

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town & General Purposes Committee
Held on Monday 11th March 2024 at 7:00pm in the Corn Exchange



PRESENT

Cllr K Herbert – Committee Chairman
Cllr H Miéville - Chairman of Council
Cllr A Cross

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Operations Manager

Committee Clerk

SITTING IN

Cllr S Chapman

Cllr S Hitchings

31. PUBLIC SESSION

There were no members of public in attendance.

Cllr Holmes asked if it's possible to extend the 20mph zones to Whitecliff Mill Street and Park Road. She also asked if it would be possible to remove the traffic lights in Salisbury Street and make it pelican/zebra crossing instead. It was agreed to add both items to the T & GP agenda on the 15th July 2024.

Cllr Miéville said it's great news that the application to the Public Works Loans Board has been successful and thanked the Town Clerk and Operations Manager for all their hard work. He also expressed his thanks to everyone who came Saturday and said the evening was a great success, raising lots of money for his charities.

32. APOLOGIES

Cllr P Clark
Cllr B Quayle

Cllr C Jacques

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

None had been submitted.

34. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th NOVEMBER 2023

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Cross, SECONDED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke and AGREED unanimously that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

35. COMMITTEE CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing to report.

36. GENERAL UPDATES FROM:

36.1 Blandford Business Support Group

Nothing to report.

Cllr Cross thought that it had been agreed to remove this as an agenda item but was reminded that it was agreed at the last meeting it would be included just in case there were any updates. Cllr Miéville asked Cllr Lacey-Clarke why, as Mayor, he is not receiving invites to the meetings. Cllr Lacey-Clarke said that he's not sure and that Cllr Miéville should be

36.1 Blandford Business Support Group Cont.....

receiving invites. However, as Treasurer it is not his responsibility and that Cllr Miéville should contact the Chairman of the Group

36.2 Blandford Police

No report received

36.3 Market Manager

The paper was noted (see Appendix A)

37. **DORSET COUNCIL HIGHWAYS**

None

38. **REVIEW OF TOWN & GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGETS TO 31st OCTOBER 2023**

38.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

38.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

Cllr Cross queried the expenditure of £880 on the railway arches. The Operations Manager confirmed it was for a survey.

38.3 Reserve Accounts

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

39. **TO CONSIDER FREE PARKING DAYS FOR ALL DORSET COUNCIL CAR PARKS IN BLANDFORD FORUM**

The paper was noted (see Appendix E)

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Miéville, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED unanimously that

The Committee agrees to the following free parking days: -

- **Thursday 6th June**
- **Monday 23rd December**

And that the further three free parking days will be considered at the T & GP meeting on the 15th July 2024.

ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK

40. **TO CONSIDER A SUGGESTION FOR BLANDFORD FORUM TO BECOME A CROCI TOWN**

The paper was noted (see Appendix F)

Cllr Lacey-Clarke asked why this was being considered. Cllr Chapman explained as Shaftesbury has a snow drop event residents are keen to have something here and said that the WI would support it. Cllr Cross supports the idea as it would bring colour to the town, but Councillors should bear in mind that we are watching expenditure this year. Cllr Holmes asked if residents could sponsor/purchase bulbs to be planted by the Town Council. Cllr

40. TO CONSIDER A SUGGESTION FOR BLANDFORD FORUM TO BECOME A CROCI TOWN CONT....

Hitchings suggested the Town Improvements budget could be used. The Operations Manager pointed out that Councillors are just being asked to offer their support, not to fund the project, and there would be no cost to the Town Council. Cllr Stevens was concerned about the extra work involved and how it would slow down the cutting. The Operations Manager confirmed that it could create more work, depending on the area. Cllr Lacey-Clarke suggested that we support the project by offering a grant, but it is organised by the resident. Cllr Miéville agreed and suggested the following proposal.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Miéville, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED unanimously that

The Committee supports the project in principal but would like to consult with the church first. The Committee also confirmed that they would welcome an approach for a grant.

ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK

41. TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY FOR THE LIGHTING UP OF WOODHOUSE GARDENS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

The paper was noted (see Appendix G)

Cllr Lacey-Clarke said as this event is very popular, he's happy to approve the proposal. Cllr Stevens suggested moving the Christmas tree into Woodhouse Gardens as it may not be possible to have it outside the Corn Exchange. The Operations Manager agreed that it would be possible to put a smaller one there and Councillors agreed to consider this closer to the time.

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

The Committee approves the proposal to light up Woodhouse Gardens for the month of December at a cost of £2367.82 plus VAT using budget line 1025 Christmas Town Decorations (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

SIGNED:

DATED: