



# BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

To: All Town Councillors  
Members of the Public & Press

Dorset Council Councillors

Dear Member

## **CORN EXCHANGE MEETING**

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Town Council which will be held in the **Corn Exchange**, Market Place, Blandford Forum on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7:00 pm** to consider the following items. This meeting will also be available to view online using Microsoft Teams [using this link](#).

Linda Scott-Giles  
Town Clerk  
9<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## **A G E N D A**

Prior to consideration of the following Agenda, there will be a democratic quarter of an hour, which may be extended at the discretion of the Committee, during which time members of the public may speak. During the course of the meeting, members of the public and our elected representatives from the Dorset Council may indicate they wish to speak, and, at the discretion of the Chairman, and with the approval of the Members, they may be allowed to do so on points of information only. The Committee may on occasion invite members of the public to comment on specific issues where points of information or their particular knowledge on a subject might prove of benefit to the Committee.

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, belief or disability), Crime & Disorder, Health and Safety and Human Rights. Disabled access is available. All in attendance should be aware that filming, recording, photography or otherwise may occur during the meeting.

1. Public Session
2. Apologies
3. To receive any Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations
4. [Minutes of the Corn Exchange Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023](#)
5. [Town Clerk's Report & Correspondence](#)
6. To receive an update from the Design Team
7. [To consider future use of Town Council property](#)

**Minutes of the Town Council and Committee meetings are currently available from the Town Clerk's Office and at [www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk](http://www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk)**

Twinned with Preetz, Germany



Town Clerk's Office  
Church Lane, Blandford Forum  
Dorset DT11 7AD



Twinned with Mortain, France



Tel: 01258 454500 • Fax: 01258 454432  
Email: [admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk)  
[www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk](http://www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk)

## Town Clerk's Report & Correspondence

Private Donors – Following an exploratory meeting with Simon Hoare MP, a number of possible private donors have been approached regarding the project. They have been invited to meet with the design team, the Mayor and Town Clerk. Any responses received will be reported back to council.

Decant – The decant plan continues, and another storeroom has been cleared and sorted through, although workload in the office has meant a lack of progress in recent weeks. A large amount of paperwork was submitted to the Dorset History Centre in August and two redundant electrical items (mic kits) have recently been sold at £200 and £40.

Storage Unit – Staff continue to research storage spaces for the large number of items we will need to store during the works.

Public Works Loan Board – The application form has been drafted in preparation for the final application to be made, which will be after the tender process once the loan amount is known.

Community Ownership Fund – The Town Council has been awarded £265,000 for the project by the Community Ownership Fund. This is fantastic news and will make a significant difference.

## To consider future use of Town Council Property

At the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Councillors made the following resolution:

### **TO CONSIDER FUTURE USE OF TOWN COUNCIL PROPERTY**

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

**The Town Council retains the Mad Jack portrait and chest, which will need protecting for display purposes in the refurbished building, and Councillors consider the future use of the benches/tables at another meeting once a valuation is provided.**

The benches/tables are detailed below. There are not on public display, and there is no plan for them to be in the future and storage space is very limited.

However, Councillors may wish to retain and restore them for the future due to their connection to the history of the Town Hall. If this is the case, consideration needs to be made for their storage during the works and then future position within the building. As shown in the photos, the conditions in which all the items are stored are not ideal and, therefore, this impacts on their value.

### **Georgian Council Benches**

2 x 6'3" Georgian painted pine Council benches and a 22" similar stool, with pierced S-scroll aperture handles to tops. Two of the original Georgian painted pine Council tables, with later cladding to the tops, turned supported and twin wooden wheel castors to each leg. These are all stored in the store rooms behind the stage.



### **Victorian painted pine table**

A 6' Victorian painted pine table, set on turned legs.

Here is some information on the use of the furniture in the Town Hall:

In 1734 the Town Hall was built as a multi-purpose room designed to be used by both the Council and the Magistrates from the outset. In 1824/5 the minutes indicate that the Town Hall was extended and it would seem possible that the ante-room was built upstairs for the magistrates at this time. In October 1968 the Town Clerk reported to Council that the Lord Chancellor had decided to cease holding a county court at Blandford and this reduced the number of sittings to just the magistrates' court sessions. County Court stopped taking place in Blandford. Magistrates still continued into the 1970s.

Duke's of Dorchester has replied to confirm that they would certainly be happy to help offer them at auction and would be looking at auction estimates as below:

The Victorian painted pine table £80-150  
Each of the Georgian tables £100-200  
The pair of benches and the stool £100-200

This amount may assist Councillors in deciding the future of the furniture, as it is not enough to justify selling them to contribute towards the cost of the project, although they may be costly to refurbish.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that Councillors consider the future for these items.

Linda Scott-Giles  
Town Clerk  
9<sup>th</sup> October 2023