

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Town Council Planning Meeting
Held on Monday 12th January 2026 at 7:00pm in the Corn Exchange

DRAFT
Subject to confirmation

PRESENT

Cllr A Cross – Chairman
Cllr H Miéville – Chairman of Council
Cllr L Hitchings
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke
Cllr Y Miéville
Cllr M Putt
Cllr M Spruce

Cllr C Stevens – Vice Chairman of Council
Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr R Holmes
Cllr S Morgan
Cllr T Clarkson
Cllr B Quayle

Cllr Cross extended his thanks to the Town Clerk for her service and best wishes for the future.

IN ATTENDANCE

Operations Manager
Cllr G Del-Pinto (via Microsoft Teams)

Committee Clerk
Nicci Brown (via Microsoft Teams)

42. PUBLIC SESSION

Cllr L Hitchings was approached by a resident about wheelie bins in Eagle House Gardens because some residents are not returning their bins until the day following collections and they are obstructing the pavements. Cllr L Hitchings would like to request that the council writes to Dorset Council and asks them to enforce that residents remove them from the pavements on the day they are emptied. Cllr Putt has noticed that often glass recycling and food waste bins are also being strewn across paths and gardens by Dorset Council refuse collectors in other areas.

ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK

43. APOLOGIES

Cllr S Chapman
Cllr G Del-Pinto

Cllr J Robinson

44. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None

45. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13th OCTOBER 2025

It was PROPOSED by Cllr N Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Stevens and AGREED (10 in favour, 3 abstentions/non-votes) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

46. APPENDIX A – NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

46.1 P/LBC/2025/07431 – 18 Salisbury Street

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

The Town Council has no objections to the application. Blandford + NP policies B10, Design Code: CA2 and Built Form Code: Code 5 apply.

ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK

46.2 P/CLP/2025/07592- 2 Boundary View

For information only.

47. APPENDIX B – DORSET COUNCIL DECISIONS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND APPLICATIONS AWAITING DECISIONS

The paper was emailed to Councillors prior to the meeting (Appendix B).

48. SITE VISITS/DORSET COUNCIL PLANNING MEETINGS

None

49. TO NOTE AND CONFIRM THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS FOR THE NEW TOWN CLERK

The paper was noted (see Appendix C)

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

Councillors note the actions taken to date and confirm the recruitment process with the Finance & Staffing Committee shortlisting applications with the Town Clerk, and the interview panel of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Council and the Chairman of the Finance & Staffing Committee (or Senior Councillor if he is not available due to work commitments) and the Town Clerk (overseeing the process), and all Councillors and staff being invited to the presentation part of the interviews on 4th and 5th February 2026.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

49. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Tree Works on St Leonards Avenue – Cllr Chapman recently expressed concerns over the growing number of tree applications being made by residents on St. Leonards Avenue and asked if some of these trees could be pollarded (cut back) instead of being destroyed altogether. The Committee Clerk emailed the Tree department at Dorset Council with Cllr Chapman's question on 19th December; we are awaiting a response.

Johnny Cash Tribute – The event in the Corn Exchange on Friday 9th January 2026 had sold out, and there is currently a waiting list. It is being booked again for 2027.

Corn Exchange Meetings – The Committee Clerk has received several enquiries regarding weddings and met with suppliers on Monday morning to discuss what services they offer.

Charity of William Williams – The charity held its meeting in the Council Chamber on 6th January after a talk and tour by the Town Clerk who thanked attendees for their support with the Corn Exchange project.

The meeting closed at 7.25 pm.

SIGNED: DATED: