on Damory Street and have asked why they didn't go live when expected. DC has confirmed they will go live on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

DC has confirmed that Salisbury Road will be resurfaced sometime during 2023/24. At present the plan is to resurface from the roundabout to Co-op but Cllr Lacey-Clarke and Cllr Quayle are asking that other roads are resurfaced whilst they are here as it will be financially beneficial.

Cllr Lacey-Clarke and Cllr Quayle met with Highways to discuss the issues with Fairfield Bungalows. This is a complicated situation and Highways will be bringing an accident team in to have a look at speeds in the area.

DC has been given funding from Central Government to address potholes.

The Police & Crime Commissioner has written to the transport minister to ask that larger parking fines are issued in rural areas.

DC has a £23m Home Upgrade Grant scheme to upgrade homes, especially off-grid homes. Cllr Quayle and Cllr Lacey-Clarke will be promoting this in the next few weeks.

**164. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLORS (cont.)**

DC has earmarked around 200 electric vehicle charging points as part of their 'charging ahead' policy. All charging points will be within a 10-minute drive in rural areas.

As ASB has increased dramatically over the last 18 months in Blandford, Cllr Quayle and Cllr Lacey-Clarke met with David Sidwick, the Police & Crime Commissioner to discuss this issue. Police are targeting the areas, mapping the hotspots and working with the Headteacher at The Blandford School. Cllr Lacey-Clarke said it is important that the public report ASB as this will help the police map the hotspots and build up a better picture.

Cllr Mieville is concerned that there is only one full time policeman in Blandford and one PCSO and asked if there is anything we can do to put pressure on the police to increase manning? Cllr Lacey-Clarke said they are looking for a second PCSO but are having trouble with recruitment but that the force has tripled the rural policing team in surrounding areas.

Cllr Holmes felt a police hub in the town, rather than a station on the outskirts of town, would be a better deterrent. Cllr Lacey-Clarke said that if BFTC funded this he's quite sure they'll accept. Cllr Bray said that often people are put off reporting any issues due to the amount of time it takes for them to deal with it.

**165. APOLOGIES**

Cllr Carter

Cllr Jacques

Cllr Herbert

**166. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None

**167. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Holmes, SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings and AGREED (10 in favour, and 2 non votes) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

**168. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE**

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

The Town Clerk added that there has been no response to the Travelodge email.

Cllr Cross asked if a response had been received from Wyatt Homes and the Town Clerk confirmed that they had not yet replied, but she will chase it.

In response to the letters from Archbishop Wake regarding litter around Blandford, Cllr Mieville confirmed that the Blandford War on Waste/Clean Up in Blandford Campaign team will be speaking to schools about this.

**169. CIVIC REPORT**

The paper was distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting (see Appendix B).

**170. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

None

**171. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE TOWN MUSEUM TO INCREASE THE FUNDING FOR THE SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

8:24pm – Cllr S Hitchings joined the meeting in person.

**171. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE TOWN MUSEUM TO INCREASE THE FUNDING FOR THE SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT (cont)**

Cllr Mieville declared an interest and will not take part in voting, as he is involved with groups coming under the umbrella of the museum. Cllr Cross and Cllr Quayle also declared an interest and will not take part in voting.

Councillors discussed the request, including the museum's accounts, which show a healthy balance and Cllr S Hitchings reminded Councillors that all SLA recipients were invited to make proposals to amend the SLAs in 2022 should they require any changes.

Cllr Mieville explained that the reason the museum's overheads have risen unexpectedly is due to the fact they are offering more support to other groups.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Lindsay and AGREED (9 in favour, 4 against) that

**The Town Council transfers the money from the Grants budget to the SLA budget to cover the £500.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Osborne and AGREED (5 in favour, 2 against, 6 abstentions) that

**The Town Council will increase the SLA to Blandford Town Museum by £500 a year, from £2,000 to £2,500.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**172. TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE FOR CCTV AND ANPR EQUIPMENT**

Cllr Cross queried why the Town Council pays for the CCTV/ANPR systems, when some other towns don't. Cllr S Hitchings advised that, to the best of his knowledge, Dorset Police does not pay for town centre CCTV systems and in some larger towns the BIDs help to fund these.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 abstention) that

**The Town Council approves the expenditure for the addition of four fixed cameras at £2,840 + VAT and the ANPR upgrade at £2,662 using funds from the CCTV budget line (1175) (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**173. TO RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR THE REQUIRED 'OPENING-UP' INVESTIGATIONS IN THE TOWN HALL/CORN EXCHANGE COMPLEX**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr White and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 abstention) that

**The Town Council retrospectively approves the expenditure for the Corn Exchange of up to £3,197 + VAT using funds from the Corn Exchange budget line (1105) (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**174. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE AND CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FROM THE:**

174.1 Neighbourhood Plan working group – Blandford +

The Committee Clerk confirmed that Dorset Council are in receipt of the suite of modification documents and have started the Regulation 16 Consultation which will run from the 14<sup>th</sup> April to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

174.2 BFTC Commemoration Group

Cllr Cross confirmed that they are having discussions with Hall & Woodhouse about making a special beer to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day.

174.3 Climate Change & Biodiversity

Nothing to report.

Cllr Lacey-Clarke said that he had chased up DC about the Sustainability Fair but was told he needs to let Sylvia Hixson-Andrews know, not BFTC. Via Microsoft Teams, Nicci Brown passed on her thanks for the message and will pass it on.

174.4 Dorset Council Grant to support the Market Area Enhancement Project

Cllr Cross has arranged a meeting with Anthony Woodhouse on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 10-11am to discuss the enhancement project and to see how Hall & Woodhouse can be involved. Cllr Lacey-Clarke asked if it could be rearranged to include DC as he feels it is important they are involved in discussions. Cllr Stevens said it's just an exploratory meeting at this stage and once they have come up with some ideas, they will arrange another meeting.

174.5 King's Coronation Working Group

Cllr S Hitchings confirmed the outdoor event is all going to plan.

174.5.1 To retrospectively approve expenditure for two replacement benches for the front of the Town Hall

Due to the smaller size, Cllr White suggested chaining the benches to the railings.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED Cllr White and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 abstention) that

**The Town Council retrospectively approves the expenditure for two replacement benches totalling £2,561.66 + VAT using funds from the Benches Accruals / Replacement budget line (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**175. REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS (COUNCILLORS ARE REQUESTED TO ADVISE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OR THE TOWN CLERK IF THEY WISH TO MAKE A REPORT UNDER THIS HEADING**

Cllr Mieville reported that the Blandford War on Waste/Clean Up in Blandford Campaign is going from strength to strength with lots more people getting involved. The next litter pick will be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May from 10am – 12 noon.

**176. CONFIDENTIAL**

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

**The public and press may be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity might be prejudicial to the public interest as per the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.**

**176.1 TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS TO PRESENT A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

Nomination No. 1

It was PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Lindsay and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 abstention) that

**The Town Council approves a certificate of appreciation.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

Nomination No. 2

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED (10 in favour, 1 against and 2 abstention) that

**The Town Council will defer this nomination to next year.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

Nomination No. 3

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 abstention) that

**The Town Council will not present a certificate of appreciation on this occasion, because one was recently awarded. However, it is recommended that another local organisation is encouraged to recognise his efforts.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

Nomination No. 4

It is PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings and AGREED (11 in favour, 2 abstentions) that

**The Town Council approves the certificate of appreciation.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

Nomination No. 5

It is PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay and SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 abstention) that

**The Town Council approves the certificate of appreciation.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

Nomination No. 6

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 abstention) that

**The Town Council approves the certificate of appreciation.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

The meeting closed at 9:14pm.

**SIGNED .....**

**DATED .....**