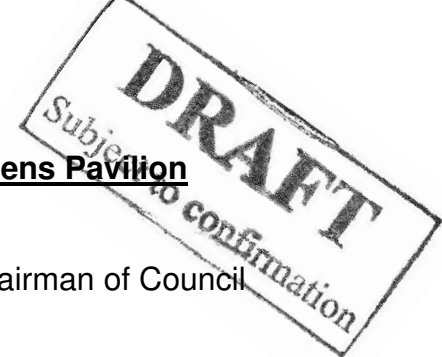


**BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7:00pm in Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion**



**PRESENT**

Cllr N Lacey-Clarke – Chairman of Council  
Cllr S Hitchings  
Cllr B Quayle  
Cllr R Holmes  
Cllr T Clarkson  
Cllr M Putt

Cllr H Miéville – Vice Chairman of Council  
Cllr L Hitchings  
Cllr A Cross  
Cllr C Stevens  
Cllr Y Miéville

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Town Clerk

Operations Manager

**61. PUBLIC SESSION**

Cllr Lacey-Clarke reported a resident's request to reduce the height of the trees due to squirrels and the desire to view the cricket pitch. Cllr Stevens and Cllr S Hitchings visited the site and they felt it was a hedge issue rather than the Town Council trees. The Operations Manager has asked the Dorset Council Tree Officer to advise.

**62. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS**

- 62.1 Cllr Quayle reported that issues where vegetation has become overgrown have been presented to him and Cllr Lacey-Clarke recently and they are working through them, with the Community Highways Officer following them up.
- 62.2 Cllr Chapman raised some paving issues in the town centre, which Cllr Quayle has passed on to the relevant officer.
- 62.3 Cllr Quayle was informed of the pebbles that have been removed from the Langton Road car park wall that was recently repaired and he has reported it to the Dorset Council.
- 62.4 Dorset Council has declared a nature emergency, which is considered to be a positive move although it will result in a reduction in cutting verges and hedges.

**63. APOLOGIES**

Cllr S Chapman

**64. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None had been submitted.

**65. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Cross, seconded by Cllr Stevens and AGREED (9 in favour, 2 abstentions) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

**66. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE**

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

- 66.1 Town Council Representatives – Age Concern has replied to the representative letter to say that Age Concern Blandford is non-operational, and Cllr Clarkson has been informed. However, Cllr Clarkson has offered to fill the Blandford Information Centre representative vacancy and this has been actioned.

## **66. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)**

- 66.2 Committee Clerk – The advertisement for the Committee Clerk was posted on all the social media channels as well as in the notice boards and the Dorset Council Jobs page (paid promotion). The vacancy has also been advertised on the job site Indeed. We have had a range of interest and will hold the interviews on 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024.
- 66.3 Cemetery of the Year – We have again entered the Cemetery of the Year Awards after winning the Gold first place for Parish and Town Council Cemeteries last year. After Gary and Kat had an adjudicating phone call on Wednesday, we have earned a place in the three finalists so will receive an award again this year. This year they are introducing a photographic element to the competition to allow a subjective section to the scoring process. Extra marks to be awarded for the maintenance and appeal of our Cemetery and used to determine the gold and silver places in the category creating another dimension to the competition. The award ceremony will take place at the ICCM conference on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
- 66.4 Market Enhancement Survey – The survey was taken round all the local shops in the Market Place by the Market Manager and all but five of them have now responded. Luxury Nails and King's Barber declined to be involved. In addition, the survey has been sent to the landlord of the former HSBC building and the questions raised by Catherine Chapman at the T&GP meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024 regarding a pop-up shop/hub have also been passed to Mr Chan for a response.
- 66.5 Climate Change & Biodiversity Meeting – The meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024 was well attended and one of the actions was to look into ways of preventing irresponsible dog owners leaving dog waste or bagging it and throwing it into trees or hedges. Posters have been printed, using campaigns from Keep Britain Tidy and Litter Free Dorset, for the Town Council areas.
- 66.6 CCTV – The new bridges have been installed, replacing the original bridges from the old system. The Police have confirmed that the system is now back up and running and is working well and an email of thanks has been received.

## **67. CIVIC REPORT**

The paper was distributed to Councillors via email prior to the meeting (see Appendix B).

## **68. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

### **68.1 TOWN & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024**

#### **68.1.1 Recommendations (none)**

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

68.1.1.1 The Minutes were RECEIVED.

## **69. TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR A REPLACEMENT RIDE ON MOWER**

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED (10 in favour, 1 non-vote) that

**Councillors approve expenditure of £5,750 from Company B to supply a new zero turn mower using funds accrued for a replacement and £566 from general mower replacement reserves (Expenditure Authority: Localism Act 2011 s1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**70. TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR ESSENTIAL REPAIRS TO THE SKATE PARK**

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

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

**Councillors approve the repairs to the highlighted Skate Park equipment using funds of £9,770.36 + VAT from the Skate Park budget line 1305 (Expenditure Authority: Localism Act 2011 s1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

Due to the uncertainty involved, as the Town Council does not own the land, Councillors asked about the longevity of the skate park area. Councillors had previously asked the Dorset Council if they would transfer the land or extend the lease with the Town Council. The Town Clerk said how frustrating it is that so many matters – such as the market transfer, Elizabeth Road allotment transfer, skate park lease and tree sponsor board – take so long or are still ongoing after years of chasing. Cllr Lacey-Clarke proposed a complaint to Dorset Council, which was seconded by Cllr Quayle and this was supported by the majority of Councillors in attendance.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**71. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE FOOTBALL CLUB TO LOCATE A SHED AT THE PAVILLION**

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

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

The Town Council approves the request subject to the Football Club seeking confirmation that planning permission is not required and being responsible for the removal of the hardstanding should they vacate the ground in the future.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr H Miéville and AGREED that the proposal is amended to include the following:

The shed and hardstanding remain for the purpose of recreation and support of BUFC.

