

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
Held on Monday 26th April 2021 at 7:00pm online using Microsoft Teams



PRESENT

Cllr L Lindsay – Chairman
Cllr P Clark
Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr B Quayle
Cllr R Holmes
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke
Cllr J Stayt

Cllr L Hitchings – Vice Chairman
Cllr H Mieville
Cllr H White
Cllr P Osborne
Cllr C Stevens
Cllr A Cross
Cllr C Jacques

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Operations Manager

Assistant Town Clerk
Nicci Brown – Press

161. PUBLIC SESSION

161.1 Cllr S Hitchings spoke about the traffic works at the roundabout in Blandford St Mary. The current Phase One is running late and is impacting on the traffic flow due to traffic lights that are not in use. Most of this work was supposed to be completed at night, but due to complaints received it has been switched to daytime works. However, Phase Three will include 4-way traffic lights which will cause significant delays. Cllr S Hitchings would like a letter to be sent to the Dorset Council, copying in Dorset Cllrs Kerby, Lacey-Clarke and Quayle. Cllr S Hitchings spoke to Cllr Kerby and the Dorset Council Officer, who are both supportive of night-time working. Cllr Lacey-Clarke confirmed that the local Dorset Councillors were consulted, and the current plan is to switch back to night-time working. However, he confirmed that a letter from the Town Council would provide support for this. Councillors agreed unanimously to send a letter.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

162. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS

Cllr Lacey-Clarke gave the report this month.

- 162.1 Disposable BBQs – Dorset Council are banning disposable BBQs in high-risk areas that the Dorset Council own.
- 162.2 Slabs – The Dorset Council agreed to go with standalone dedicated slabs, which also was the preferred options from the Town Council. The inscribed slabs around the town will be kept and a like for like replacement will be created for broken ones. The slabs with fossils will also be retained for display and use. The current plan is to start at the end of June, beginning of July.
- 162.3 20mph – Both Dorset Councillors have been contacted about this and the Dorset Council are currently reviewing their 20mph policy but have to wait for central government to review their policy first.
- 162.4 Large Bins – Dorset Waste Services are looking at placing larger bins in public areas during the summer period in high visitor venues.
- 162.5 High Speed Broadband – This will be rolled out to certain areas in Blandford Forum.

162. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS (cont.)

162.6 Thank You – Cllr Lacey-Clarke thanked Councillors who have contacted both DC Councillors with questions before and after meetings so these can be dealt with in a timely manner.

Cllr White spoke about the 40mph in Shaftesbury Lane, and he is hoping that this will be included in the 20mph zone. Cllr Lacey-Clarke noted the request and will add it to the list.

Cllr L Hitchings asked if the bins that are being replaced will include a separate section for recycling. Cllr Lacey-Clarke reported that the bins are being sorted through and therefore there is no need for a separate bit, as it could not be guaranteed that residents would recycle.

163. APOLOGIES

Cllr R Carter

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

Cllr Lindsay will not take part in the discussions and voting of agenda item no. 14 due to personal circumstances.

165. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22ND MARCH 2021

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Stevens and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 abstention) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED. The minutes will be signed at the earliest opportunity.

166. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

166.1 Lobby Glazing – Asbestos was discovered in the lobby glazing ridges during the works, but a local company was called out and they produced a very quick report to confirm it was asbestos and works to manage this were then put in place. It delayed the project by only a week and Historic England were informed due to the funding support. A completion meeting was held on site with the contractor on 9th April, with the scaffolding removed on 12th April ready for the hirers to return to the venue. The final claim has been made to Historic England.

166.2 Re-opening Facilities – The outdoor gyms reopened on 29th March, and access to the arches reopened on 12th April, along with the office and some hirings (in accordance with the guidance).

166.3 Park Road – Works started w/c Monday 29th March and SSE were on site 6-7 April to install the new three phase supply. Letters were sent to residents facing the car park to let them know.

166.4 Public Conveniences – We have received a contribution of £100 towards the public conveniences from South Tarrant Valley Parish Council.

