



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 **Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion, The Tabernacle**, Blandford Forum on **Monday 22nd April 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
15th April 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 25th March 2024](#)
6. [Town Clerk's Report & Correspondence](#)
7. Civic Report
8. Recommendations and Receipt of Minutes
None

9. To consider the loan of items to the Town Museum (to follow)
10. To receive an update and consider any requests from the:
 - 10.1 Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group
 - 10.2 BFTC Commemoration Group
 - 10.3 D-Day 80 Events
 - 10.4 Climate Change & Biodiversity
 - 10.5 Dorset Council Grant to support the Market Area Enhancement Project
 - 10.5.1 To consider recommendations from the working group (to follow after the meeting scheduled for 19th April 2024)
11. 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)
12. [To consider expenditure for the Toilet Cleaning Contract](#)
13. [Planning Applications – Appendix A](#)
14. 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.

 - 14.1 To consider nominations to present certificates to members of the community (sent to councillors separately)

There is a Barnes for a Recreation Trust meeting to follow this meeting.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

13 th May	Annual Meeting of the Town Council (followed by Town Council Meeting)
20 th May	Planning / Corn Exchange Meetings
24 th May	Mayor Making Ceremony

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
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www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk**

Town Clerk's Report

Uncontested Elections – The Dorset Council has published the Notice of Uncontested Election for the wards within the parish of Blandford Forum. There are three new Councillors from 7th May 2024 and four vacancies. The Notices can be [read here on the Town Council's website](#) and the Town Clerk has contacted the new Councillors.

Leavers and New Starters – The Town Clerk has notified the IT company of the leavers and new starters from 7th May 2024. Councillors who are leaving their roles will have access to their email accounts up to Noon on Tuesday 7th May 2024. New starters will have access sooner so we can start to send them the agendas and minutes, but they will be asked not to send emails from the account unless they are to staff.

Corn Exchange – The pre-start meeting took place on Tuesday 9th April 2024 with Hammond Building Contractors and the Design Team. The decant process is going well and most members of staff are involved. The Corn Exchange chairs and tables are being offered for sale, which is going well, and the old, surplus flags are being offered for free.

Green Bag Recycling – The agreement with Dorset Council to collect our recycling bags has been cancelled because of numerous missed collections. The main concern was what we would do with our recycling and a member of staff has offered to take it if it is shredded, because she can put it to good use with animals. This will save £20.07 a month but will be reviewed to ensure we are not wasting anything.

Climate Action – Archbishop Wake Primary School pupils have written letters to the Town Council regarding climate issues and a response has been sent by the Committee Clerk, following consultation with the climate change and biodiversity working group. These letters, and the response, have been shared with all Councillors.

To approve expenditure for the toilet cleaning contract for 2024/2025

The lease for the Marsh & Ham toilet block (including the Information Centre) was, originally with North Dorset District Council (now the Dorset Council), this expired in 2016.

Since that time the toilet cleaning contract has only been offered on a one-year basis until such time as the future of the public toilets in the Marsh and Ham car park is confirmed.

The toilet cleaning contract expired on the 31st March 2024 and the current contractor has quoted for £9001.08, which represents a 8% increase from 23/24. This increase is due to a rise in the cost of materials.

The financial regulations state that for expenditure below £25,000 but above £5,000 three quotations will be obtained, where possible. As is clear from previous experience on tenders for this facility this local company provides a very competitive quote and a good service and have always been flexible with extra cleans etc. In past quotations they have been significantly better value for money than the nearest tendered in price.

Despite the ongoing issue with the uncertainty of the future of the toilet block, officers felt that other quotes should regularly be sought to ensure we are getting value for money and this was carried out two years ago which showed that the current cleaners were approximately £5000.00 cheaper than their nearest competitor.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Town Council renews the cleaning contract with the existing contractor for a period of one year only, using funds of £9001.08 from budget line 6650 (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

Jon Goodenough
Operations Manager
10th April 2024

PLANNING APPENDIX A – NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning Meeting on Monday 22nd April 2024

	Application & Date	Application Details	Comments/ Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan 2011-2033
1	P/HOU/2024/01789 Mr and Mrs Beasley Deadline: 30 th April	12 Froxfield Road Blandford Forum DT11 7RX Convert garage into front porch/store and add hipped roof	Blandford + NP policy B10 Design Code: CA4 Built Form Code: 11, 14 and 15
2	P/HOU/2024/01860 Mr and Mrs Tory Deadline 2 nd May	16 Albert Street Blandford Forum Dorset DT11 7HY Erect 2 storey rear extension	Blandford + NP policy B10 Design code: CA4 Built form code: 11, 14 and 15

Applications for tree works. For information only

	Application & Date	Application Details	Comments/ Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan 2011-2033
1	P/TRC/2024/01245 For information only	1 Chestnut House East Street Blandford Forum Dorset DT11 7DU	
2	P/TRC/2024/01447 For information only	The Old Bakery 21 East Street Blandford Forum Dorset DT11 7DU	
3	P/TRC/2024/01584 For information only	Marsh And Ham Car Park West Street Blandford Forum DT11 7AW	