



# BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

To: All Town Councillors  
Members of the Public & Press

Dorset Council Councillors

Dear Member

## **TOWN COUNCIL 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 18<sup>th</sup> December 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  
11<sup>th</sup> December 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 Council, 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 Council 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 Council.

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 (all Councillors, excluding those living outside the parish, for setting the precept at Agenda Item No. 6)
4. [Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023](#)
5. [Town Clerk's Report & Correspondence](#)
6. Recommendations and Receipt of Minutes
  - 6.1 Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting dated 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023
    - 6.1.1 Recommendations (to follow in the F&S Committee minutes)  
**(this agenda item includes the budget and precept for 2024/25)**
    - 6.1.2 To RECEIVE the Minutes ([to follow here](#))

7. [To approve the council diary for 2024/25](#)
8. Corn Exchange
  - 8.1 [To authorise the forming of a charitable trust for the Town Hall/Corn Exchange](#)
  - 8.2 To authorise the signing of two documents for the Community Ownership Fund (one distributed to Councillors on 11<sup>th</sup> December, one to follow)
9. [To consider renewing the four-year sponsorship agreement with MVS Blandford Ltd.](#)
10. To receive an update on the Town Council Plan (distributed separately)
11. To receive an update and consider any requests from the:
  - 11.1 Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group – Blandford +
    - 11.1.1 [To consider reaffirming the Town Council's decision on the Ward's Drove planning application due to the introduction of the Design Code](#)
  - 11.2 BFTC Commemoration Group
    - 11.2.1 [To consider the proposed schedule of events for D-Day 80 in June 2024](#)
  - 11.3 Climate Change & Biodiversity
  - 11.4 Dorset Council Grant to support the Market Area Enhancement Project
12. 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)
13. Confidential

The public and press may be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity might be prejudicial to the public interest as per the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

  - 13.1 To approve the updated Heads of Terms for the land north of the bypass

## **A Barnes for a Recreation Trust Meeting will take place prior to this Town Council Meeting at 6:45pm.**

Minutes of the Town Council and Committee meetings are available from Blandford Library, 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

Civic Carol Service – The office has received very positive feedback for the organisation of the civic carol service.

Martyn's Law – The Town Clerk and Operations Manager will be attending a webinar organised by the DAPTC on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 4:00pm with Dorset Council's Safety Advisory Group (SAG). The webinar will cover the role of the SAG and how to engage, an overview of key events in 2024 including D-Day activities. The final piece of content is Dorset Council's watching brief on Martyn's Law.

Corn Exchange Tender – Three of the four tenderers confirmed that they would appreciate a further week (one was ready to submit on time) so, following discussion with the Town Clerk and the consultants, the Quantity Surveyor has therefore issued a note to all tenderers to confirm a week's extension to 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Mayoral Scroll – This was an agenda item, but has been moved to Clerk's report in an attempt to save time on a heavy agenda. However, please notify the Town Clerk should you wish this matter to be on an agenda for a future meeting if you are not satisfied with the information. At the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 the following resolution was made:

**The first 130 years of the Mayoral Scroll is to be separated from the most recent 50 years – creating two scrolls – one representing the Borough Council and one for the Town Council.**

Councillors would like to be in a position where both scrolls are displayed at the annual Mayor Making ceremony, at the start of each council term, so the Mayoral Scrolls can be inspected. Therefore, a decision on the storage location was deferred until after a visit to the Dorset History Centre and Blandford Town Museum, or Councillors may choose to store both scrolls in the existing Town Council fire safe. The Mayor's Assistant has raised the matter with the Dorset History Centre and had asked if a wooden storage box for the old part of the scroll would be appropriate.

The Dorset History Centre advised to avoid use of wood for the following reasons:

- Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emissions from either the wood and/or coatings
- Residual formaldehyde (a VOC) in MDF
- Vulnerability to insect attack

They therefore recommended conservation grade storage boxes. The Mayor's Assistant found a suitable box for the two separate scrolls to fit in at just £7 each and they are [viewable here](#). The archivists also recommended rolling the scrolls in Tyvek fabric, bought by the metre and [viewable here](#). These boxes and fabric have therefore been ordered for both scrolls, with a total cost of £39.68 which has been charged to the Civic Budget. Now that the Town Council is able to appropriately store the two scrolls, it is therefore recommended that both scrolls continue to be stored within the fire safe. In addition, it is recommended that a handcrafted, ornate wooden box is made to accommodate the older scroll and a quote has been sought. This can then be used for presenting the Borough scroll at Mayor Making ceremonies, or other events, with the protective box sitting within it.

