

**BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Town & General Purposes Committee**  
**Held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange**



**PRESENT**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Cllr H Mieville – Chairman             | Cllr R Holmes – Vice Chairman             |
| Cllr L Hitchings – Chairman of Council | Cllr C Stevens – Vice Chairman of Council |
| Cllr A Cross                           | Cllr K Herbert                            |
| Cllr P Clark                           | Cllr B Quayle                             |

**IN ATTENDANCE**

|            |                    |
|------------|--------------------|
| Town Clerk | Operations Manager |
|------------|--------------------|

**IN ATTENDANCE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Andy Reynolds | Nicci Brown – Press |
|---------------|---------------------|

**SITTING IN**

Cllr S Hitchings

**23. PUBLIC SESSION**

23.1 Cllr L Hitchings thanked the staff for the excellent work carried out to produce the Remembrance events over the last week, which was echoed by Cllr Mieville.

**24. APOLOGIES**

Cllr P Osborne

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

None had been submitted.

**26. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED (7 in favour, 1 non-vote) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

**27. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Nothing to report.

**28. GENERAL UPDATES FROM:**

**28.1 Blandford Business Support Group**

The paper was noted (see Appendix A) and Cllr Mieville welcomed all the efforts the Business Group has made, particularly with the awards evening they held recently at Bryanston School.

**28.2 Blandford Police**

Cllr Mieville referred to the email update distributed last week by the Police and thanked them for the report.

**28. GENERAL UPDATES FROM:**

28.3 Market Manager

We now have ten stalls at the Saturday market, and it is going well. The Market Manager thanked Councillors for their ongoing support with the reduced pitch fees, which helps to both attract – and retain – stall holders, and Cllr Mieville thanked him for his efforts to improve the market.

28.4 Town Team

Nothing to report.

**29. DORSET COUNCIL HIGHWAYS**

29.1 To consider the installation and maintenance of a memorial bench

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

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

**The Committee approves the request for maintenance of this bench and associated expenditure authority for the installation of the bench using funds from budget line 1042 New Benches (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8), subject to the bench being of the same manufacturer of its existing benches and the design is to be approved by the Town Clerk.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

Cllr Stevens suggested that the possibility of a shelter is looked in to, and officers will explore this and bring it back to the committee at a future meeting.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**30. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE CCTV SYSTEM AT THE FOOTBALL PAVILION**

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

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

**The Committee resolves to contribute towards the CCTV system at the Football Club, offering 50% of the costs totalling £900 subject to BUFC complying with regulations regarding the management of such a system and the Town Council and Police having access should it be required. The CCTV budget line will be used (1340) (Expenditure Authority: Localism Act 2011 s1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**31. REVIEW OF TOWN & GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGETS TO 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

Cllr Quayle raised discrepancies between the figures in the report and the budget papers.

31.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

31. **REVIEW OF TOWN & GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGETS TO 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021 (cont.)**

31.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

31.3 Reserve Accounts

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

32. **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2022/2023 AND RECOMMENDATION TO FINANCE & STAFFING COMMITTEE MEETING**

32.1 Revenue Budget

This budget has not yet been prepared and will be presented to the Finance & Staffing Committee meeting in December.

32.2 Earmarked Reserves

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

In addition to the information in the report, the Town Clerk suggested viring the balance of the DC Highways budget line (£10,162) but Cllr Quayle felt the budget line should remain in place as the committee might wish to use it to provide additional pavement cleaning on behalf of Dorset Council.

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

**A total of £5,000 is vired from the DC Highways budget line 1021 to the new budget line 1043 for the Queen's Jubilee events and any remaining balance is transferred back to 1021 after June 2022.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED (7 in favour, 1 against) that **a RECOMMENDATION is made to the Finance & Staffing Committee that**

**The Town & General Purposes Committee Earmarked Reserves budget is approved at £10,500 for the 2022/2023 financial year.**

**ACTION: FINANCE & STAFFING COMMITTEE**

32.3 Reserve Accounts

The paper was noted (see Appendix H).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED (5 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions) that

**£500 is added to the Railway Arches budget line.**

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

**The CCTV budget line is not added to.**

**32. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2022/2023 AND RECOMMENDATION TO FINANCE & STAFFING COMMITTEE MEETING (cont)**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Mievile and AGREED (6 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention) that a **RECOMMENDATION is made to the Finance & Staffing Committee that**

**The Town & General Purposes Committee Reserves Account budget is approved for the 2022/2023 financial year by including £500 for the Railway Arches.**

**ACTION: FINANCE & STAFFING COMMITTEE**

The meeting closed at 8:23 pm.

**SIGNED: ..... DATED: .....**