



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 25th March 2024 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
18th March 2024

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. Report from Dorset Council Councillors
3. Apologies
4. To receive any Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations
5. [Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 19th February 2024](#)
6. [Town Clerk's Report & Correspondence](#)
7. Civic Report

8. Recommendations and Receipt of Minutes
 - 8.1 Town & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 11th March 2024
 - 8.1.1 Recommendations
 - 8.1.2 To RECEIVE the Minutes
 - 8.2 Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting held on Monday 18th March 2024
 - 8.2.1 Recommendations
 - 8.2.2 To RECEIVE the Minutes (to follow)
9. To consider meeting dates for April to July 2024 at Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion
10. Town Hall / Corn Exchange Project
 - 10.1 To receive a verbal update to include:
 - Office relocation
 - Storage (including the Town Silver)
 - Key dates
 - Funding
 - 10.2 To consider expenditure authority to seek expert financial advice on the timing of the drawing down of the loan from the Public Works Loan Board
11. To receive an update and consider any requests from the:
 - 11.1 Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group
 - 11.2 BFTC Commemoration Group
 - 11.3 D-Day 80 Events
 - 11.4 Climate Change & Biodiversity
 - 11.5 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 (distributed to Councillors with the agenda)

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

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
www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk

Town Clerk's Report

Mayor Making – Following the resolution at the Corn Exchange meeting held on 26th February 2024, the Parish Church has been booked for the Mayor Making ceremony scheduled for Friday 24th May 2024 (later this year due to the election) and a light lunch will be held at Legion House afterwards.

Blandford Forum Almshouse / General Charities – administrators of the T E D George Charity -The Blandford Children's Fund, Registered Charity No: 230853-6 (Registered 31 August 1967) Governing Instrument: Will dated 30th September 1961 – The Trustees asked that the notice for this fund was displayed on the Town Council's notice boards and Facebook page, which was done. Parents of eligible children, who must live within the footprint of Blandford Forum only and not the periphery villages, were invited to apply for an application form by no later than 20th March 2024.

Blandford Community Fridge – The Community Fridge was visited by the Dorset Council Environmental Health Officer on 6th March 2024 for the Food Hygiene inspection and was awarded a five star rating.

King Charles III – A portrait has been ordered, now they are being allocated to local councils, and this is currently awaited. It will be framed and displayed once received.

Commonwealth Event – Over 110 pupils from local schools joined the Town Council on Monday 11th March for the flying of the Commonwealth Flag, anthem, quiz, affirmation, and refreshments! This was an excellent turnout and was well received.

Town Council's 50th Year – An event has been arranged for Saturday 23rd March in the Corn Exchange to mark the 50th anniversary of the Town Council between 2pm and 4pm. Entertainment will be provided by Blandford Stour Valley Band and there will be free tea, coffee & cakes for members of the public to enjoy. It would be really nice to have as many councillors attend as possible, please. A photographic display is being prepared, with as many photos being collated as possible to show the council over the last half a century!

In addition, you will notice the new planter stickers marking the 50th year, and there will also be a 50 marked out in flowers in Woodhouse Gardens!

Easter Egg Hunt – The Easter Egg Hunt in Woodhouse Gardens has been arranged for Friday 5th April 2024, 10am to 12pm, and is kindly sponsored by Sarunds. Councillors are very welcome to attend!



To consider meeting dates for April to July 2024 at Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion

At the last Corn Exchange council meeting, Councillors resolved to merge meeting nights in an attempt to accommodate local groups. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Cross, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED unanimously that

The Town Council merges/combines meetings as per the report, in order to free up Monday nights in Woodhouse Gardens for the existing hirer. However, Councillors raised some concerns over meetings running late, due to the size of the agenda, and agreed that the respective committees should retain their independence from full council meetings. This will be reviewed after the April – July period to determine if the system is working.

The BUG did not want the dates we had freed up for them, but the Dorset County Hospital Midwifery booking would like to retain their dates. This means we can try to maintain some kind of normal schedule and it is recommended that Councillors approve the following dates/meeting schedule, which can be reviewed in July:

April

1st B/H
8th Dorset County Hospital (DCH)
15th Town Assembly
22nd Town Council (including Planning)
29th Vacant (agreed in January 2024, due to elections week)

May

6th B/H
7th Tues - New Councillor welcome/induction (cancelled DCH)
13th Annual Meeting / Town Council Meeting
20th Planning and Corn Exchange
27th B/H

June

3rd DCH
10th F&S
17th R&A
24th Town Council (including Planning)

July

1st DCH
8th TC (and Photo)
15th T&GP
22nd Corn Exchange
29th Town Council (including Planning)

August

No meetings

Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors consider approving the calendar of meetings at Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion as above, and the new council then reviews the situation in July 2024.

Linda Scott-Giles
Town Clerk
15th March 2024

Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group

Cllr Roger Carter has stepped down as Chair of the group and Cllr Carol Tompsett Bryanston PC has taken over. Cllr Carter is keen to continue working on the Neighbourhood Plan and has asked that he be co-opted after he stands down after the May elections. Cllr Pat Osborne has also agreed to continue chairing the Climate & Biodiversity group unless anyone else comes forward after election. The monitoring group are very pleased that both Councillors wish to continue as this ensures continuity.

Graham Stanley from Dorset Rangers attended the last monitoring group meeting, and it was very clear that we share priorities going forward. The group looks forward to working closely with the Rangers.

