

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Town Council Planning Meeting
Held on Monday 2nd February 2026 at 7:00pm in the Corn Exchange

DRAFT
Subject to confirmation

PRESENT

Cllr A Cross – Chairman

Cllr H Miéville –Chairman of Council

Cllr S Hitchings

Cllr G Del-Pinto

Cllr S Chapman

Cllr Y Miéville

Cllr M Spruce

Cllr C Stevens – Vice Chairman

Cllr R Holmes

Cllr T Clarkson

Cllr M Putt

Cllr L Hitchings

Cllr N Lacey-Clarke

Cllr J Robinson

IN ATTENDANCE

Committee Clerk

Operations Manager

Jonathan Cook (via Microsoft Teams)

50. PUBLIC SESSION

Cllr Holmes spoke about the issues with the flooding and suggested a Flood Wall might need to be thought about.

Cllr Mieville noted that there were representatives from DC Highways on the night that the flooding started, and seemed unprepared and feels we have not been properly informed of what was happening and very little information was share with the council. For future emergencies the Dorset Council communication system must improve. Cllr Lacey-Clarke spoke with DC who assured him that sandbags were distributed, he felt the communication was very poor and there was very little presence from Dorset Council. Whilst he understands that the Highways officer was unable to attend, the lack of information made everything much harder.

51. APOLOGIES

Cllr S Morgan

Cllr B Quayle

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

None

53. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12th JANUARY 2026

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Clarkson, SECONDED by Cllr H Miéville and AGREED (11 in favour, 3 abstentions) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

54. APPENDIX A – NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

54.1 P/VOC/2026/00028 – 23-25 Market Place

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Del-Pinto and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council has no objections to the application. Blandford + NP policies B10, Design Code: CA2 and Built Form Code: Code15,16,17 & 19 apply.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

54. APPENDIX A – NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS (CONT.)

54.2 P/VOL/2026/00030- 23-25 Market Place

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke , SECONDED by Cllr Del-Pinto and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council has no objections to the application. Blandford + NP policies B10, Design Code: CA2 and Built Form Code: Code15,16,17 & 19 apply.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

54.3 P/VOL/2026/00031 – 23-25 Market Place

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Del-Pinto and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council has no objections to the application. Blandford + NP policies B10, Design Code: CA2 and Built Form Code: Code15,16,17 & 19 apply.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

54.4 P/FUL/2025/07203 – Chamen House 9 The Plocks

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Del-Pinto 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 15,16 apply.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

54.5 P/FUL/2025/07203 – 13-15 West Street

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr H Miéville and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 against) that

The Town Council objects on the basis that the ground floor development will remove a primary retail shopping space in the main town centre and, due to the size of it, Councillors feel there should be additional fire escapes. Blandford + NP policies B10, Design Code: CA2 and Built Form Code: Code 15,16, 17 & 19 apply.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

54.6 P/TRT/2026/00385 – Land South Of Preetz Way

For information only.

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

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

56. SITE VISITS/DORSET COUNCIL PLANNING MEETINGS

None

57. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

B+ Monitoring Group Update – The group held a meeting on 26th January. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the recent vague information regarding the future of Neighbourhood Plan's and to discuss the future of the group. The chair emphasised that this

57. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE (CONT.)

is a statutory plan until October 2028, and whether or not the plan gets renewed in October 2028 there is still work to be getting on with on behalf of residents. It was agreed that the group should continue to complete the tasks in hand and perhaps create new objectives going forward, particularly considering so many local shops have recently closed.

Flooding – On Thursday morning, the Market Manager and Committee Clerk contacted East St businesses and shops affected by the flooding and offered them a free indoor market stall, after seeking approval from the Chairman of Council. Dorset Council officers have been in touch requesting use of Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion, in line with their emergency plan, which was used by a family from Thorncombe and hirers were cancelled but were very understanding.

The meeting closed at 7.32pm.

SIGNED: DATED: