



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 **Corn Exchange**, Market Place, Blandford Forum DT11 7AF on **Monday 26th January 2026 at 7:00pm** to consider the following items. This meeting will also be available to view online using Microsoft Teams [using this link](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Scott-Giles".

Linda Scott-Giles
Town Clerk
19th January 2026

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:
 - 5.1 [Co-option Meeting held on 24th November 2025](#)
 - 5.2 [Town Council Meeting held on 15th December 2025](#)
6. [Town Clerk's Report & Correspondence](#)
7. Civic Report (to follow)

9. Recommendations and Receipt of Minutes
 - 9.1 Recreation & Amenities meeting held on Monday 19th January 2026
 - 9.1.1 Recommendations (none)
 - 9.1.2 To RECEIVE the Minutes (to follow)
10. To consider grant applications
 - 10.1 In Jolly Good Company
11. To adopt the new Employee Handbook
12. To receive an update on the Town Council Plan
13. To consider a request from the Blandford Bowling Club Centenary Project and consider referring the matter to the Barnes for a Recreation Trust (paper attached separately)
14. To receive an update and consider any requests regarding:
 - 14.1 Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group
 - 14.2 BFTC Commemoration Group
 - 14.3 Climate, Biodiversity & Nature
 - 14.4 Dorset Council Grant to support the Market Area Enhancement Project
15. 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)
16. Planning Matters
 - 16.1 Appendix A – New Planning Applications (refer to Appendix A attached)
 - 16.2 To consider changing the council's position on the planning application for Lot 4 Blandford Brewery, Blandford St Mary
17. 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.

 - 17.1 To consider advice from the Town Council's solicitor regarding the Marsh & Ham toilet/TIC block (letter sent by e-mail to Councillors on 8th December 2025)

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

2nd February
9th February

Planning Meeting

9th February

Confirm appointment of Town Clerk / Recreation & Amenities Committee

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

Twinned with Mortain, France



**Town Clerk's Office
Church Lane, Blandford Forum
Dorset DT11 7AD**



Tel: 01258 454500
Email: admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk
www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk

Town Clerk's Report

Armed Forces Expo – A date of Saturday 11th July 2026, has been agreed as per the resolution from the December meeting.

Any Questions? Broadcast – An email has been sent to all ticket holders for Friday evening, explaining how the questions can be submitted and asking them to cancel any bookings they no longer need due to the large waiting list. This has resulted in some cancellations, so we have been able to reallocate the tickets.

Meetings – After discussion with the Chairman of the Corn Exchange meetings, there are no agenda items however there is a need to meet to discuss the play area tenders, with the deadline being 2nd February 2026 and to confirm the appointment of the Town Clerk. Hence the meetings on Monday 9th February 2026 will now be 7pm full council and 7:30pm R&A committee with the tenders being the only agenda item.

HR Providers – Line managers continue to carry out work on the changeover between HR providers and the new app platform has been very useful.

In Jolly Good Company

APPLICATION FOR FREE VENUE HIRE

Name of Organisation	In Jolly Good Company CIO
Registered Charity Number (if applicable)	1208917
Contact Name	Sarah Rampton/Kate Sheridan
Address	1 Monkton Up Wimborne Wimborne St Giles Dorset BH21 5NL
Daytime Telephone Number	01202 881288 or 07884333117
Email Address	sarah@injollygoodcompany.com
Purpose of Organisation	To offer (donations only) uplifting indoor and outdoor activities for older people, all our groups are dementia friendly and open to everyone
Town Council Venue Requested (The Corn Exchange, Shambles, Town Hall, Council Chamber, Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion, Community Room)	Woodhouse Garden Pavillion
Date Requested	12th, 26 th Jan 9 th and 23 rd Feb, 9 th and 23 rd March, 13 th and 27 th April, 11 th May, 8 th and 22 nd June, 13 th and 27 th July, 10 th and 24 th Aug, 14 th 28 th Sept, 12th and 26 th Oct, 9 th and 23 rd Nov and 14 th Dec 2026
Session Requested Morning 8.00am to 1.00pm Afternoon 1.30pm to 5.30pm Evening 6.00pm to 10.00pm	The 2 nd and 4 th Monday of each month. Afternoon 1.30pm to 5.30pm
Public Liability Insurance required? Delete as appropriate	Y/N
Purpose of Request	To use the venue for our Jolly Blandford day, a place where guest', volunteers, entertainers and staff can come together for fun and friendship.
How many Blandford Forum residents will benefit directly?	Between 25 and 30
Any further relevant information	
Signed:	Dated: 12/12/2025

