

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
Held on Monday 27th November 2023 at 7:01pm in the Corn Exchange



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 L Hitchings
Cllr H White
Cllr R Carter
Cllr C Stevens

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk

Operations Manager

IN ATTENDANCE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Libby Lloyd

115. PUBLIC SESSION

115.1 Treads – Libby Lloyd spoke on behalf of Treads and updated Councillors on their recent activities, which include a cooking session with Ukrainian families and offering paid opportunities to young people who used to use Treads. There is another initiative called Art to Heart, which is a great way of allowing the children to get creative and express themselves. Libby advised Councillors that there are a lot of younger children struggling with anxiety and Treads is coming up with ways of supporting them. In the New Year, they are going to go back into the school to present an anti-bullying workshop. Cllr Chapman asked how they are coping with the costs for the art project and Libby explained they had obtained funding to support it. They also received a few donations of painting materials and fabrics and if anyone would like to make a donation, they can take it to the new location for Treads at the Blandford Scout Hut. Cllr Carter thanked Libby for everything she does for the children and asked if she has regular meetings with the school. Treads tends to get 15-20 children per session and are considering changing the constitution to enable them to lower their age range.

116. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS

Cllr Lacey-Clarke gave the report this month.

Cllr Lacey-Clarke mentioned that the latest round of the [Dorset Council Community and Culture Project Fund is now open](#) and applicants must raise at least 20% of the costs themselves. The deadline is in January and applicants must meet at least one of the Dorset Council priorities.

The winter coats initiative is returning this year and members of the public can go to Blandford Children's Centre between 9:30am and 4pm to collect a warm coat for a child.

Cllr Lacey-Clarke encouraged people to report matters online on the Dorset Council website and noted that a lot of people have been doing this recently. For example, highways matters can be reported quickly and [easily online](#).

117. APOLOGIES

Cllr K Herbert
Cllr C Jacques

Cllr P Osborne

118. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None

119. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30th OCTOBER 2023

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED unanimously that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

120. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

The paper was noted (see Appendix A) and the Town Clerk added the following to the report distributed with the agenda:

Elizabeth Road Allotments – The work to comply with Wessex Water's requirements has now been carried out.

Grant Application for Bicycle Repair Station – The grant application to Awards for All was not successful, and the Town Clerk asked Cllr Lacey-Clarke if the Dorset Council grants mentioned earlier might be worth applying for and he suggested it would be.

3D Photography Opportunity – The Town Museum has asked if the Town Council would support a grant application for 3D photography equipment, which would mean a £250 contribution from the council, the church and the Fashion Museum. The Town Clerk explained that we would be able to photograph all the town silver and catalogue or display it so items can be safely stored but shown on a screen in the venue. This was supported by the Chairman of Council and the Museum is now awaiting a response from the Fashion Museum and the Parish Church.

121. CIVIC REPORT

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

Cllr Miéville mentioned the highlight of the last month being the Acts of Remembrance, and noted the partnership working with the Garrison, the RBL and the church. He also took the opportunity to thank the staff involved in ensuring the events were poignant and full of civic pride.

122. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES

122.1 Recreation & Amenities Committee Meeting held on Monday 13th November 2023

122.1.1 Recommendations – None

122.1.2 To Receive the Minutes

The Minutes were RECEIVED.

122.2 Town & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 20th November 2023

122.2.1 Recommendations – None

122.2.2 To Receive the Minutes

The Minutes were RECEIVED.

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

The required documentation has not yet been received, so this item has been deferred to the next council meeting.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

124. CORN EXCHANGE

124.1 To consider adopting a Fraud Policy to comply with funding requirements

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

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

The fraud policy is adopted by the Town Council.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

10.2 To authorise the forming of a charitable trust for the Town Hall/Corn Exchange

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

7:467pm – Cllr Lindsay left the meeting.

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 its roles and responsibilities, and clarification on overall control of the building, including the risks. It was therefore proposed to bring the matter back to a future meeting.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

125. TO CONSIDER ADOPTING A REVISED CO-OPTION POLICY (AS PART OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS)

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

7:51pm – Cllr Lindsay returned to the meeting.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Miéville and SECONDED by Cllr Holmes that the co-option agenda template at Appendix A is approved with the understanding that a recorded vote can be requested.

Cllr L Hitchings added that there is no need to specify the recorded vote, because this has always been available on any item and is within the Town Council's Standing Orders.

An amendment was therefore PROPOSED by Cllr White and SECONDED by Cllr Cross that there is no need to refer to the right to request a recorded vote.

Cllr Lacey-Clarke clarified that both Appendix A and Appendix B should be approved in order to adopt the amended co-option policy and Cllr White accepted this as an amendment to his amendment. Cllr Miéville withdrew his proposal.

A further amendment was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke and SECONDED by Cllr Cross that it will be a *written* ballot instead of a *secret* ballot.

It was therefore PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED (11 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention) that

The co-option policy is adopted at Appendix A and Appendix B (including amending *he* to *they* at letter j. and changing *secret* to *written* ballot).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

126. TO CONSIDER REVIEWING THE SECRET BALLOT ASPECT OF THE STANDING ORDERS

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

Cllr Lacey-Clarke requested a recorded vote on this item.

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

Voting on Appointments at 8)b, in the Town Council's Standing Orders, is re-worded to *written ballots* instead of *secret ballots*.

In Favour

Cllr H Miéville
Cllr L Hitchings
Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr R Holmes
Cllr P Clark
Cllr H White
Cllr L Lindsay
Cllr R Carter
Cllr S Chapman
Cllr C Stevens
Cllr A Cross

Against

Cllr B Quayle
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

127. TO CONSIDER APPROVING THE LEASE FOR BLANDFORD RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB AT LARKSMEAD

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

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

The Heads of Term are approved with the following amendments being clarified:

The lease is for a 25-year period with a mutual break clause at 15 years.

The initial rent shall be set at £1,500 with an annual increase of 3% (maximum).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

128.1 Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group – Blandford +

No update

128.2 BFTC Commemoration Group

No update

128.3 D-Day 80 Events

To consider the outcome of the working group meeting held with officers on 15th November 2023

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

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

The events are approved by the Town Council and, once known, associated costs are brought back to a future meeting.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

128.4 Climate Change & Biodiversity

To confirm the outcome of the working group meeting to discuss the Zero Hour Bill (meeting held on 16th November 2023)

Cllr Miéville and Cllr Carter reported back from the working group meeting. Cllr Quayle raised concerns about the impact the Bill could have on farmers.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Miéville, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED (5 in favour, against, 8 abstentions) that

The Town Council supports the Bill.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

128.5 Dorset Council Grant to support the Market Area Enhancement Project

To receive the notes from the working group meeting held on 2nd November 2023 and consider expenditure authority for Ingham Pinnock Associates to produce an action plan for the market area in response to Dorset Council's proposals

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Stevens, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED (11 in favour, 2 abstentions) that

The Town Council appoints the consultant to assist with the proposal from Dorset Council for the market area; helping to translate it into a deliverable and high quality design, using funds of up to £2,500 from the £70,000 grant (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 s1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

129. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

129.1 Great Dorset Steam Fair – Cllr Lindsay informed Councillors that the Great Dorset Steam Fair is not taking place next year and the organisers are looking to sell the event.

The meeting closed at 9:24 pm.

SIGNED

DATED