

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town & General Purposes Committee
Held on Monday 13th October 2025 at 7:31pm in Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion



PRESENT

Cllr T Clarkson – Acting Committee Chairman/ Committee Vice Chairman
Cllr C Stevens – Acting Committee Vice Chairman/Vice Chairman of Council
Cllr H Miéville – Chairman of Council
Cllr Y Miéville
Cllr G Del-Pinto
Cllr S Morgan
Cllr B Quayle

IN ATTENDANCE

Committee Clerk
Nicci Brown (on Microsoft Teams)
Operations Manager

SITTING IN

Cllr N Lacey-Clarke
Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr A Cross
Cllr L Hitchings

10. PUBLIC SESSION

None

11. APOLOGIES

Cllr R Holmes – Committee Chairman
Cllr M Putt

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

Cllr Morgan will abstain from voting for the Christmas window competition and Christmas Decorations newsletter.

13. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th JULY 2025

It was PROPOSED by Cllr G Del-Pinto , SECONDED by Cllr S Morgan and AGREED (3 in favour, 4 abstentions) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

14. COMMITTEE CLERK'S REPORT

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

Dog Waste Bin request, Angus Close – At the last meeting the committee heard a request from a resident in Agus Close for a dog waste bin to be installed due to the high volume of waste being left on the floor. The committee agreed to contact the housing provider, Sovereign, who owns the land to see if they would carry this out. They responded on 20th August to say that regrettably, they have advised that they would not install this, as they have no infrastructure set up for collections. They have said they will speak with residents and ask those who are dog owners to be more mindful when it comes to disposing of dog waste.

Previous request for traffic calming measures on Park Road – A resident's request for a speed survey on Park Road was heard at the last meeting. The council responded informing them they agree speed can be an issue on this road and would support the idea of a group of residents carrying out a speed survey. The resident declined the idea of volunteering to carry out a speed survey. The relevant team at Dorset Council advised that a survey was carried out in 2018; the results then showed speeds to be low and as the layout of the road hasn't changed since this survey it is unlikely to be much different now.

15. GENERAL UPDATES FROM:

- 15.1 Blandford Business Support Group – No report received
- 15.2 Blandford Police – A report was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Councillors were thankful for the report. Cllr Lacey-Clarke has noticed and welcomed an increased police presence around town, with police engaging with residents, as well as issuing fines to those parking on hazard lines.
- 15.3 Market Manager – The paper was noted (see Appendix B). Councillors hope that, once the corn exchange is open, the number and quality of pitches increase. Cllr G Del-Pinto asked if the trial of pedestrianisation in the Market Place could have an effect on the market holders. Cllr L Hitchings suggested that it should not have any detrimental effect as the market stalls will be placed within the pedestrianised area. The Market Manager will be discussing this with market traders in due course.

16. DORSET COUNCIL HIGHWAYS

- 16.1 To discuss a resident's concerns over pedestrian crossing points on Salisbury Road

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

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

There is currently a safe walking route that uses two crossing points, both of which have access to the schools and therefore the council cannot support this at this time, however the council will contact Dorset Council to ask them to maintain the pedestrian crossing by the cemetery which is often out of use.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

17. REVIEW OF TOWN & GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGETS TO 30th SEPTEMBER 2025

- 17.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

- 17.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

- 17.3 Reserve Accounts

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

18. CHRISTMAS 2025

- 18.1 To consider Christmas Window Competition details and expenditure approval for proposed prize money

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr H Miéville, SECONDED by Cllr G Del-Pinto and AGREED (6 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Committee approves the expenditure for the proposed prize money using funds from the Tourism Budget line (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 sl-8).

**1st Prize - £100, 2nd Prize - £50, 3rd Prize - £25
Charity/Not for Profit - £100 (to the charity)**

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

18. CHRISTMAS 2025 (cont.)

18.2 To appoint the judges for the Christmas Window Competition 2025

The paper was noted (see Appendix H).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr H Miéville, SECONDED by Cllr G Del-Pinto and AGREED (6 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The judging panel consists of the Mayor, the Chairman of the Town & General Purposes Committee and Amy Louise Jenkins from the Legion Club, if she accepts. If she cannot attend then delegated authority is given to the Chairman of Council, the Chairman of Town & General Purposes Committee and the Town Clerk to select another judge. The judging is to take place 5th – 7th December 2025 with certificates presented the following week. The council suggests that in future years we could look at members of the public to come forward to volunteer to take part as a judge.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

18.3. To approve a newsletter to all businesses regarding the small Christmas trees and decorations

The paper was noted (see Appendix I).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr H Miéville, SECONDED by Cllr G Del-Pinto and AGREED (6 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Committee approves the newsletter regarding the small Christmas trees and decorations, but suggests it is shorted and written in a more attractive front, the council gives the staff delegated authority to make changes as they see fit.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

19. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS TO SUGGEST ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN THE 2025/2026 BUDGET TO ENABLE TIME FOR OFFICERS TO INVESTIGATE COSTS THAT CAN BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING IN NOVEMBER

Cllr Lacey-Clarke suggested that some non-statutory services are under threat from Dorset Council and that the council should be cautious not to overcommit ourselves financially in the near future.

Councillors suggested the council obtain quotes to investigate the cost of refurbishing the Marsh and Ham public toilets before we suggest any other items for inclusion in the 2025/26 budget.

The meeting closed at 8:26pm.

SIGNED: DATED: