

**BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Town & General Purposes Committee**  
**Held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7:13pm in the Corn Exchange**

**DRAFT**  
Subject to confirmation

**PRESENT**

Cllr K Herbert – Committee Chairman  
Cllr H Mieville - Chairman of Council  
Cllr A Cross  
Cllr P Clark

Cllr R Holmes - Committee Vice Chairman  
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke - Vice Chair of Council  
Cllr C Stevens  
Cllr C Jacques

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Operations Manager

Committee Clerk

**SITTING IN**

Cllr S Hitchings  
Cllr S Chapman

Cllr H White

**22. PUBLIC SESSION**

There were no members of public in attendance.

**23. APOLOGIES**

Cllr Quayle

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

None had been submitted.

**25. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED (6 in favour, 2 abstentions) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

**25. COMMITTEE CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE**

Nothing to report.

**26. GENERAL UPDATES FROM:**

**26.1 Blandford Business Support Group**

The Committee Clerk asked Councillors if they wished to keep this item on the agenda as Councillors no longer attend Business Support Group meetings. It was agreed that it should remain on the agenda.

**26.2 Blandford Police**

Cllr Mieville said it was a very specific and excellent report and thanked PC Tom Harness for his efforts. Cllr Holmes asked the Committee Clerk to email PC Harness and thank him for keeping us updated.

**ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK**

**26.3 Market Manager**

There was nothing to report.

**27. DORSET COUNCIL HIGHWAYS**

**27.1 To consider Dorset Council Highways referral policy**

Cllr Lacey Clarke confirmed he has been included in the correspondence with the Town Clerk and Dorset Council regarding the highways referral policy and, as yet, a policy hasn't been located. He thinks that residents should be signposted directly to Dorset Council as Councillors are not experts in highways issues. However, Councillors should have the opportunity to intervene if they do not agree with Dorset Council's recommendations. Cllr Mieville does not agree. He feels strongly that Councillors have a responsibility to support residents with any highway issues and that, although the Councillors are not experts, they should continue to be made aware of any issues.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED (4 in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention) that

**The Committee continues to consider highways issues before referring them to Dorset Council.**

**28. REVIEW OF TOWN & GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGETS TO 31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

**28.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget**

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

**28.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves**

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

**28.3 Reserve Accounts**

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

**29. TO CONSIDER FREE PARKING DAYS FOR ALL DORSET COUNCIL CAR PARKS IN BLANDFORD FORUM JANUARY – MARCH 2024 (ANY FURTHER DAYS CAN BE AGREED AT THE T&GP MEETING ON 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024)**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Cross, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED (7 in favour and 1 abstention) that

**The Committee defers the decision until the next meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 but should a date be suggested in the meantime it can be taken to Planning or full council.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**30. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2024/2025 AND RECOMMENDATION TO FINANCE & STAFFING COMMITTEE MEETING**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED unanimously that a **RECOMMENDATION** is made to the Finance & Staffing Committee that

**The earmarked reserves are set at £15,500 for the Town & General Purposes Committee for the 2024-25 financial year.**

**ACTION: FINANCE & STAFFING COMMITTEE**

The meeting closed at 7:29pm.

**SIGNED: ..... DATED: .....**