

**BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7:01pm in the Corn Exchange**

**DRAFT**  
Subject to confirmation

**PRESENT**

Cllr H Miéville – Chairman of Council  
Cllr B Quayle  
Cllr R Holmes  
Cllr P Clark  
Cllr L Lindsay  
Cllr S Chapman  
Cllr A Cross

Cllr N Lacey-Clarke – Vice Chairman of Council  
Cllr S Hitchings  
Cllr K Herbert  
Cllr H White  
Cllr R Carter  
Cllr C Stevens  
Cllr L Hitchings – late arrival at 7:02pm

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Town Clerk

Operations Manager

**98. PUBLIC SESSION**

Cllr Miéville clarified that, when standing in for the T&GP Chairman at the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Cllr Holmes had not gone against Standing Orders by asking Cllr Cross to act as Vice Chairman when she was standing in as Committee Chairman.

Cllr Miéville also stated that, when Councillors speak on behalf of the Town Council, they must only do so in line with the Town Council's policies and resolutions.

**99. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Quayle gave the report this month.

- 99.1 Wildflowers and Verges – The Rangers have now sown the seeds onto the verges Cllr Quayle mentioned at the last meeting. He has been asked by the Rangers to clarify that they are supporting the wildflowers by sowing in seeds now and they should look better next year, compared to this year, but may not be a carpet of flowers. Verges will be cut if there is a safety issue.
- 99.2 Gritting – The plan is now enacted so when the weather is cold enough the gritters will be out. Cllrs Quayle and Lacey-Clarke do check roads for potholes and the colder weather can cause potholes to open up and gulleys can become blocked with fallen leaves, so Cllr Quayle asked for Councillors to let him know if this occurs.
- 99.3 Children's Centre – There is a coat scheme where people can pass on coats they have grown out of for children to use. This is a really good, and successful, scheme.
- 99.4 Interviews – Dorset Council is conducting a survey at people's doors, to randomly selected properties.
- 99.5 Household Support Fund – This fund is reopening this week and applicants must respond immediately.
- 99.6 Support – Cllr Quayle reported that the businesses support Dorset's care leavers to urge local community, organisations and businesses to lend their support to care for experienced young people in their community. He asked for BFTC to potentially support a policy to support them.
- 99.7 Road Closure – Cllr Quayle reported that there will be a road closure from Salisbury Road to Damory from today for 5 days and asked that Councillors contact them with any issues.

**100. APOLOGIES**

Cllr P Osborne

Cllr C Jacques

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

None

**102. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED (12 in favour, 2 abstentions) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

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

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

Bicycle Repair Station – A funding application has been submitted to The National Lottery for £1,500 as a contribution towards the unit and the installation.

Remembrance Civic Protocol – The civic protocol is being updated for this year's Remembrance Sunday outdoor service, parade and church service and will be shared with Councillors after the planning meeting taking place on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

CiLCA – The Committee Clerk, Julie Wigg has passed the CiLCA qualification and is congratulated on this notable achievement.

Anaerobic Digestion Plant – Councillors and staff from the Town Council, and volunteers from the Blandford Community Fridge and Blandford Forum Food Bank, were taken on a tour of the Anaerobic Digestion Plant, which is run by Eco Sustainable Solutions Ltd in partnership with Dorset Council. Each year, around 40,000 tonnes of food waste is collected from the bins that sit in the majority of Dorset household kitchens. Anaerobic digestion, it was explained, is a biological process where food waste and other organic materials are broken down by micro-organisms in the absence of light and oxygen. The result, a nutrient-rich bio-fertiliser. Natural methane is harnessed to fuel engines, generating green power and heat. The remainder of the gas is re-fed into the soup to stir it up and eventually the soup is moved to another tank to be given free of charge to farmers who spread it on their fields in the form of fertiliser/soil improver. This was a very informative visit and we were very grateful to Simon Hull, Commercial Manager from Eco Sustainable Solutions and Kirsten Juniper, Recycling Officer at Dorset Council.

Blandford Community Fridge – As a result of the above visit, Kirsten Juniper – Recycling Officer at Dorset Council and her colleague, Amanda Evans will be attending a Fridge session on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Two meetings have been arranged with the Fridge volunteers in November, to discuss usage, Christmas opening, collections issues and capacity. The Town Clerk nominated the volunteers for 'Team of the Year' at Volunteer Centre Dorset's Volunteer Celebration Evening, held in Dorchester. They were thrilled to be recognised for their efforts and presented with a certificate. The four volunteers who attended the event were proud to represent all the volunteers of the Blandford Community Fridge and honoured to receive an award for the whole team.

Poppy Appeal Donations – The Chairman of the Blandford Branch of the RBL, Terry Clarkson has written to the Town Council to thank it for the recent donation made to the Poppy Appeal in exchange for the wreaths, large poppies and crosses.