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

**The Town Council approves the request for a shed subject to the Blandford United Football Club (BUFC) seeking confirmation that planning permission is not required and being responsible for the removal of the hardstanding should they vacate the ground in the future. The shed and hardstanding must remain for the purpose of recreation and support of BUFC.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**72. TO CONSIDER THE TRANSFER OF INTEREST EARNT TO THE CORN EXCHANGE PROJECT TO REDUCE THE LOAN AMOUNT**

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Stevens and AGREED unanimously that

**The following balances are transferred to the Corn Exchange budget line to reduce the loan amount:**

<b>1001</b>	<b>Earmarked Interest</b>	<b>£1,984.64</b>
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72. **TO CONSIDER THE TRANSFER OF INTEREST EARNT TO THE CORN EXCHANGE PROJECT TO REDUCE THE LOAN AMOUNT (cont.)**

1002	Property Fund Dividend	£25,656.49
1010	Capital Interest	£19,016.63

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

73. **TO CONSIDER SPONSORSHIP OF THE BLANDFORD BUSINESS GROUP AWARDS**

The paper was noted (see Appendix H).

7:57pm – Cllr Lacey-Clarke left the meeting.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED (10 in favour, 1 against, 1 non-vote) that

**The Town Council agrees to donate £130 to the event and sponsors the Entrepreneur category again using funds from Town Improvements (Expenditure Authority: Localism Act 2011 s1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

7:59pm – Cllr Lacey-Clarke returned to the meeting.

74. **TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY FOR THE BICYCLE REPAIR STATION**

The paper was noted (see Appendix I).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr H Miéville, SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings and AGREED unanimously (10 in favour, 1 non-vote) that

**Councillors approve expenditure of £2,500 for the purchase and installation of a bicycle repair station using funds from the Town Improvements budget line, and the Town Clerk seeks sponsorship (Expenditure Authority: Localism Act 2011 s1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

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

75.1 **Neighbourhood Plan – Blandford + Monitoring Group**

The paper was noted (see Appendix J) and the Chairman asked for the Town Clerk to share the meeting minutes with Councillors to keep them updated.

75.2 **BFTC Commemoration Group**

75.21 **To consider a report containing guidance from the Pageant Master to mark VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

The paper was noted (see Appendix K).

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

**The Town Council and Royal British Legion work together once again for the VE 80 event on Thursday 8th May 2025:**

- **10am – ceremonial opening service to include:**
  - **raising of the VE Day flag at the Royal British Legion (suggested time is 9am by Pageantmaster)**
  - **reading of the VE Day Proclamation by the Town Crier (suggested time is 8am by Pageantmaster but this is thought to be too early – like with D-Day)**

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

- piper invited to play playing Celebratum (suggested time by Pageantmaster is 12noon).
- 10:30am – 2pm – party in the front garden at Legion House with refreshments, stalls, bar open with lunches, etc.
- The Commemoration Group has booked the pavilion for another excellent exhibition from Thursday to Saturday (TBC).
- 8pm – exhibition viewing in the pavilion, followed by a civic service at Woodhouse Gardens including the lighting of the beacon at 9:30pm by a young person and a piper (sound system required).

**It is anticipated that a budget of a maximum of £700 is required, using funds from the Civic Budget 4802 which is likely to be anticipated to be repeated for VJ Day in August 2025 (Expenditure Authority: Localism Act 2011 s1-8).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**75.3 Climate Change & Biodiversity Working Group (meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024)**

The meeting was well attended, and it was agreed that Pat Osborne would continue to chair the group.

Cllr Quayle asked if Nature could be added to the working group and Plan title, which will be added to the next meeting agenda.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**75.4 Dorset Council Grant to support the Market re-a Enhancement Project (working group meeting scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024)**

Cllr Stevens has been consulting with residents on the proposals and will be holding a stall on the market.

**76. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

None

**77. PLANNING MATTERS**

The paper was noted (see Appendix L).

**77.1 P/HOU/2024/03270, 85 Salisbury Road, Blandford Forum, DT11 7LS, Erect Rear First Floor Extension**

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

**The Town Council has no objections to the application, which is in accordance with the B+ Neighbourhood Plan).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**77.2 P/CLP/2024/03930 – 15 Fields Oak, Blandford Forum, DT11 7PP, Erect single storey extension to form utility and porch.**

The paper was noted for information only.

**77. PLANNING MATTERS (cont.)**

77.3 P/TRC/2024/03923 – 15 Marsh’s Court, Blandford Forum, DT11 7LG  
T1 - Olive tree - Fell to ground level.

The paper was noted for information only.

Cllr Chapman had passed on her thoughts to the Chairman of Council prior to the meeting, asking if the tree could be moved to avoid it being felled. It was suggested that she investigate this but there isn't sufficient rooms in Woodhouse Gardens.

77.4 P/TRT/2024/04039 Lanrick House White Cliff Mill Street Blandford Forum DT11 7BN  
T2 - Ash - Fell to ground level. T3 - Ash - Fell to ground level. T4 - Ash - Fell to ground level.  
The following tree is protected by the Conservation Area and is being considered under  
application P/TRC/2024/04021: T1 - Whitebeam - Raise crown to 2m and thin crown by up to  
10% of the total leaf area.

The paper was noted for information only.

77.5 Appendix B – Cllr Cross took Councillors through Appendix B, which was distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:37 pm.

**SIGNED .....**

**DATED .....**