



# BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

To: All Town Councillors  
Members of the Public & Press

Dorset Council Councillors

Dear Member

## **CORN EXCHANGE MEETING**

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Town Council which will be held in the **Corn Exchange**, Market Place, Blandford Forum on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7:00pm** to consider the following items. This meeting will also be available to view online using Microsoft Teams [using this link](#).

Linda Scott-Giles  
Town Clerk  
17<sup>th</sup> July 2023

## **A G E N D A**

Prior to consideration of the following Agenda, there will be a democratic quarter of an hour, which may be extended at the discretion of the Committee, during which time members of the public may speak. During the course of the meeting, members of the public and our elected representatives from the Dorset Council may indicate they wish to speak, and, at the discretion of the Chairman, and with the approval of the Members, they may be allowed to do so on points of information only. The Committee may on occasion invite members of the public to comment on specific issues where points of information or their particular knowledge on a subject might prove of benefit to the Committee.

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, belief or disability), Crime & Disorder, Health and Safety and Human Rights. Disabled access is available. All in attendance should be aware that filming, recording, photography or otherwise may occur during the meeting.

1. Public Session
2. Apologies
3. To receive any Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations
4. [Minutes of the Corn Exchange Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023](#)
5. [Town Clerk's Report & Correspondence](#)
6. To receive an update from the Design Team
7. [To consider future use of Town Council property](#)

**Minutes of the Town Council and Committee meetings are currently available from the Town Clerk's Office and at [www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk](http://www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk)**

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## Town Clerk's Report & Correspondence

**Tender Process** – Numerous online meetings have been held with the consultants regarding the tender documents and updates on project progress. As a record for this meeting, because the resolutions were made in the Planning meeting of December 2022, and as a reminder, the following has already been agreed:

Minute No. 72.1 – To approve an application for a loan to the Public Works Loan Board

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

**The Town Council authorises the commencement of a loan application to the Public Works Loan Board to enable the project to go forward.**

Minute No. 72.2 – To seek approval to start the contractor procurement process

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

**The Town Council authorises the commencement of the contractor procurement process, with officers then reporting back to council to seek a final decision on the appointment.**

**Stakeholder Meeting** – The Town Clerk, Operations Manager and Bookings Receptionist met with the Design Team and stakeholders (Sam James, Pat Thomas, John Butcher and Tim Griffin) on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 to go through the plans again and discuss the AV and acoustic needs in more detail with those consultants in attendance.

**Trustee Meeting** – Ross Ingham (Ingham Pinnock Associates), the Town Clerk and Operations Manager attended a William Williams Trustee meeting in Sturminster Newton on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 to present the latest plans and discuss the possibility of funding support.

**Community Ownership Fund** – Ross Ingham drafted an application to this fund, which was proofed by officers and has received support from Simon Hoare MP. Subsequently, an online meeting was held between the MP, Ross Ingham and the Town Clerk to discuss other funding possibilities and these are now being explored.

**Decanting** – The staff have started to go through the files in the store rooms and, so far, 20 sacks of confidential waste have been filled and are being collected by a secure disposal firm in Yeovil on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023. The minutes from 1977-1994 and 2005-2023 must be preserved and they are being collated with the original agenda/reports with all staples and paper clips removed. The Town Clerk will discuss the best – and most affordable – way to archive these documents with the Dorset History Centre. For information, the retention policy for town and parish councils is being followed and it can [be viewed here](#).

## To consider future use of Town Council Property

Although the decanting process has started with paperwork, various items have been brought to our attention and require a resolution. The benches are not on public display, there is no plan for them to be in the future and storage space is very limited. Also, the conditions in which all the items are stored are not ideal and, therefore, this impacts on their value. For some, they are too valuable and should not be on display but it would be a shame to store them away. Duke's of Dorchester has been contacted for approximate valuations and Councillors are asked to consider selling the items to assist with the project costs, retaining them or paying for appropriate storage elsewhere.

### Iron Strap-Work Chest

A 3'7" 17th century silver chest with extensive riveted iron strap-work, scroll and other motif decoration, complete with two original hand-made padlocks and flanking iron carrying handles. The interior has a glove box.

*Chamberlain's Accounts 19/04/1735*

*"To our own Bill for finishing the Corporation Room, a strong chest and other things about the Town Hall" (At this time John Bastard was the Chamberlain. ("Our own bill" refers to his business (as shown by the corporation voucher), can we, therefore, conclude that he or one of the Bastard family actually made this chest since carpentry and joinery was their primary profession? In any event we know when this chest was sold to the Council and by whom).*

*Council Minutes 17/03/1908*

*"The Mayor informed the Council that Mr E. F. Hood had presented the Council with an old lock originally belonging to the Corporation Chest. Resolved that the best thanks of the Council be given to Mr Hood for the present."*



### Georgian Council Benches

2 x 6'3" Georgian painted pine Council benches and a 22" similar stool, with pierced S-scroll aperture handles to tops. Two of the original Georgian painted pine Council tables, with later cladding to the tops, turned supported and twin wooden wheel castors to each leg. These are all stored in the store rooms behind the stage.



## Victorian painted pine table

A 6' Victorian painted pine table, set on turned legs.

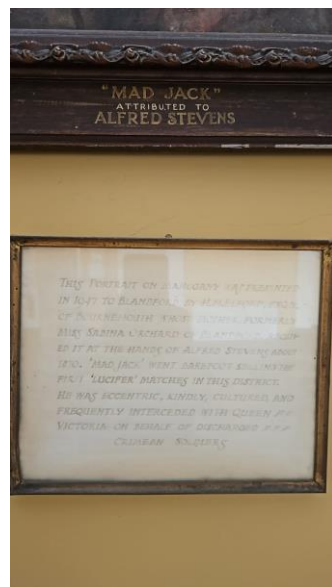
Here is some information on the use of the furniture in the Town Hall:

In 1734 the Town Hall was built as a multi-purpose room designed to be used by both the Council and the Magistrates from the outset. In 1824/5 the minutes indicate that the Town Hall was extended and it would seem possible that the ante-room was built upstairs for the magistrates at this time. In October 1968 the Town Clerk reported to Council that the Lord Chancellor had decided to cease holding a county court at Blandford and this reduced the number of sittings to just the magistrates' court sessions. County Court stopped taking place in Blandford. Magistrates still continued into the 1970s.



## Portrait of Mad Jack

A framed oil painting of Mad Jack (17"L x 12½" W), bearing inscription on frame.



(NB when the BBC came to photograph and record our portraits they said there was no possibility this was Alfred Stevens)

## Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors consider the future for these items. It is hoped a valuation will be available for the meeting.

Linda Scott-Giles  
Town Clerk  
17<sup>th</sup> July 2023