

**BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7:00pm Online using Microsoft Teams**



**PRESENT**

Cllr L Lindsay – Chairman  
Cllr P Clark  
Cllr S Hitchings  
Cllr B Quayle  
Cllr R Carter  
Cllr R Holmes  
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke  
Cllr J Stayt – arrived at 7.23pm due to technical issues

Cllr L Hitchings – Vice Chairman  
Cllr H Mieville  
Cllr H White  
Cllr D Russell  
Cllr C Stevens  
Cllr C Jacques  
Cllr A Cross

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Town Clerk  
Operations Manager  
Nic Nicol – Town Team

Assistant Town Clerk  
Nicci Brown – Press  
Member of the Public

**32. PUBLIC SESSION**

No member of the public requested to speak.

**33. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Lacey-Clarke gave the report this month.

- 33.1 Blandford Library – The library is due to fully re-open on 27<sup>th</sup> July, from 9.30am to 1pm Monday to Saturday, excluding Wednesday.
- 33.2 Dorset Growth Hub – The grant scheme for Dorset businesses, which have ambitions to grow and have been trading successfully for 12 months, has now been launched. It offers up to 25% for any eligible project, between £1,000 and £5,000.
- 33.3 Dorset Council Draft Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy – This has been published on the Dorset Council website under the Climate Emergency section.
- 33.4 Road Works – The proposed road closure of the B3082 on 21<sup>st</sup> July has been postponed until later this year.
- 33.5 Local Economy – Cllrs Lacey-Clarke and Quayle attended a meeting, putting in various bids for changes to be made to Blandford Forum as part of the ongoing discussions about helping the local economy. One suggestion put forward was the removal of the Blandford sign on Milldown Road, as requested by Cllr White. Both Councillors requested for the 20mph zones to be linked up and therefore to encompass more of the whole of Blandford Forum.
- 33.6 Cabinet Meeting – The next cabinet meeting for Dorset Council will be held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July.
- 33.7 Planning Application – The planning application for the brewery site in Blandford St Mary will be discussed at the Northern Area Planning Committee meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> July.
- 33.8 Thank You – Cllr Lacey-Clarke thanked Cllr Osborne for contacting him with a resident issue, which Cllr Lacey-Clarke was able to resolve. He reminded all Councillors to contact both Dorset Council Councillors with any issues.

**34. APOLOGIES**

Cllr P Osborne

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

None had been submitted.

**36. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Clark, SECONDED by Cllr Quayle and AGREED unanimously that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

**37. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE**

37.1 Market Fees – The resolution from the Town Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July led to Cllr White and Cllr Lindsay approving the proposed reductions put forward by the Market Manager. For transparency, this consists of:

- Temporary rent reduction of £3.50 per pitch/per week for Thursdays for the Street Market and the Indoor Market for a period of four weeks to those traders who return within 9<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July inclusive. This would be to support them and for us to show some gratitude for their support to Blandford Markets.
- Reduce the rent for the Saturday Street Market to our winter/introductory rate of £15.00 per week/per 3m pitch until the end of March 2021.

37.2 Carbon Footprint – Catherine Sage, Senior Project Worker – Research for the Centre for Sustainable Energy has invited parish and town councils to take part in testing out a carbon foot printing tool. This invitation was shared with Cllr Pat Osborne, who has approached the Centre direct to involve the Town Council, resulting from the work Cllr Osborne has already done in this area and he attended a workshop on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

37.3 Town Pump – The contractor is aiming to start work w/c 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020, with the cleaning to commence on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

37.4 William Williams – Education and ‘general relief in need’ grants are available to students living within Blandford Forum, subject to meeting specific criteria, with a deadline of 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

37.5 Street Dressing Items – These have now been received from the Dorset Council (bollard sleeves, bench stickers reminding people to keep a distance, floor stickers) and the four sanitising stations are now all that is awaited. One of the social distancing banners (Dr Davies Garden railings) has been slashed and this has been reported to the police.

37.6 Expansion in the types of development which can take place without the need for a planning application – The Government has introduced several (many time-limited) reforms of the planning system which would enable certain forms of development to take place without the need for a planning application (‘permitted development’). These include permitting blocks of flats to be extended upwards by two storeys to create new homes. They also introduce a new permitted development right that would allow in principle, a temporary market to be held by or on behalf of a local authority (including town and parish councils) in England from 1st July 2020 to 31st December 2020. Further information about these new Permitted Development rights can be found by [clicking here](#).

37.7 Leisure Centre Grant – The leisure centre working group met on 13<sup>th</sup> July to discuss the possible renewal of the agreement to financially support the leisure centre with the Dorset Council. From looking back and verifying the cheque payments, there is an anomaly between the Town Council’s commitment of ten payments and the number of years within the agreement. The working group therefore met again prior to the council meeting and recommends that the Town Clerk writes to DC’s Paul Rutter to explain that the

37. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE (CONT.)**

Town Council has fulfilled its commitment of ten years. There were nine members present, but councillors wanted to be sure other cllrs are aware and approve this approach. There were no objections raised to this.