**104. CIVIC REPORT**

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

**104. CIVIC REPORT (cont)**

Cllr Miéville noted that he thoroughly enjoyed the Fabulous Forum and the Blandford Stour Valley Band concert with Rokit Choir. Cllr Miéville also mentioned the successful Blandford Business Group Awards evening at Bryanston School and remarked on how encouraging it was to see so many young business people helping to make Blandford Forum a great place to shop, live and work. Cllr Miéville also said how much he had enjoyed the recent successful Dorset County Poppy Launch, which was based at the Royal British Legion and the Parish Church. It was a great honour for the town to host this occasion.

**105. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

**105.1 Town & General Purposes Committee Meeting dated 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

105.1.1 Recommendations – None

105.1.2 To Receive the Minutes

The Minutes were RECEIVED.

**106. TO RECEIVE THE APPROVED EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR 2022/23**

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

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

**The Town Council receives and notes the External Auditor's report for the 2022/23 financial year.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**107.1 Polling District, Polling Place and Polling Station Review**

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

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

**Councillors respond to the consultation by raising serious concern over the suitability of the football pavilion due to its location within the wards, the number of electors who will be allocated to that site, the lack of parking if the bowls club has a home match and the lack of disabled access due to the pavilion being located within a recreation ground and accessed via an artificial grass path.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

107.2 Licensing Policy – The paper was noted (see Appendix E) and it was agreed not to respond to this consultation.

107.3 Gambling Policy – The paper was noted (see Appendix F) and it was agreed not to respond to this consultation.

**108. TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL BILL PROPOSED BY ZERO HOUR**

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

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

108. **TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL BILL PROPOSED BY ZERO HOUR (cont)**

The Town Council delegates authority to the Climate Change & Biodiversity working group to consider the matter and respond to Zero Hour directly.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

109. **TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS FROM DAPTC FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The paper was noted (see Appendix H).

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

**The Town Council supports the DAPTC making the pledge and signing up to the Armed Forces Covenant.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Chapman and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention) that

**The Town Council supports seeking approval at the AGM to consult the membership of DAPTC for the organisation to transition from a constituted membership to a company limited by guarantee, in readiness for the next financial year.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

110. **GRANT APPLICATION – ELIZABETH ROAD ALLOTMENTS**

The paper was noted (see Appendix I).

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

**The Town Council authorises expenditure of £2,789.00 + VAT for the necessary works using funds from the Grants budget (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 s1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

111. **TO CONSIDER FEEDBACK FROM THE WORKING GROUP REGARDING A REQUEST FROM THE BLANDFORD YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR A SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

The paper was noted (see Appendix J) and the matter was deferred to a future meeting.

112. **TO RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR THE 2023-24 ANNUAL SUPPORT CONTRACT FOR ANPR**

The paper was noted (see Appendix K).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 abstention) that

**The Town Council retrospectively authorises £2,300 for the ANPR maintenance contract using funds from the CCTV budget (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 s1-8) and Councillors include in the budget.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**113. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE AND CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS REGARDING THE:**

- 113.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford + - Cllr Carter reported that the Wyatt Homes application was passed by the Dorset Council northern area committee, which is in line with the neighbourhood plan.
- 113.2 BFTC Commemoration Group – The group is still going ahead with the exhibition next year although an alternative venue is required.
- 113.3 Climate Change & Biodiversity – No meetings have taken place this month.
- 113.4 Dorset Council Grant to support the Market Area Enhancement Project

113.4.1 To consider recommendations from the working group

The paper was noted (see Appendix L).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Holmes, SECONDED by Cllr Stevens and AGREED (11 in favour, 3 abstentions) that

**Cllr Carter proposed that the Town Council accepts the proposal from Dorset Council and agrees in principle with the scheme. This was seconded by Cllr Mieville and agreed (10 in favour, 3 abstentions) that the recommendation is made to full council.**

**The proposed usage at this stage is for:**

- **Offering the opportunity to local organisations for self-promotion**
- **Events**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**114. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS (COUNCILLORS ARE REQUESTED TO ADVISE THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OR THE TOWN CLERK IF THEY WISH TO MAKE A REPORT UNDER THIS HEADING)**

Cllr Mieville reported that the Clean-Up Blandford litter picks are coming to an end for 2023 now and they have noticed that there is less litter to collect each time.

Cllr Carter reported that he had circulated the Leisure Centre consultative group's notes and advised that there are some price changes currently being considered by the portfolio holder at Dorset Council.

Cllr Lindsay attended the AGM of the Allotment Management Committee in September, held in the Corn Exchange.

Cllr Chapman reported that the Blandford Evening WI has agreed to pledge support for the plastic-free community campaign.

The meeting closed at 8:17pm.

**SIGNED .....**

**DATED .....**