



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 DT11 7DN on **Monday 16th December 2024 at 7:00 pm** to consider the following items. This meeting will also be available to view online with Microsoft Teams [using this link](#).

Linda Scott-Giles
Town Clerk
9th December 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
 - 1.1 Daniel Cadisch – Chief Officer, Citizens Advice Central Dorset
2. Report from Dorset Council Councillors
3. Apologies
4. To receive any Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations (all Councillors, excluding those living outside the parish, for setting the precept)
5. [Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 25th November 2024](#)
6. [Town Clerk's Report & Correspondence](#)
7. Civic Report (paper to follow)

8. Recommendations and Receipt of Minutes
 - 8.1 Town & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 25th November 2024
 - 8.1.1 Recommendations (none)
 - 8.1.2 [To Receive the Minutes](#)
 - 8.2 Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting dated 9th December 2024
 - 8.2.1 Recommendations (to follow in the F&S Committee minutes – **includes the setting of the budget and precept for 2025/26**)
 - 8.2.2 To RECEIVE the Minutes ([to follow here](#))
9. [To consider responding to the consultation on the Dorset Council Street Trading Policy](#)
10. [To receive an update on the condition of the public toilets and agree a way forward](#)
11. [To consider a request from Blandford United Football Club for support for floodlights to be installed](#)
12. To receive an update and consider any requests from the:
 - 12.1 Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group – Blandford +
 - 12.2 BFTC Commemoration Group
 - 12.3 VE Day 80
 - 12.4 Climate, Biodiversity & Nature
 - 12.5 Dorset Council Grant to support the Market Area Enhancement Project
 - 12.6 North Dorset Tourism Meetings
 - 12.6.1 [To receive an update on recent meetings and a proposal to support tourism across the district](#)
13. 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)
14. Planning Matters
 - 14.1 [Appendix A – New Planning Applications \(refer to Appendix A attached\)](#)
 - 14.2 Appendix B – Dorset Council Decisions on Planning Applications and Applications Awaiting Decisions (distributed prior to the meeting)

**A Barnes for a Recreation Trust Meeting will take place
prior to this Town Council Meeting at 6:45pm**

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
Email: admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk
www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk

Town Clerk's Report & Correspondence

Woodhouse Gardens Lights – The contractor installed the lighting scheme on 1st December and the gardens will be lit between 4:30pm and 9pm every day during the festive season apart from Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Mayor's Christmas Card – The card has been chosen by the Mayor, Cllr Noc Lacey-Clarke and has been printed locally.

Bicycle Repair Unit – The Dorset Council has agreed to relocate the unit and an update will be provided at the meeting.

Christmas Tree – Staff have received very positive comments about the Christmas tree and people seem to prefer that location.

Community Fridge – A site meeting has been held at the Leisure Centre with the manager and she has been very accommodating, which has been incredibly helpful. It was agreed to relocate the Fridge in the New Year, unless we are asked to vacate beforehand.

Civic Carol Service – The office has received very positive feedback for the civic carol service held on 4th December 2024.

Elections – The Dorset Council has written to advise that any Parish Council which had no contested elections will be invoiced shortly for £50 for the costs of the administration of the election up to the point of the close of nominations and publication of notices. This applies to the Town Council and we await the invoice. They apologised for the delay in confirming this, but it was due to the Parliamentary election being called unexpectedly and so soon after the local elections. For information only, the remaining Councils which did have contested elections will receive an email with the total amount due by the end of the week. Where the Dorset Council is able to split the costs with the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections and Dorset Council elections this has been done proportionately but there are areas where 100% of the costs will have been attributed to the Parish Council, for example the ballot papers, postal votes etc. It should be noted that they will not be charging councils at all in relation to the printing and postage of poll cards.

Camp Welfare – The Town Clerk and Terry Clarkson (RBL) met with Craig Hutton from Blandford Camp to improve links with the town regarding the welfare of families living up there.