Review of the Railway Arches – When the arches were opened to the public the opening hours were set for 9am - 2.30pm seven days a week. This was initially for a trial period and was to be reviewed after six months and then annually. The Arches have been opened at 9am by caretakers and closed at 2:30pm by the grounds staff, at weekends they have been opened and closed by the on-duty caretaker. This has worked well because by closing at 2:30pm the grounds staff have been able to close the gates before they finish work at

3.30pm. This has allowed the caretaker to concentrate on hirings and other duties without having to walk down to the arches. There has continued to have been an increase of broken glass and litter under the arches, but it is hard to say if this increase is due to the arches being open and more of a focal point now. There have been incidents of youths being on top of the arches outside of the opening hours, but this was to be expected and is hard to control without a significant increase in the height of the fencing.

A structural report was carried out in September 2023, what follows is a summary of main points:

1. During the monitoring period of three years there has been minor erosion to mortar joints and limited increase in the size of the cracks.
2. Annual monitoring recommended to assess possible further movement.
3. Any larger cracks are repaired with stainless steel helibars bedded in mortar joints with epoxy bonding agent.
4. It is recommended the river wall is protected with sandbags or a bund below river level or rebuild the section of brick foundations below water level.
5. It would be cost effective to expediate the laying of sandbags by an approved contractor.
6. Subject to the flow of the river when the water will be at its lowest level, we can assess the length and height of the sandbags. The limited large cracks that are suitable for repair can also be done.

A contractor who can carry out the work is being sought, as it is somewhat specialist, and then a quote will be bought back to Council.

## To approve the council diary for 2024/25

Please note that the dates are subject to change depending on when we vacate the Corn Exchange/office complex because we may need to combine meeting dates to accommodate them all, whilst providing a venue for hirers at Woodhouse Gardens on a Monday evening.

In addition, please note that amendments are anticipated for the locations of the March schedule and to the dates in the April schedule. For April, the changes are partly due to the realisation that it is too difficult and rushed to hold the Town Assembly prior to a council meeting.

The existing dates are:

APRIL 2024	
Monday 1	Easter Monday
Monday 8	Planning Meeting
Monday 15	-
Monday 22	Annual Town Assembly at 6pm followed by Town Council Meeting (followed by Trust Meeting) at 7pm
Monday 29	-

It is suggested that, due to the 8<sup>th</sup> being during the Easter holidays, the dates are amended to:

APRIL 2024	
Monday 1	Easter Monday
Monday 8	-
Monday 15	Planning Meeting
Monday 22	Annual Town Assembly at 6pm
Monday 29	Town Council Meeting (followed by Trust Meeting) at 7pm

This would be nice to have a last full council meeting leading up to the elections. However, some Councillors may be preoccupied with canvassing at this time. Hence, the following might be preferred, regardless of Easter holiday dates:

APRIL 2024	
Monday 1	Easter Monday
Monday 8	Planning Meeting
Monday 15	Annual Town Assembly at 6pm
Monday 22	Town Council Meeting (followed by Trust Meeting) at 7pm
Monday 29	-

### Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors consider approving the council diary for 2024/25 and select the preferred dates for April 2024.

Linda Scott-Giles  
Town Clerk  
20<sup>th</sup> November 2023



**Text included for planning purposes, but to be deleted prior to publication**

*All meetings are held in the Corn Exchange at 7pm unless otherwise stated*

**APRIL 2024**

Monday 1	Easter Monday
Monday 8	Planning Meeting
Monday 15	Annual Town Assembly at 6pm
Monday 22	Town Council Meeting (followed by Trust Meeting) at 7pm
Monday 29	-

**MAY 2024**

Thursday 2	Elections
Friday 3	Election Count
Saturday 4	Election Count (if parliamentary election occurs)
Monday 6	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 7	Welcome/induction session for new Councillors <b>Annual Meeting agenda is distributed</b>
Monday 13	Annual Meeting of the Town Council (followed by Town Council meeting) <b>first meeting of the new council</b>
Monday 20	Planning Meeting / Town Council Meeting (Corn Exchange)
Friday 24	Mayor Making Ceremony
Monday 27	Bank Holiday

