

**BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7:02 pm in the Corn Exchange**

**DRAFT**  
Subject to confirmation

**PRESENT**

Cllr L Hitchings – Chairman  
Cllr A Cross  
Cllr R Carter  
Cllr H White  
Cllr H Mieville  
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke  
Cllr K Herbert

Cllr C Stevens – Vice Chairman  
Cllr P Clark  
Cllr S Hitchings  
Cllr B Quayle  
Cllr R Holmes  
Cllr L Lindsay

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Town Clerk  
Nicci Brown – Press

Operations Manager

**IN ATTENDANCE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Cllr C Jacques

**66. PUBLIC SESSION**

- 66.1 Declaration of Acceptance of Office – Following the co-option meeting held prior to this council meeting, Dr Kaylee Herbert – the successful candidate – read out and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- 66.2 Replacement Slabs – Barrie Cooper attended to speak about the paving slabs, concerned about the time it is taking and the works that are taking place. He also mentioned the businesses who have raised concerns to him about the impact on their businesses when the works are located outside their premises.
- 66.3 Planning – Cllr Carter asked that Councillors take the time to look through the planning applications prior to the meeting next Monday evening. He also asked for Councillors to consider attending the planning training organised by the DAPTC.
- 66.4 Police Matters – Cllr Mieville mentioned that he was approached by police from another town at the Funday who explained that there was currently no beat officer for Blandford and urged him to contact the Police & Crime Commissioner, which Cllr Mieville has done.

**67. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Lacey-Clarke gave the report this month.

- 67.1 Significant Slabs – Cllr Quayle met with interested parties on 17<sup>th</sup> September to identify the paving slabs that need to be retained due to the lettering or fossils on them.
- 67.2 Verges – The verges in the town have been cut by the Rangers and Cllr Lacey-Clarke asked to be notified of any areas of concern.
- 67.3 Litter Pick – A routine litter pick took place on the trailway on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
- 67.4 Lamp Posts – The Dorset Council Councillors have been dealing with lamp post issues.
- 67.5 Bus Service Improvement Plan – Work is being carried out following the consultation and Cllr Lacey-Clarke noted that the Town Team had contributed.
- 67.6 Grass Cutting – Cllr Carter asked about the grass cuttings left at the Milldown, which is also happening in other areas cut by the Rangers. Cllr Lacey-Clarke advised that he will look into why it is being dealt with in this way.

## **67. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS (cont)**

- 67.7 Litter Bins – Cllr Mieville asked when the larger receptacles would be installed and Cllr Lacey-Clarke explained that they are being ordered and are currently in the procurement process. He will advise of the installation date once this is known.
- 67.8 Paving Slabs – Cllr Lacey-Clarke and Cllr Quayle have received numerous approaches about the paving slab replacement project. A meeting was held between the Dorset Council Councillors and staff and they touched on the following:
- One-way system – the staff confirmed that this is vital for the safety of pedestrians.
  - The original aim was to cover 30 square metres a day, but - unfortunately - they have only been able to cover 10-15 square metres a day.
  - There have been health and safety issues with working so closely to the public.
  - Concrete was discovered under the existing slabs, which was not anticipated, and it has had to be broken up by hand.
  - A sub-contractor's staff did not attend site to assist which has contributed to the difficulties.
  - DC staff are currently putting a plan together over the next week, which Cllr Lacey-Clarke says he hopes will remove the one-way system on West Street.
- 67.9 By-pass – Cllr Stevens raised concerns over the business of the by-pass. Cllr Lacey-Clarke explained that the by-pass is strategic and therefore comes under Highways England and recommended the Town Council writes to this agency and the Member of Parliament. Following a discussion it was agreed that this will be an agenda item at the Planning meeting on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

## **68. APOLOGIES**

Cllr J Stayt

Cllr P Osborne

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

None were received.

## **70. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED (11 in favour, against, 1 abstention and 1 non-vote) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

## **71. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE**

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

- 71.1 Thank You – A Thank You letter has been received from Life Education Wessex for the grant given by the Town Council. The letter read: *Thank you so much for your wonderful donation of £430. Please accept this letter as our official receipt. Life Education Wessex aim to give every primary aged child in Somerset, Dorset, Devon, Hampshire and Thames Valley the opportunity to benefit from our programme of health and drug prevention education and equip them with the knowledge, skills and confidence to make healthy choices and to lead healthier lives. Your contribution will help us to continue this valuable work. With many thanks once again for your kind donation and valued support.*

Mr Mosney has also sent a card to thank the Town Council for his Certificate of Appreciation and the Mayor Making ceremony and lunch.

- 71.2 Office Cover – Whilst the staff are receiving manual handling training on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October, Cllrs Carter and Holmes will cover the office, so it does not need to close.