To adopt the new Employee Handbook

The Town Council resolved to move to a new HR advisor and a meeting was held in December with the Town Clerk, Operations Manager and the new consultants to discuss the changeover.

The company has issued a new Employee Handbook, which has been checked by the Town Clerk and Operations Manager as the line managers within the Town Council. To ensure full staff involvement and understanding, all staff have been consulted over several weeks and issued a copy and no concerns were raised.

A full copy has been emailed to Councillors.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors approve the new Employee Handbook and this is implemented from 1st February 2026.

Linda Scott-Giles
Town Clerk
22nd December 2025

B+ Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Blandford Plus Annual Hosting renewal invoice was received at the beginning of January 2026 for £178.80 +vat which will be split between the three councils.

The next meeting is due to be held on Monday 26th January 2026.

Becci Brady
Committee Clerk
8th January 2026

PLANNING APPENDIX A – NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS
Meeting on Monday 26th January 2026

Application & Date		Application Details	Comments/ Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan 2011-2033
1	<u>P/FUL/2025/07609</u> Applicant: Mr Long Deadline: 28 th January 2026	<u>9-9A West Street & 1 Barnack Walk Blandford Forum DT11 7AW</u> Change of use of the first and second floors of the building from an office to a single dwelling (use class C3).	Blandford + NP Policies: B10 Design Code: CA2 Built Form Code: 15. 16, & 17
	<u>P/LBC/2025/07608</u> Applicant: Mr Long Deadline: 28 th January 2026	<u>9-9A West Street & 1 Barnack Walk Blandford Forum DT11 7AW</u> Retain internal alterations to facilitate conversion of the first and second floors of the building to a single dwelling	Blandford + NP Policies: B10 Design Code: CA2 Built Form Code: 15. 16, & 17

Application for Information Only

The application below has been received. You are being notified for information purposes. This application is not a planning application but a request for the Council to determine whether or not Prior Approval is required for the proposal.

Application & Date		Application Details
1	<u>P/PALH/2026/00051</u> Mr Liam Shingler	<u>54 Elizabeth Road Blandford Forum DT11 7NP</u> Erection of rear extension; to extend 4 metres beyond the rear wall of the original dwellinghouse; maximum height 2.7 metres; height to eaves 2.5 metres

**To consider changing the council's position on the planning application for
Lot 4 Blandford Brewery, Blandford St Mary**

Ref: [P/FUL/2025/04719 - Lot 4 Blandford Brewery, Blandford St Mary](#)

The above planning application was heard at the Planning Committee meeting on 13th October 2025, and the following resolution was made-

The Town Council objects to the proposal on the basis on insufficient parking and are saddened that they haven't used our design code but do recognise that it is in keeping with the rest of the development. Blandford + NP policies B10, Design Code: CA1, Built Form Codes 1,2,3,4,6,7,8 & 10 -20 all apply.

The applicant since increased the parking provision and Dorset Council (DC) Highways subsequently removed their same objection.

DC's Planning department therefore emailed Blandford Forum Town Council to ask if, in light of the increased parking provision and removal of the Highways objection, it would consider changing its position.

Due to Councillors being asked if there was any change and no replies being received the Committee Clerk responded to DC, who then asked for it to be reconsidered at a meeting. Otherwise it will need to be referred to DC's Planning Committee.

Becci Brady
Committee Clerk
13th January 2026