

**BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Town & General Purposes Committee**  
**Held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7pm in the Corn Exchange**

**DRAFT**  
Subject to confirmation

**PRESENT**

Cllr K Herbert - Committee Chairman  
Cllr H Mieville - Chairman of Council  
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke - Vice Chair of Council  
Cllr B Quayle

Cllr R Holmes - Committee Vice Chairman  
Cllr P Clark  
Cllr C Stevens  
Cllr C Jacques

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Operations Manager  
Nicci Brown (via Microsoft Teams)

Committee Clerk

**SITTING IN**

Cllr S Hitchings

**1. PUBLIC SESSION**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Cllr A Cross

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

None had been submitted.

**4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Quayle and AGREED (7 in favour, 1 abstention) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

**5. COMMITTEE CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

Cllr S Hitchings disagreed with Dorset Council's response to the parking issues in Oakfield Street and asked if we could refer it to the traffic team and arrange a site visit. Cllr Mieville agreed that the matter does need further discussion. Cllr Lacey-Clarke said that, as Dorset Council's representative, he may be asked to attend the site visit himself. He said that although he also doesn't agree with Dorset Council's response, he does think the cost of making any changes could outweigh the benefit and that we need evidence in order to challenge Dorset Council's view. Cllr S Hitchings then requested that his comment be withdrawn as he felt there would be no gain in pursuing the matter further. Cllr Lacey-Clarke apologised if he gave that impression and assured Cllr S Hitchings that he does respect his opinion but reiterated that we need data to support any proposed changes. Cllr Herbert considered Cllr S Hitchings' request to withdraw his comment but said that as other Councillors would like further clarification on the matter we should try to arrange a site visit. Cllr Herbert asked the Committee Clerk to make contact with Dorset Council to make arrangements.

**ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK**

**6. GENERAL UPDATES FROM:**

6.1 Blandford Business Support Group – No report was received.

**6. GENERAL UPDATES FROM: (cont)**

Cllr Herbert confirmed that she will be attending a business group meeting in August which the Chief Constable is also attending. Cllr Herbert will provide an update at the next Town and General Purposes meeting. Cllr Lacey-Clarke confirmed that there will be a relaunch and the group will be holding official, minuted meetings four times per year and will hold general/informal meetings throughout the rest of the year.

- 6.2 Blandford Police – PC Tom Harness attended the meeting and gave a report which he will forward. He explained that the key topic for concern is knife possession amongst young people. He confirmed that two offenders are at present in HMP Winchester for possession of weapons and that the youth who was taking pot shots at members of the public last Friday has been questioned but will probably be dealt with out of court due to his age. PC Harness said he was disappointed that only two members of the public attended the crime prevention evening, which was disappointing considering the amount of people who have voiced their concern.

Cllr Lacey Clarke asked about the statistics for arson. For example, was the bin that was set fire to in Stour Meadows reported to the Police as well as the Council? PC Harness wasn't sure without checking but confirmed that it would only be included in the police statistics if reported to the police.

Cllr Mieville thanked PC Harness for giving his time to attend the meeting and for organising the crime prevention session on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Cllr Mieville said there was also a lack of attendees at the school event, which was disappointing considering the concern about knife crime. He confirmed they will be holding another one in the Autumn. Cllr Mieville asked PC Harness if he feels that incidents in Blandford Forum are increasing. PC Harness said as far as weapon-related crime is concerned, he thinks more people are aware so there are more reports. Cllr Mieville asked PC Harness if he feels that COVID has had an adverse effect on the youth and PC Harness said that this is difficult to comment on, but he is pleased to say that he has got a good relationship with young people in the town.

- 6.3 Market Manager – An update report was received (see Appendix B).

**7. DORSET COUNCIL HIGHWAYS – No requests.**

**8. TO CONSIDER RESPONDING TO THE DORSET COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON A DOG RELATED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO)**

Cllr Herbert asked Councillors if they wished to respond to the consultation and Cllr Mieville suggested that Councillors respond individually, which was agreed.

**9. REVIEW OF TOWN & GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGETS TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2023**

- 9.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget  
The paper was noted (see Appendix C).
- 9.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves  
The paper was noted (see Appendix D).
- 9.3 Reserve Accounts  
The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

**SIGNED:** .....

**DATED:** .....