## 71. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE (cont)

- 71.3 Allotment Relocation – An invoice has been received from Symonds and Sampson in relation to negotiations with landowners for Allotment relocation Heads of Terms, totalling £2,508.60 + VAT, and this has been paid in accordance with expenditure authority from minute 124 from the Town Council confidential allotment meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018.
- 71.4 Community Expo – The event was very successful with a total of 156 people throughout the morning (not at one time as the capacity is still restricted to 60 this month). The Health Champions from The Blandford Group Practice were extremely popular and, following a discussion with Cllr Lindsay, they will be returning to the Corn Exchange during the indoor market on a more regular basis.
- 71.5 External Audit – The external auditor, PKF Littlejohn has approved the Town Council's accounts for the financial year 2020/21. Since the agenda was published, it has come to the Town Clerk's attention that Councillors usually approve this as an agenda item and note any recommendations. This year, there are no recommendations to approve, however this has been included in the October agenda for a formal approval. In the meantime, the Notice of Conclusion of Audit has been published on the Town Council's website and on its notice boards as per the regulations and all Councillors have been sent the files from the auditor for information.
- 71.6 Park Road Project – The project is still paused awaiting the removal of the existing meter within the Park Road toilet block. This needs to be carried out prior to the demolition of the toilet block.

## 72. CIVIC REPORT

The paper was sent to Councillors via email.

## 73. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

### 73.1 Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

#### 73.1.1 Minute No. 21 To Consider Grant Applications

Minute No. 21.1 – In Jolly Good Company (a grant of £1,470 was approved in September 2020 with free hire to the value of £320)

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED (11 in favour, 2 abstentions) that

**Free hire to the value of £320 is approved (Expenditure Authority: Localism Act 2011 s1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED (10 in favour, 3 abstentions) that

**A grant of £1,070 is not approved on this occasion.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

73.1.2 The Minutes were RECEIVED.

### 73.2 Recreation & Amenities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021

73.2.1 The Minutes were RECEIVED.

74. **TO RECEIVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS WORKING GROUP**

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 abstention) that

**The Town Council adopts the amended Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

75. **TO RECEIVE A REPORT REVIEWING THE RAILWAY ARCHES OPENING TIMES AND ARRANGEMENTS**

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 abstention) that

**The Town Council notes the report, agrees that the opening hours are continued and the vandalism, and usage of the structure, continues to be monitored.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

76. **TO RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR THE INSCRIPTION OF THE CROSS OF SACRIFICE AT BLANDFORD CEMETERY**

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Quayle and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 abstention) that

**The Town Council retrospectively approves expenditure for the works at a cost of £3,407.20 using funds from General Reserves (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

77. **TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE FOR PHASE TWO OF THE RENOVATIONS TO THE SKATE PARK RAMPS**

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 abstention) that

**The Town Council approves the proposed works using funds of £22,043.65 +VAT from the Skate Park Accruals budget which has a current balance of £136,021.00 (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

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

78.1 **Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +**

Cllr Carter explained a minor change is proposed to the Memorandum of Understanding, which is an amendment from the Blandford + **Steering** Group to the Blandford + **Monitoring** Group.

**78. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE AND CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FROM THE: (cont)**

**78.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +**

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

**The Memorandum of Understanding which is an amendment from the Blandford + Steering Group to the Blandford + Monitoring Group.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**78.2 BFTC Commemoration Group**

Cllr Carter updated Councillors on events that have taken place recently – including Veterans' Day – and the events planned for 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021, all of which have involved partnership working between the RBL, council and many other individuals.

**78.3 Climate Change & Biodiversity**

The slug pellets used at Woodhouse Gardens are now environmentally friendly and were recommended by the Blandford Hedgehog Group.

Cllr Osborne and the Town Clerk are meeting on Tuesday to discuss the Plan and any updates, prior to the working group meeting scheduled for Thursday.

**78.4 Dorset Council Grant to support the Market Area Enhancement Project**

Cllr Stevens explained that this project is currently on hold.

**78.5 Community Governance Review Working Group**

The paper was noted (see Appendix G), which included Cllr White's proposal.

Councillors discussed their views on the community governance review the Dorset Council is carrying out and the impact any boundary changes would have on residents of the town and residents of surrounding parishes.

Cllr Lacey-Clarke PROPOSED an amendment to Cllr White's proposal, which was SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and accepted by Cllr White, that the following text is inserted in lieu of the text on the report: *Detailed reasoning and evidence to be gathered and submitted by a working group of the council, with all elected members invited to join.*

It was PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Lindsay and AGREED (10 in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions) that

**The Town Council requests that the Dorset Council reviews and amends the following boundaries around the town of Blandford Forum:**

- **Pimperne, all areas inside the bypass and areas to the North-East**
- **Langton Long, areas leading up to Blandford Camp**
- **Blandford Camp, all within the perimeter fence**
- **Blandford St Mary, the whole parish**
- **Bryanston, areas adjoining Blandford St Mary and the town**

**Detailed reasoning and evidence to be gathered and submitted by a working group of the council, with all elected members invited to join.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

The proposal will then be brought back to the October Town Council meeting.

**78. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE AND CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FROM THE: (cont)**

**78.6 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

A second meeting has now taken place and brainstorming has led to a variety of ideas for suitable events in June 2022.

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

None

The meeting closed at 8:58 pm.

**SIGNED .....**

**DATED .....**