Simon Hoare MP – In light of his support and guidance with the project, the Town Clerk gave Mr Hoare, his assistant Sarah Manley and past Mayor, Sara Loch a tour of the building works at the Corn Exchange on Friday 6th December 2024.

To consider responding to the consultation on the Dorset Council Street Trading Policy

The following email was sent to us by the Dorset Council:

Dorset Council – Draft Street Trading Policy

I would like to invite you to participate in our consultation for our new Draft Street Trading Policy.

Dorset Council is seeking your views on the draft Policy which has been prepared by officers and has now been published for public consultation, for a period of 12 weeks, starting on 4 November and closing on 26 January 2025 at midnight.

The draft Policy and consultation survey can be found by visiting [Dorset Council Street Trading Policy - Dorset Council - Citizen Space](#)

You can download a printable version of the survey or draft Policy from the website however, if you would like us to send you a paper copy of either please get in touch with either myself or the Licensing Team;

Email: licensing@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: [01305 838028](tel:01305838028)

Licensing Team
Dorset Council
County Hall
Colliton Park
Dorchester
DT1 1XS

Service Manager Licensing & Comm. Safety

Councillors are asked to consider responding to the consultation.

Becci Brady
Committee Clerk
5th November 2024

Update on the condition of the public toilets

Background

The lease for the toilets was originally between the Town Council and NDDC, but this has been expired for over ten years. Since that time the Town Council has been spending money on keeping the toilets open including a refurbishment of the disabled unit in 2020 costing £5,600.00.

There has been discussions about the toilets being relocated and the current site being developed but no progress has been made on this as far as I am aware. Therefore, any money spent on the toilets is done so on the understanding that they could be taken back and sold at any time and the money spent would be wasted.

Report

The units are now over 15 years old, and they are well past their expiry date in terms of condition. The problems include:

- Toilet bowls are worn, discoloured and starting to leak.
- Handwash units only partially work and parts are not available as they are discontinued.
- Baby change units do not fold against the wall anymore, (they are used for other purposes).
- The floor is rotten in the disabled unit and has become dangerous leading to the unit being closed. (a quote has been sought and is awaited, for a replacement floor).
- The doors are patched up and all require replacements.
- They are generally unpleasant made worse over the years by rough sleepers and abuse of the facilities.

It is worth considering that a recent quote for the renovation of one unit at the Tabernacle toilets which was opened three years after the Marsh and Ham toilets was £13,900.00+VAT



Picture showing the disabled unit floor.

Financial implications

The cost of cleaning the toilets by contractors is £720.00 per month. On top of this we are also paying out to repair the routine damage which includes the flush repairs carried out recently.

It should be recognised that any money spent on repairs or refurbishments could be lost if the building is reclaimed by Dorset Council to sell.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors note the contents of this report and decide how they wish to proceed with the future of the toilets.

Jon Goodenough
Operations Manager
25th November 2024

To consider a request from Blandford United Football Club for support for floodlights to be installed

Background

In 2019 the Council offered verbal support for the Football Clubs ambition of installing floodlights at Park Road. A letter was sent to the hospital seeking their views and they had no objections in principle. Floodlighting is needed if the club are to be allowed promotion to a higher league in the football pyramid.

Report

To access to funding the club must have written support by the owners of the ground, in this case Barnes for a recreation trust.

They are therefore asking that council reiterate their support for the installation and minute it during a meeting so it can be evidenced to the funders.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors consider the contents of this report and decide whether to give their support to the Football Club.

Jon Goodenough
Operations Manager
28th November 2024

To receive an update on recent meetings and a proposal to support tourism across the district

Background

Gillingham Town Councillor, Cllr Barry von Clemens introduced North Dorset area meetings when Cllr Stevens was Chairman of Council, and several meetings have been held in person and online. The main aims have been to work with Visit Dorset to highlight the beautiful area, instead of the focus being on the coastal towns in Dorset, and promote the White Hart Link, which joins the towns up. We all have something different to offer, and are linked, and it was agreed it would be worthwhile to work together and therefore support each other.