166.5 Letter from Colonel Commandant of The Rifles, General Sir Patrick Sanders KCB CBE DSO ADC Gen – Following the recent announcement of the government's Integrated Review, General Sanders has written to outline how the Regiment will be affected:
The Integrated Review replaces what were, previously, separate reviews of security, defence, development, and foreign policy. It will deliver Armed Forces that are fit for the future with a focus on technological as well as traditional warfighting capability. A key output will be the restructuring of the Infantry. This will impact upon all regiments, but I am pleased to report that the success of the large regiment model, such as The Rifles, has been recognised. Within the project termed

166. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

'Future Soldier', the Infantry's structure will be adjusted to create four administrative divisions. This model is akin to that which The Rifles has in place today and the Regiment will not be losing any battalions. The 4th Battalion The Rifles will be one of four infantry battalions to form the new Ranger Regiment that will operate in high threat environments to train, advise and accompany partner nations. While we must wait for the other new roles and structures to be confirmed ahead of 'orders' being issued to the Army in the Autumn, my expectation is that we will continue in the vanguard with a full range of roles, from locations across the UK. I expect our RIFLES Reserves to become firmly embedded into the Regular structure. This includes a fully integrated warfighting role and a leading status in delivering the Army's contribution to national resilience in the UK. More details on the Reserve will be announced in May this year. Further details of the structure and roles of our Regular Battalions will emerge in due course.

- 166.6 Thank you – A letter has been received from Betty Gillingham thanking the council for the Diamond Wedding Anniversary Flowers.
- 166.7 Banning Disposable BBQs – The Town Council has responded to the Dorset Council's email seeking support for a ban on disposable BBQs due to the devastation they have been causing to areas across the county. DC will be sending the Town Council signage for Woodhouse Gardens, Park Road and Larksmead recreation grounds, the skate park and the railway arches.
- 166.8 Rates on Public Conveniences – The Non-Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Bill took just 9 minutes to pass Third Reading on 20th April, with NALC among the organisations and Parliamentarians thanked by Lord Greenhalgh, minister of state. This means the Bill has now completed its passage through Parliament and is awaiting Royal Assent and NALC is pressing the government to ensure councils receive their rebates backdated to 1st April 2020 as soon as possible.
- 166.9 Town Hall Façade – The scaffolding will start being erected on Wednesday for the architectural lighting works.

167. CIVIC REPORT

The paper was sent to Councillors via email.

168. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES

None.

169. TO CONSIDER HOW TO PROCEED WITH MEETINGS FROM 7TH MAY 2021

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

Cllr Holmes had connectivity issues and left the meeting at 7.35pm.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Stayt and AGREED (10 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council agrees to adopt the Scheme of Delegation at Annex 2 of Appendix B to cover the Town Council Corn Exchange meeting scheduled for 17th May 2021 and the Planning meeting scheduled for 24th May 2021. Both meetings will be held online to enable public/press participation and full transparency.

169. TO CONSIDER HOW TO PROCEED WITH MEETINGS FROM 7TH MAY 2021 (cont.)

The Recreation & Amenities agenda items will be moved to the Town Council meeting on 21st June 2021.

The Finance & Staffing Committee meeting on 7th June 2021 will therefore be the first meeting to be held in person in the Corn Exchange with online access for vulnerable councillors and non-committee members, members of the public and press.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

170. TO CONSIDER PROCEEDING WITH THE CO-OPTION PROCESS

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr White and AGREED (11 in favour, 2 against,) that

The Town Council agrees to advertise the Co-option vacancy in the Langton St Leonards ward, starting in July, with the confidential Co-Option meeting held on 27th September at 6pm.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

171. TO CONSIDER ADOPTING THE FIRST STAGE OF THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

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

The Town Council agrees to sign the Armed Forces Covenant and nominate the Town Council for the Bronze Employer recognition Award.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

172. TO CONSIDER ENTERING INTO A SUPPORT CONTRACT FOR THE REGULAR BACKING-UP OF THE WEBSITE

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

This agenda item will be moved to another Town Council meeting as Cllr L Hitchings will look into options for officers to back up the website.

173. TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY FOR REPAIRS TO THE SKATEPARK

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke and AGREED unanimously that

Due to the specialist nature of this service and the limited suppliers, as well as the popularity of the skate park and feedback from the users, the Town Council approves the proposed works using funds of £30,370.75 +VAT from the Skate Park Accruals budget which has a current balance of £158,065.00 (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr Holmes returned to the meeting at 8.03pm.

174. TO CONSIDER CHANGING THE REGULATIONS REGARDING KERB SETS AT THE CEMETERY

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr White and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 non-vote) that

The Town Council agrees to amend the regulations to allow kerb sets in the new section of the cemetery.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

175.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +

The Town Clerk read out an update from an email Cllr Tompsett from Blandford St Mary sent to the Steering Group.

Bryanston councillors have now got their allocation of leaflets to deliver, along with a little stapled slip pointing out what's in the NP for Bryanston.

The same leaflet and slip have been placed on the outside tables at Bryanston Club and an A1 poster in the club's porch. A-frames with the A1 poster on both sides have been positioned at the bottom of New Road and in the village, on the grass verge.

I've posted on Bryanston's Facebook page and added I will be at the Club next Saturday between 12.30 and 2pm to answer any questions, if anyone wants to join me.

In Blandford leaflets have gone to shops and businesses and have been delivered to households via Royal Mail.

The market stall will be run again on Saturday morning.

The Chairman in Blandford St Mary was asking Hall & Woodhouse for an A-frame to be used outside the Brewery for the A1 posters. Leaflets have been delivered too and posters put in noticeboards.

The Leaflet, Q&A document and our articles for the front page and inside have all gone into the Forum Focus, which should be out at the end of the week.

Cllr Tompsett asked for Councillors to keep reminding residents to exercise their right to vote.

175.2 BFTC Commemoration Group

Cllr Stevens explained that they are looking at holding an exhibition in September and are hoping to work with the Railway Club.

175.3 Climate Change & Biodiversity

No update.

175.4 Dorset Council Grant to support the Market Area Enhancement Project

Cllr Stevens talked about the Welcome Back Fund, but unfortunately this project is not entitled to claim any funding. There will be a meeting held on Thursday when Dorset Councillor Cherry Brooks will update the working group on DC's plans for the paving scheme, which will delay any plans for a trial pedestrianisation.

176. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN PROJECTS

The paper was sent to Councillors and was noted.

177. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

The paper was noted (see Appendix H).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED unanimously that

The Town Council approves the request from the allotment society to use the land.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

178. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM BLANDFORD UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB TO INSTALL A STORAGE UNIT

The paper was noted (see Appendix I).

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

The Town Council approves the request from Blandford United Football Club to place a storage unit next to the Pavilion.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

179. TO CONSIDER RENEWING THE OFFICE 365 LICENSES

The paper was noted (see Appendix J).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings and AGREED unanimously that

The Town Council approves the renewal of licenses at a cost of £1800 + VAT using budget line 4040 IT Maintenance & Software (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

180. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

180.1 A report was received from Cllr Osborne for the Blandford Youth and Community Centre.

- Report given on work continuing throughout lockdown
- Update on planned redecoration
- The programme until the end of summer was presented.
- A number of trustees (including Chair Andrew Kerby stepped down)
- New trustees were voted in
- New Chair (Julie Newall) elected.

181. 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.

181. CONFIDENTIAL (Cont.)

The Chairman paused the meeting at 8.30pm and reconvened it at 8.33pm.

181.1 To consider nominations to present a certificate of appreciation to members of the community

Nomination A

This nomination will be dealt with through the Mayor's Commendation scheme.

Nomination B

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Osborne, SECONDED by Cllr White and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council accepts the nomination for B.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Nomination C

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Osborne, SECONDED by Cllr Cross BUT NOT AGREED (5 in favour, 7 against, 2 abstentions) that the Town Council accepts the nomination for C.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Nomination D

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Osborne, SECONDED by Cllr Cross BUT NOT AGREED (3 in favour, 7 against, 4 abstentions) that the Town Council accepts the nomination for D.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Nomination E

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Osborne, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED (8 in favour, 4 against, 2 abstentions) that

The Town Council accepts the nomination for E.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Nomination F

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

The Town Council accepts the nomination for F.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 8:56pm.

SIGNED

DATED