

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
Held on Monday 26th October 2020 at 7:00pm Online using Microsoft Teams



PRESENT

Cllr L Lindsay – Chairman
Cllr P Clark – arrived at 7.04pm
Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr B Quayle
Cllr C Stevens
Cllr R Holmes
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke
Cllr J Stayt

Cllr L Hitchings – Vice Chairman
Cllr H Mieville
Cllr H White
Cllr R Carter
Cllr P Osborne
Cllr C Jacques
Cllr A Cross – arrived at 7.05pm

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Operations Manager
Nic Nicol – Town Team

Assistant Town Clerk
Nicci Brown – Press

62. PUBLIC SESSION

- 62.1 Cllr L Hitchings spoke about the Blandford Hospital closing the Minor Injuries Department due to Covid-19 and he is wondering when it would be re-opening. He would not like to see it closed for good. Cllr Lacey-Clarke believes this should be taken up with the CCG and it was agreed a letter will be sent.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

63. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS

Cllr Lacey-Clarke gave the report this month.

- 63.1 Slabs – There has been an issue with the weather and the Dorset Council has started to lay the surface for a test patch, the imprint has been burned on and once the weather improves the non-slip coating will be put on. He has urged Councillors to keep reporting any issues with the slabs.
- 63.2 Dorset Council Phone Line for Help - The phone line 01305 221000 is for vulnerable people struggling in any way.
- 63.3 Funding – The Dorset Council has been awarded £90,000 of funding from Youth Music, to give better access to music to children.
- 63.4 Milldown Play Area – This new play area was opened on 12th October.
- 63.5 Leisure Centre Development Fund – The second round is currently open, with a closing date of 31st December. This fund offers small grants to voluntary, not for profit organisations and town and parish councils.
- 63.6 Boxing Club – The club is still in need of premises for use and to house their equipment.
- 63.7 Climate and Ecological Strategy Consultation – This consultation should go live by 30th October. Cllr Lacey-Clarke requested that all Town Councillors please share it and encourage residents to complete it.

63. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS (CONT.)

- 63.8 Car Parking Changes – The Dorset Council are unifying the charges across Dorset which will mean additional charging from 6pm to 8pm and on Sundays. The Town Council will still receive free parking throughout the year for certain days. This is to be discussed as an agenda item on this agenda.

64. APOLOGIES

None

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

None had been submitted.

66. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28TH SEPTEMBER 2020

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Holmes, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED unanimously that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED. The minutes will be signed at the earliest opportunity.

67. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

- 67.1 DAPTC AGM – Cllrs White and Stayt will be attending the 2020 AGM on Saturday 14th November 2020 online via Zoom on behalf of the Town Council.

- 67.2 DAPTC Award – The DAPTC office has written to advise that:

Blandford Forum Town Council has been a recipient of three annual DAPTC Star Awards for Parish & Town Councils actively committed to delivering the best service possible to the community by enhancing councillors' knowledge of council processes and keeping up to date with current legislation in the sector.

You may have read in the DAPTC training e-news launched on 22 September that there will be a new category for 2019/20 – a special award for councils who received three Star Award certificates during the last four years. We are delighted that Blandford Forum Town Council has achieved this.

We will be issuing a certificate and a press release (which we would be pleased for you to forward on as appropriate) to celebrate this; additionally, we would like to offer one free place to Blandford Forum Town Council for any of the webinars, on-line training or e-learning courses from the [DAPTC website](#). Please book a place in the usual way and [email DAPTC](#) to advise the free place is being used, to ensure you aren't invoiced.

The Councillors who attended training during 2019/20 and 2020/21 are Haydn White, Pat Osborne, Rosemary Holmes, Alan Cross, Cathy Jacques, John Stayt and Doro Russell.

- 67.3 Fashion Museum – The museum has been awarded with a £20,000 grant from The Pilgrim Trust to assist with the restoration and conservation of the exterior of Lime Tree House. That, in addition to a grant from Dorset Leisure Fund, will cover much of the expenditure. Hopefully, the work will be complete in time for the 25th anniversary next year.

- 67.4 CCTV – The Assistant Town Clerk and Cllrs S Hitchings and L Hitchings had a site visit in Dorchester on Friday with the Dorset Council. The possibility of the data from Blandford's system being sent and recorded in Dorchester, or data sent to Dorchester and still recorded in Blandford,

67. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE (CONT.)

is being considered depending on the compatibility of our system, which will be looked at and options/costings will follow.

- 67.5 Remembrance Sunday – The Remembrance Sunday event is being finalised, checked with the Dorset Council officers, discussed with local groups and invitations have been sent to the wreath layers. In line with the government guidance, this will be a significantly reduced event focussing on a silence and the wreath laying.
- 67.6 Town Pump – The works are now completed, and the Pump is looking considerably better.
- 67.7 BRFC – The Rugby Club has asked if they can have a licenced burger van (The Dorset Food Truck) on a Sunday to provide food for the juniors who are training, as it seems easier than opening the kitchen in this current time. The Operations Manager has asked for a specific location and the club has advised that if it is dry it will be next to the clubhouse and in the car park if it is wet. The power will be run off the mains in the clubhouse. Sherborne RFC is also doing the same.
- 67.8 Sandbourne Avenue – Mr & Mrs Saville have written to say thank you for promptly arranging to have the vegetation outside their house cut down. They have also thanked Cllr Haydn White who reacted immediately to their issue and visited them twice to assess the situation and reassure them that action would be taken – *'He couldn't have been more professional'*. Local contractor, Tidy Gardens was awarded the contract due to the size of the job and the resident also wrote to say how hard working they were. The Town Clerk received one complaint from a resident about the vegetation removal, disgusted by the action we had taken. She explained the impact it had on the resident's property including the wall, the lack of maintenance over the years due to the delayed transfer of land from developer to council, and the reduction in amenity area due to the uncontrolled growth and that the area will now be maintained which provides more consistency for wildlife.