As a result of the meetings, Blandford Forum's profile has been updated by officers and can be viewed here: <https://www.visit-dorset.com/explore/areas-to-visit/blandford-forum/>. We have also added the Heritage Trail, provided by Nicci Brown: <https://www.visit-dorset.com/explore/areas-to-visit/blandford-forum/blandford-forum-heritage-trail/> and regularly add our events.

Cllr Clarkson was added as an additional representative in May 2024 and at a meeting soon after he suggested a photo exhibition event to take place at the same time in each town, so we can signpost to each other. Towns invite residents to submit photos of their areas (as we do with the tree photography competition) and these are then displayed, judged and the winners are awarded a certificate and their photo being displayed on the Visit Dorset website.

Detail of the Report

Cllrs von Clemens and Batstone have been seeking advice from photographers who display their work and are preparing a specification for us all to work to. They suggest the exhibition will be launched at the end of January 2025 with posters, advertising in the Around Guide and social media campaigns with submissions open on an online platform, between 14th February 2025 and 28th March 2025. Each town will select three judges with a two-week judging period from 29th March 2025. There will be three categories, under 18, over 18 and professionals. All entries will be printed with a display period of 9th May to 22nd May 2025. There will then be a Winner of Winners expo at the Exchange in Sturminster Newton in June. The purpose of this period is to appeal to people who are tourists outside of the school holiday dates.

A meeting was held between Cllrs Clarkson and Stevens (cllr reps), the Business Support Officer (as lead officer for this project) and the Town Clerk on 5th December 2024, and it was agreed that Wessex Photographic, the Blandford Camera Club and the Parish Church should be approached to be involved.

Financial Information

It is not yet known exactly how much this event will cost, but initial thoughts are £250 and it is suggested that this amount will be enough to advertise the event and pay for any printing, if sponsorship is not forthcoming.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors approve the proposal to hold an exhibition in May 2025, at a cost of £250 using funds from the Tourism budget line, working in partnership with North Dorset towns and local organisations and businesses.

Linda Scott-Giles
Town Clerk
5th December 2024

PLANNING APPENDIX A – NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS
Meeting on Monday 16th December 2024

	Application & Date	Application Details	Comments/ Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan 2011-2033
1	P/VOC/2024/06970 A Hammonds & Sons Ltd	Redberry House Blandford Forum DT11 7TD Erect two storey extension to South West & internal alterations to provide 4 no stand alone unit. Form first floor offices, replace roof and wall cladding, insert new windows. Erect open porch canopy & illuminated business signs	Blandford + NP Policies: B10 Industrial Design Code: CA5 Built Form Code: Codes 1,2,6, 7 & 11
2	P/FUL/2024/07043 Micheldever Protyre Deadline: 26 th December 2024	Units 9A & 9B Sunrise Business Park Blandford Forum DT11 8ST Change of use of light industrial building (Unit 9a) to provide automotive services and MOT testing. Extension of existing automotive uses in Unit 9b to include MOT testing	Blandford + NP Policies: B10 Industrial Design Code: CA5 Built Form Code:
3	P/FUL/2024/06631 Hospital Metalcraft Limited Deadline: 27 th December 2024	Hospital Metalcraft Limited 3 Blandford Heights Industrial Estate Blandford Forum DT11 7TG Erection of new industrial building and extensions to the existing building, construct new parking area with associated vehicular access, enhancements to the Public Right of Way, and other associated works	Blandford + NP Policies: B10 Industrial Design Code: CA5 Built Form Code: Codes 1,2,6, 7 & 11

Applications for Tree Works for Information Only

	Application & Date	Application Details
1	P/TRC/2024/06734 Amey Deadline: 11 th December 2024	Kimmeridge St Leonards Avenue Blandford Forum DT11 7PD T1 & T2 - Birch - Fell