**JUNE 2024**

Monday 3	Planning Meeting
Monday 10	Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting
Monday 17	Recreation & Amenities Committee Meeting
Monday 24	Town Council Meeting

**JULY 2024**

Monday 1	Town Council Photograph at 6.30pm / Town Council Meeting (followed by Trust AGM) 7pm
Monday 8	Planning Meeting
Monday 15	Town & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Monday 22	Town Council Meeting (Corn Exchange)
Monday 29	Town Council Meeting

**AUGUST 2024**

No meetings are scheduled for this month, although a Planning meeting may be necessary

**SEPTEMBER 2024**

Monday 2	Planning Meeting
Tuesday 3	Merchant Navy Day
Monday 9	Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting
Friday 13	Dorset Architectural Heritage Week (DAHW) (Cemetery Chapel)
Saturday 14	Community Expo (including budget consultation) Dorset Architectural Heritage Week (Corn Exchange, Town Hall & Council Chamber)
Monday 16	Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting
Monday 23	Town Council Meeting
Monday 30	Town & General Purposes Committee Meeting

**OCTOBER 2024**

Monday 7	Planning Meeting
Monday 14	Town Council Meeting (followed by Trust Meeting)
Monday 21	Town Council Meeting (Corn Exchange)
Monday 28	-



*All meetings are held in the Corn Exchange at 7pm unless otherwise stated*

**NOVEMBER 2024**

<b>Sunday 3</b>	<b>Royal British Legion Cemetery Service</b>
<b>Monday 4</b>	<b>Planning Meeting</b>
<b>Friday 8</b>	<b>Remembrance School Involvement at 10:30am</b>
<b>Sunday 10</b>	<b>Remembrance Sunday Parade &amp; Church Service 2:30pm</b>
<b>Monday 11</b>	<b>Armistice Day 11am</b>
<b>Monday 11</b>	<b>Recreation &amp; Amenities Committee Meeting</b>
<b>Monday 18</b>	<b>Town &amp; General Purposes Committee Meeting</b>
<b>Monday 25</b>	<b>Town Council Meeting</b>
<b>Friday 29 TBC</b>	<b>Yuletide Festival</b>
<b>Saturday 30</b>	<b>Small Business Saturday</b>

**DECEMBER 2024**

<b>Monday 2</b>	<b>Planning Meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday 4</b>	<b>Civic Christmas Carol Service</b>
<b>Monday 9</b>	<b>Finance &amp; Staffing Committee Meeting</b>
<b>Monday 16</b>	<b>Town Council Meeting (followed by Trust Meeting)</b>
<b>Monday 23</b>	-
<b>Monday 30</b>	-

**JANUARY 2025**

<b>Monday 6</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
<b>Monday 13</b>	<b>Planning Meeting</b>
<b>Monday 20</b>	<b>Recreation &amp; Amenities Committee Meeting</b>
<b>Monday 27</b>	<b>Town Council Meeting</b>

**FEBRUARY 2025**

<b>Monday 3</b>	<b>Planning</b>
<b>Monday 10</b>	<b>Town Council Meeting</b>
<b>Monday 17</b>	-
<b>Monday 24</b>	<b>Town Council Meeting (Corn Exchange)</b>

**MARCH 2025**

<b>Monday 3</b>	<b>Planning Meeting</b>
<b>Monday 10</b>	<b>Raise the Commonwealth Flag at 10am in Market Place (robes)</b>
<b>Monday 10</b>	<b>Town &amp; General Purposes Committee Meeting</b>
<b>Saturday 15</b>	<b>Spring Community Expo</b>
<b>Monday 17</b>	<b>Finance &amp; Staffing Committee Meeting</b>
<b>Monday 24</b>	<b>Town Council Meeting</b>
<b>Monday 31</b>	-

**APRIL 2025**

<b>Monday 7</b>	<b>Planning Meeting</b>
<b>Monday 14</b>	<b>Annual Town Assembly at 6pm</b>
<b>Friday 18</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
<b>Monday 21</b>	<b>Easter Monday</b>
<b>Monday 28</b>	<b>Town Council Meeting (followed by Trust Meeting) at 7pm</b>

**MAY 2025**

<b>Monday 5</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
<b>Monday 12</b>	<b>Annual Meeting of the Town Council / Town Council Meeting</b>
<b>Monday 19</b>	<b>Planning Meeting / Town Council Meeting (Corn Exchange)</b>
<b>Friday 23</b>	<b>Mayor Making Ceremony</b>
<b>Monday 26</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>



## To authorise the formation of a charitable trust for the Town Hall/Corn Exchange

### Background

The consultants, Ingham Pinnock Associates have met with a specialist charity lawyer and a further meeting was held with the Town Clerk on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to discuss the setting up of a charitable trust for the Corn Exchange project.

Initial enquiries have suggested it should take three months to establish the trust although it could be up to six.

The lawyer advised that it is extremely important to ensure the governance arrangements are correct for the charity and the most simple route is a charitable trust. The alternative is a corporate charity like a company (e.g. if it goes bust the debts die with the charity) or a charitable incorporated organisation.

He also advised the trust board should be a different make-up to the Town Council and would need two tier governance to ensure the council has ultimate control. The external individuals could be a couple of people with an interest in the building. For example, there may be Councillors retiring in May who may wish to be involved in this way.

The charitable purpose statement needs to be composed, which would be along the lines of; 'to fund the development, support the Grade I Listed complex, and provide community facilities in the local area'.

The costs involved in starting up a charity, with the expertise of a charity lawyer, are estimated to be between £5,000 and £10,000.

To avoid any delay with the process, this item is therefore being presented to Councillors at the earliest opportunity and they are asked to consider authorising the formation of a charitable trust for the Town Hall/Corn Exchange.

### Report

At the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 it was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Stevens and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 non-vote) that

**The Town Council is inclined to establish a charitable trust but would like more information regarding the roles, responsibilities and overall control of the building, including the risks, and the matter is brought back to a future council meeting.**

The Town Clerk emailed the lawyer on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and his advice note fee is £1995 plus VAT for the preparation of the initial draft, which has been authorised by the Chairman of Council to enable a decision to be made at this meeting.

The scope of his work is:

To prepare a high-level advice note to the Council to cover:

- 1) Can a charitable structure work in this scenario? If so, its limitations.
- 2) What legal structures could the charity take (e.g. corporate vs. trust)?
- 3) The governance requirements (e.g. trustee board) and Council controls.
- 4) Our recommendations.



## **Recommendation**

The advice note from the lawyer will be circulated once received. It is then recommended that Councillors consider the contents and decide if this is appropriate for the council to pursue.

It is also recommended that Councillors retrospectively approve the expenditure of (up to) £1,995 + VAT for the advice note provided by the specialist charity lawyer (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 s1-8).

Linda Scott-Giles  
Town Clerk  
5<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## **To consider renewing the four-year agreement with MVS Blandford Ltd.**

Four years ago, an agreement was renewed with MVS Blandford Ltd to sponsor the Town Councils vehicles, this agreement expires at the end of the year.

MVS Blandford Ltd propose to carry on, for a further four years, to sponsor Blandford Forum Town Council vehicles reg Ford Ranger WF57 FLG & Transit Custom BN64 XSA. This sponsorship would include servicing both vehicles and performing their yearly MOTs. In return, both vehicles are to be sign written with the MVS logo.

### The package includes:

- Annual service for each vehicle FOC up to the value of £200
- A MOT FOC
- All bulbs and levels would be replaced/topped up FOC which would normally cost £30 per vehicle.
- A free health check every 3 months
- Any EML (Engine Management Light) checks required for the vehicles would be FOC (normally £30 each check)
- £300 of labour/parts costs included (£150 per vehicle) a credit will be added to each vehicle – see attached.
- We will still send you invoices for your records so that you can see what work has been carried out but obviously they will be in credit to start with.

Officers contacted a range of local garages earlier in the year but have received no replies or interest, despite chasing e- mails.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors consider the report and decide whether to carry on with the sponsorship agreement with MVS Blandford Ltd.

Jon Goodenough  
Operations Manager  
29<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## **To consider reaffirming the Town Council's decision on the Ward's Drove planning application due to the introduction of the Design Code**

The Town Council made the following resolution at the Planning meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021. A Dorset Council planning officer has asked if the council has any further comment to make due to the recently adopted Design Code.

94.7 P/OUT/2021/00748 – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Hallam Land Management – Land North of Ward's Drove, Blandford St Mary – Develop land by the erection of up to 150 No. dwellings, form open space, landscaping (including LAP and LEAP) and ecological buffer, new vehicular and pedestrian access (including from the North Dorset Trailway), parking, engineering (including ground modelling and drainage) works and infrastructure (including cycle and pedestrian connections). (Outline application with all matters reserved).

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

**The Town Council objects to the application as it believes that the allocation exceeds the number agreed to in the B+NP. The 350 houses that are designated for the St Mary's Hill site were included in the B+NP as part of the original allocation by NDDC. The Ward's Drove allocation was not. The 150 houses planned will have a significant effect on the infrastructure of Blandford Forum. If this site is completed, there will be very little green buffer between Blandford St Mary and Charlton Marshall. Moreover, the site would form an extension of the ribbon development along the A350 and increase the difficulty of communication back to the principal settlement (Blandford Forum).**

**The B+NP, which has significant weight, cannot simply be ignored or overridden in this. The B+NP submission plan, Part 1 (page 9) Paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 clearly states the purpose of the NP as '*being used to determine planning applications in the area*' and to '*shape the future*' of the area.' To this end, the B+NP incorporated the growth figures from the ND local plan of 2016, for '*at least*' 1200 houses to be provided. This was also Dorset Council's policy after reunification. The Ward's Drove application exceeds this, if built out, along with other allocations which are already being built, or have planning permission extant or pending.**

### **Access to goods and facilities:**

**There are no facilities present anywhere near the proposed development and occupants would need to travel in order to meet the majority of their day-to-day needs. The nearest shop is approximately 1km away and access to a wider range of goods and services would require a 2km journey into Blandford Forum. The Town Council agrees with the analysis of the inspector of Appeal Decision APP/D1265/W/20/3254594 that footpath links are unattractive for access purposes to Blandford Forum or Charlton Marshall, to access goods and services, including schools and medical facilities and the bus services are infrequent and inadequate. This would lead to car journeys being essential.**

**The inspector's paragraphs 27 and 28 also apply – (modified in italics to reflect the Ward's Drove application).**

**27. The ...village(s) (Blandford St Mary and Charlton Marshall) do not have day-to-day facilities (*and there are*) no strong functional relationship (to)**

overcome that deficiency. Paragraph 78 of the NPPF also states that to promote sustainable development in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities. Where there are groups of smaller settlements, development in one village may support services in a village nearby.

28. However, the site's location adjacent to (*two*) villages with only a very small number of facilities of (*their*) own, limits the potential for the proposed housing to carry any particular health, social benefits, or convenience for future occupants. Residents are therefore likely to be car dependant to meet their needs; a factor which (*must*) weigh heavily against the scheme. In this regard the proposed development would have insufficient accessibility by sustainable modes to be considered a sustainable location for development.

**Other infrastructure implications:**

Such development would also inevitably place great burden on the already strained primary school system in this area with little or no room to expand in

the two existing primary schools closest to the proposed development. Cumulatively, with the St Mary's Hill development, the remoteness of Ward's Drove from the principal settlement, along with the other proposed developments will cause a sizeable increase in the amount of traffic driving back into Blandford Forum to access the primary shopping centre, medical and dental facilities, and primary and secondary schooling. This would be unsustainable ribbon development of the worst possible kind.

**Landscape and heritage:**

The following is taken from The North Dorset Strategic Landscape and Heritage Study: Stage 2 (October 2019) and is used for reference for this site in Blandford St. Mary

(BFTC comments in italics)

- 'Although there are no designated cultural heritage features within the assessment area, the area contributes to the wider rural setting for the grade II listed buildings located in Lower Blandford St Mary.' *There has been a significant erosion of this rural setting by the allocation of 350 houses in the St Mary's Hill development. Further development towards Ward's Drove will almost eliminate the rural setting referred to.*
- 'The area provides a rural setting to parts of the Blandford Forum, Blandford St Mary and Bryanston Conservation Area.' *This will no longer be the case if the planning application succeeds.*
- 'The area is largely undeveloped, with settlement limited'. *Further development would render this statement obsolete.*
- 'The area is largely undeveloped, with settlement limited to several properties along Ward's Drove.' *Further development would render this statement obsolete.*
  - 'The area is separated from the adjacent existing settlement in Blandford St Mary by the A354.'
  - 'The assessment area provides a rural setting to existing settlement and contributes to the sense of separation between Blandford St Mary and Lower Blandford St Mary. (*with a M-H sensitivity rating*) *The rural setting and sense of separation would no longer be the case if the planning application succeeds.*
- and for this, and the other reasons stated, should be removed as a site for development.

