

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



**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  
Jonathan Cook (via Microsoft Teams)

Operations Manager

**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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 Thornicombe and hirers were cancelled but were very understanding.

The meeting closed at 7.32pm.

SIGNED: ..... DATED: .....