38. **RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

None

39. **TO RECEIVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WORKING GROUP CONSIDERING THE WYATT HOMES CONSULTATION**

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED (12 in favour, 2 abstentions) that

**The Town Council agrees to submit the response put forward by the Working Group.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

40. **TO CONSIDER THE TOWN COUNCIL'S POSITION WITH THE PAYMENT FOR USE OF THE SPORTS PAVILIONS JULY – SEPTEMBER**

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Cross, SECONDED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke and AGREED (13 in favour, 2 against) that

**The Town Council extends the payment relief at half the rent fee for the period July to September 2020, due to ongoing maintenance and costs incurred, which is to be reviewed again at the end of this period.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

41. **TO RECEIVE THE PERSIMMON HOMES PHASE 3A & PHASE 3B LEGAL TRANSFER**

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

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

**The Town Council agrees the following;**

- **The Chairman of Council, Vice Chairman of Council and the Town Clerk sign and seal the transfer document for Phase 3a and 3b, once received, and return it to the solicitor, upon payment of the outstanding s106 monies for Phase 3b as listed in the financial implications.**
- **Officers proceed with the tender process for the Play Areas in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and to select a shortlist of proposals, which will then be presented to residents of Badbury Heights with delegated authority to the Chairman of Council to receive the feedback from the public consultation and select the contractor.**
- **Expenditure authority of £179,185.31 for Phase 3a and a minimum of £10,934.84 for Phase 3b (the developer contribution plus rate of inflation - additional £22.80 per month to be**

41. **TO RECEIVE THE PERSIMMON HOMES PHASE 3A & PHASE 3B LEGAL TRANSFER (CONT.)**

- added from September 2020 if developer contribution received after 31/08/2020) (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8) for the purchase and installation of play equipment, litter bin, signage and seating (to be installed as soon as the signed transfer document is returned and the procurement process has been followed).
- Additional expenditure (unknown amount at present) for fencing, will be deducted from the funds allocated for each play area. A rough quote has been sought to assist with the tender process.
- The appointment of a part time member of staff, using the Persimmon funds allocated for this purpose, once required.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

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

42.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

Cllr Carter spoke about the issues mentioned in the report. Further updates and changes to the Memorandum of Understanding will be brought back to a later Town Council meeting.

42.2 Dorset Council Grant for the Market Area Enhancement

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

Cllr Stevens gave a brief update on the finances and confirmed that, currently, no funds are required from the Town Council.

Cllr Lindsay requested for Councillors to respond to the Assistant Town Clerk regarding the delivery of the survey.

42.2.1 To receive the notes from the working group meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

The notes were RECEIVED.

42.3 Corn Exchange Working Group

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

42.3.1 To receive the report/route map from Ingham Pinnock Associates and consider expenditure authority to proceed with the project

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED (11 in favour, 4 against) that

**The Town Council will hold separate full council meetings on a Monday evening to ensure that the whole of the Council is involved in this project. The council diary will be amended to include full council meetings solely to discuss the Corn Exchange project.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

42.3.1 To receive the report/route map from Ingham Pinnock Associates and consider expenditure authority to proceed with the project (cont.)

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

**The Town Council agrees to proceed with the project based on the development of the most recently approved plans (at Appendix B and Appendix C, Step 1 to 9) and the route map with associated expenditure authority using funds from the Corn Exchange Project Officer/Consultant and Corn Exchange Project Development budgets (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

These costs will be shared with Councillors at the earliest opportunity.

42.4 Public Art Plan

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council does not have to pay any additional funds for this project.

**43. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

None have been received.

**44. PLANNING MATTERS**

44.1 Appendix A – New Planning Applications

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

44.1.1 2/2020/0683/HOUSE – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – Mr G Nicholson - 42 Elizabeth Road - Erect two storey side extension

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

**The Town Council has no objections to the application due to limited impact to neighbouring amenities, subject to a Health & Safety review on the public footway.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

Cllr Stayt left the meeting at 8.23pm.

44.1.2 2/2020/0690/FUL– 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – Mr Stringer - 13 Highfields - Erection of 2 No. flats with associated parking

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

**The Town Council objects to the application due to overdevelopment in the area, lack of parking facilities and overlooking of neighbouring properties.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

44. **PLANNING MATTERS (CONT.)**

44.1.3 2/2020/0713/FUL– 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – Ms K Seeger - Land South Of, 5 Nightingale Court, Blandford Forum, Dorset - Change of use of land (3 years) and erect 2 No. Art Workshop buildings for 'Blandford Art Hub'

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Holmes, SECONDED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke and AGREED (9 in favour, 5 against) that

**The Town Council objects to the application as this is detrimental to the conservation area. The application should be submitted as a retrospective application as the buildings are already in situ. It does not comply with B+NP Policy B11. The Town Council feels this is a good idea, but this is not the right location.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

44.1.4 2/2020/0537/HOUSE– 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – Miss E Brake - The Little House, The Close - Erection of single-story rear extension

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

**The Town Council has no objections to the application as there is no impact to local amenities.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

44.1.5 2/2020/0846/HOUSE– 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – Mr & Mrs J Lynn - 15 Bayfran Way - Erect two storey rear extension.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Clark, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED unanimously that

**The Town Council has no objections to the application as there is no loss of neighbouring amenities.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

44.1.6 2/2020/0957/TEL – 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – BT - Various sites in NDDC area - Notification of intention to remove 4 public payphones

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 against) that

**The Town Council has no objections to the application.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

44.2 Appendix B – Dorset Council Decisions on Planning Applications and Applications Awaiting Decisions

The paper was displayed (see Appendix G).

44.3 Site Visits/Dorset Council Planning Meetings

44.3.1 The Assistant Town Clerk reported that the next Northern Area Planning Meeting will take place on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July at 10am and the application at the brewery site in Blandford St Mary will be discussed. A Committee invitation was sent to all Councillors on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

The meeting closed at 9:13pm.

SIGNED .....

DATED .....