## To consider the proposed schedule of events for D-Day 80

A working group meeting was held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 with Cllrs Mieville, Carter and Stevens were present with Bob Brannigan, the Town Clerk and the Operations Manager. The points were made of what is known so far at the full council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and a subsequent meeting was held with Terry Clarkson on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023. He confirmed that the Legion is not doing a display and a Veterans' Breakfast with entertainment and had not offered to organise the evening service at the Railway Arches. The following order of events has been discussed and agreed and Councillors' authorisation is now sought.

### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024

- The Legion is going to find out if there will be an RAF memorial service at the Tarrant Rushton airfield on the evening of Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024 to coincide with the gliders leaving the site.

### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024

#### Daytime Event:

- Town Criers cry at 12pm on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 in the Market Place. Subsequent action will be to invite military freemen and the local schools to attend the cry. The Legion will invite Standard Bearers to attend. It was agreed that this should be a joint event between the Town Council and the Legion on the churchyard and to ask the church for permission to hold refreshments in there afterwards. The Legion offered to bring the poppy cross for display.

#### Evening Event:

- Cllr Stevens suggested holding an event at the Railway Arches with the Legion. This would involve clergy from the Parish Church and the Evangelical Church, the Blandford Stour Valley Band, and Terry suggested inviting the Standard Bearers and the piper to play from the top of the arches. The event would run from 8:30pm to 9:30pm, concluding with the Mayor reading the Tribute with the lighting of the beacon at 9:30pm. This event would require permission from Dorset Council to hold an event on their land, a request for the Rangers to cut the grass beforehand, notification to our insurance company and a risk assessment, as well as someone who is prepared to manage the beacon. It would be ideal to find a surfacing that is affordable and can be used at the arches for chairs, but it is suggested that the church is asked to host the wet weather plan. It was agreed to include the cadets in the service, and that Gordon Grenville-Hunt, who is 103, 104 in July, is invited to light the beacon. He lives at Larks Leas residential home and was not at D-Day, but is a veteran and was in Egypt during the war. It was also suggested that the council contacts the care homes to find out if they do have any D-Day veterans.

### Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024

- 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – BFTC Commemoration Working Group is holding an exhibition in Woodhouse Gardens. The school day is the Friday.
- National Fish & Chip Day is celebrated on the first Friday of June each year and, as this meal wasn't rationed, the Pageant master has recommended it being a part of the schedule of events. The Town Clerk is finding out if they plan to participate in any way.

## **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

- 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – BFTC Commemoration Working Group is holding an exhibition in Woodhouse Gardens. Direct people to the Legion lunch on the Saturday and the Legion will do the same.
- The Legion is planning a D-Day lunch with ration packs on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024.
- Legion to invite a wartime singer to perform at the Legion. It is also recommended that this D-Day 80 event is combined with the Armed Forces (Day) Expo. Options are hosting an Expo at the Legion on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024 or just put the Armed Forces Day flag out on Armed Forces Day and combine the events. With limited manpower at both the Legion and the Town Council, it is recommended that we combine forces and events.

## **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

- 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – Commemoration Working Group holding an exhibition in Woodhouse Gardens.

### **Town Council Staff Actions:**

- Discuss the events with the Legion Branch Chair and offer to promote their involvement.
- Find out from Dorset Council what their beacon lighting plans are.
- Contact the Blandford School Network to determine what local schools are planning to do. Offer to promote their involvement. If they are preparing any artwork or poems, the Legion is happy to display them on the Saturday at the D-Day luncheon.
- Find ways of involving young people.
- Ask a local company if they are able to make a D-Day 80 collar for the beacon. Awaiting a response.
- Ask the fish and chip shops in town (x2) if they are aware of the plans and to what extent they will be involved. Offer to promote their involvement. Ask about spam fritters!
- Write to both criers with the wording provided by the Pageant Master and invite them to carry out the cry.
- Contact the care homes to find out if they do have any D-Day veterans.

### **Points for Councillors to consider approving:**

- A window competition with certificates awarded in lieu of financial reward to reduce financial impact, similar to the Poppy Appeal window competition in November.
- Merging Armed Forces Expo with D-Day 80 on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at Legion House.
- Working in partnership with the Legion on the events planned for 6<sup>th</sup> June and 8<sup>th</sup> June and promotion of all school, Legion and council events.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that Councillors consider the contents of the report and proposed involvement and authorise associated expenditure of up to £800 (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 s1-8).

Linda Scott-Giles  
Town Clerk  
30<sup>th</sup> November 2023