68. CIVIC REPORT

There is no report this month.

69. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES

69.1 Town & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 12th October 2020

69.1.2 The Minutes were Received.

69.2 Barnes for a Recreation Trust Meeting held on Monday 26th October 2020

69.2.1 To consider expenditure authority for demolition of the toilet block to create additional parking spaces and improve the appearance of the recreation ground

Cllr White asked that electric vehicle charging points are included in the layout.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council supports the Trust's recommendation to demolish the toilet block and extend the car park.

The Trust authorises expenditure of £10,000 from the legacy donation, and the Town Council authorises expenditure of £20,000 from the sale of the Old Bath House

69.2.1 To consider expenditure authority for demolition of the toilet block to create additional parking spaces and improve the appearance of the recreation ground (cont.)

property, and £10,000 from General Reserves as a contingency (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8) for Company C to:

- Demolish toilet block and chain link fencing (retain five bar gate for vehicular access for future use) and remove from site
- Resurface the new area shown within the blue line above and white line the whole car park area to ensure maximum occupancy

A separate contractor is appointed to:

- Relocate electricity supply / install cabinet (consider incorporating BUFC's future needs for floodlights)
- Erect green palisade fencing along the blue line to secure the site.

An asbestos survey and report are required as well as white lining to mark out the parking bays.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

70. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE YULETIDE COMMITTEE FOR ADDITIONAL DECORATIONS FOR THE TOWN HALL/SHAMBLES

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED (12 in favour, 3 abstentions) that

The Town Council does not approve the request and delays the decision of additional decorations until next year.

Cllr S Hitchings summarised the Christmas plans of the Yuletide Festival to Town Councillors.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention, 1 non-vote) that

The Town Council approves the request from the Yuletide Festival Committee, in principle, in hosting an outdoor event with Father Christmas in Woodhouse Gardens, subject to receipt of a COVID-19 secure risk assessment with due regard taken to current guidance from both local and central Government. Woodhouse Gardens will be provided free of charge to the Yuletide Committee.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

71. TO CONSIDER HOW TO PROCEED WITH THE COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Osborne, SECONDED by Cllr Stayt but NOT AGREED (4 in favour, 11 against) that the Town Council would like to proceed with the co-option process immediately.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr White and AGREED (10 in favour, 5 against) that

71. **TO CONSIDER HOW TO PROCEED WITH THE COUNCILLOR VACANCY (CONT.)**

The Town Council wishes to delay the co-option process until it can be held safely in person (May 2021).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

72. **TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF FENCING AT PARK ROAD**

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

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

The Town Council approves expenditure of £4,300 + VAT from General Reserves for the supply and installation of fencing at Park Road recreation ground using Company B (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

73. **TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF AN OUTDOOR TABLE TENNIS TABLE AT LARKSMEAD RECREATION GROUND**

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Lindsay and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 against) that

The Town Council approves expenditure of £2,275 + VAT (reclaiming the grant of £950 upon project completion) using General Reserves for the purchase and installation of an outdoor table tennis table to be installed at Larksmead Recreation Ground, subject to final approval of the location from the chosen contractor (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

74. **TO RECEIVE THE APPROVED EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR 2020/21 AND TO NOTE THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

Post Meeting note: This item requires a resolution and has been added to the 23rd November Town Council meeting.

Cllr Stayt left the meeting at 8.20pm.

75. **TO CONSIDER A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A COMMUNITY FRIDGE PROJECT**

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

It was proposed by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED unanimously that

The Town Council awards a grant of £2,000. The grant will not be released until a location has been found, which has to be within a year, or the grant has to be

75. **TO CONSIDER A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A COMMUNITY FRIDGE PROJECT (CONT.)**

reapplied for (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

76. **TO CONSIDER RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN DORSET COUNCIL CAR PARKS**

The paper was noted (see Appendix H).

It was proposed by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED unanimously that

The Town Council forms a Working Group consisting of Cllrs Holmes, Mieville, Carter and Osborne, with delegated authority to send the response to the Dorset Council before 13th November 2020. Town Councillor views will be sought by email before the final response is sent.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

77. **TO APPROVE AMENDED STANDING ORDERS AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A REMIT FOR THE CORN EXCHANGE COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The paper was noted (see Appendix I).

It was proposed by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr White and AGREED unanimously that

The Town Council approves the amendments to the Town Council's Standing Orders at 5 (1), the Remit at Appendix A and the Committee Membership at Appendix B.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

78. **TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS FROM DAPTC FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (ATTACHED TO THE EMAIL SENT WITH THE AGENDA)**

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

The Town Council allows Cllr White to take the vote at the DAPTC AGM.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

Motion 1 is supported.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

All Motions are supported.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

79.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +

Cllr Carter reported that the group is still waiting for the Statement of Decision from the Dorset Council. He is in the process of drafting a letter to the Dorset Council to request information on the delay.

Cllr Lacey-Clarke left the meeting at 8.53pm.

79.2 Public Art Plan

Cllr Osborne reported that the work starts week commencing 2nd November and should be completed by the end of November.

73.3 Dorset Council Grant to support the Market Area Enhancement Project

Cllr Stevens reported that the next meeting is this Wednesday 28th October to draft the Action Plan to be presented to the Town Council.

74. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

74.1 To consider introducing a representative to the Blandford Camp, MOD police and Blandford police partnership

It was proposed by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED unanimously that

The Town Council creates a position for Representative to Local Groups and Organisations. The Town Council nominates Cllr S Hitchings as the representative.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 8:59pm.

SIGNED

DATED