It has been noted that Dorset Council frequently refer to the Design & Guidance codes and recently, the developer for the Brewery Square development referred to the code throughout their recent planning application. This further demonstrates what an important document this is and the group are extremely pleased that their hard work is paying off.

Julie Wigg
Committee Clerk
15th March 2024

To receive an update on the schedule of events for D-Day 80

In December, the Town Council (TC) approved working in partnership with the Legion on events to commemorate D-Day 80. Meetings have since been held with Terry Clarkson (TC), the Chairman of the Blandford & District Branch of the RBL on 9th January 2024, 22nd February 2024 and 19th March 2024 and the events have been updated accordingly.

Saturday 1st June 2024

- TC has confirmed that there will be an RAF memorial service at the Tarrant Rushton airfield and Councillors have been invited. TC to continue to provide updates on this event.

Wednesday 5th June 2024

- TC has confirmed that there will be an RAF memorial service at the Tarrant Rushton airfield on the evening of Wednesday 5th June 2024 to coincide with the evening in 1944 when the gliders left that site.

Thursday 6th June 2024

- 6th – 9th June 2024 – BFTC Commemoration Working Group is holding an exhibition in Woodhouse Gardens.

Daytime Event:

- This is a joint event between the Town Council and the Legion, with the focus on the Town Criers' cry. It will be held at 12pm on Thursday 6th June 2024 on the churchyard. This has become a service with community involvement and subsequent action will be to invite military freemen and the local schools to attend. TC has arranged for a piper and Standard Bearers to attend. Refreshments to be held in the church afterwards. TC offered to bring the poppy cross for display and BFTC has been sourcing residents, who were born in one of the 13 allied countries in D-Day, who will be invited to add their country's flag to the cross as part of the service. Four countries remain and Bryanston School has now been asked for assistance.
- Possibility of Tiger Moth fly past to be organised for the middle of the service. This would cost £60 per aircraft to offset the cost of the fuel. It is suggested that the Town Council covers the cost of three and the Legion is considering doing the same.

Bell Ringing:

- The Tower Captain has been sent the information provided by the Pageant Master and his team is prepared to carry out the ring at 6:30pm that day. Confirmation is now being sought from the church.

Evening Event:

- This event compliments the daytime event and involves clergy from the Parish Church and the Evangelical Church, the cadets, BSVB, Standard Bearers and a piper. Woodhouse Gardens has been booked for the event. The Pageant Master is asking that the beacons are lit at 9:15pm, which has been incorporated into the event timing, which will run from 8:45pm to 9:30pm. However, people will be invited to arrive at 8pm for refreshments and to visit the Commemoration Group's exhibition in the pavilion prior to the service, when the Stour Valley Band will be playing outside. It was agreed to include the cadets in the service, and that an elderly resident is invited to be involved in the beacon lighting. TC is currently asking a resident.

Friday 7th June 2024

- 6th – 9th June 2024 – BFTC Commemoration Working Group is holding an exhibition in Woodhouse Gardens. The schools' visit 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. Both chip shops have now confirmed they will be getting involved.

Saturday 8th June 2024

- 6th – 9th 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 tasting with ration packs on Saturday 8th June 2024. The cadets are providing 20 sets of mess tins for the event. Ladies from the Legion are baking cakes from wartime recipes.
- It was agreed that this D-Day 80 event is combined with the Armed Forces (Day) Expo, to be held at the Legion on Saturday 8th June 2024 from 10am to 1pm. The Armed Forces Day flag will therefore be flown for the majority of June.
- TC has arranged for the Ringwood Pipe Band to play from the Market Place to the Legion and for the Wessex Group of Armed Forces Bikers Veterans Community (military bikes) to attend.
- The County Standard will be joining the two local Standards and will process up from the Market Place behind the pipe band.
- TC has invited a wartime singer to perform at the Legion during the evening.

Sunday 9th June 2024

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

Updates on actions carried out:

- Newsletter to be sent to all properties w/c 4th March 2024.
- D-Day 80 Flag purchased for the Town Hall façade at a cost of £45. RBL has also purchased one for Legion House.
- D-Day 80 commemorative badges purchased for volunteers involved in the event.
- The office and grounds team have been involved in trying to source a local company who can make a D-Day 80 collar for the beacon. Unfortunately, Iracraft, Bristol Maid and BD Engineering have said they are unable to do so. Further investigations are being made, with the Veterans' Forge, but it does not appear to be financially viable even if we can find a company prepared to do it.
- Dorset Council will be holding a joint Beacon Lighting with Weymouth Town Council and Portland Town Council at Nothe Fort in Weymouth.
- A response is awaited from the Blandford School Network. If they are preparing any artwork or poems, the Legion is happy to display them on the Saturday at the D-Day luncheon.
- The next meeting has been arranged for March.
- Both Town Criers have been sent the wording provided by the Pageant Master and invited to carry out the cry.
- Keep in touch with fish 'n' chip shops.

- The care homes have been contacted to find out if they have any D-Day veterans, but to no avail.
- Approached Bryanston School to ask about remaining countries being represented.
- Preparations have started for the window competition, with certificates.

Outstanding actions:

- Arrange a judging date for the window competition. It is suggested that the judges are the Mayor, the Chairman of the B&D RBL Branch and the Chair of the Commemoration Group.
- Promote all the events, including other groups (social media, additional newsletter, Around Blandford Guide, etc.).
- Send invitations to civic list and promote to the public.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors consider the contents of the report and approve any requests.

Linda Scott-Giles
Town Clerk
19th March 2024