DRAFT
Subject to confirmation

**BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL**

# A Meeting of the Town Council

Link to Agenda here

# MINUTES

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| **Held on:** | Monday, 27 July 2026 at 7:00 pm in the Corn Exchange |
| **Summoned members present** | All Councillors; C Stevens (Chairman), Y Mièville (Vice Chairman), S Hitchings, H Mièville, L Hitchings, N Lacey-Clarke, R Holmes, S Chapman, T Clarkson, M Putt, G Del-Pinto, M Spruce |
| **Absent:** | Cllrs A Cross, B Quayle, S Morgan (joined online) and J Robinson |
| **Officers Present:** | Town Clerk, Operations Manager |
| **In attendance:** | Press (0), Members of the public (1). |

## TC4.1 Public Session

Members of the public were invited to make representations to the Council on any matters relating to the work of the Council or to raise any issues of concern, the following matters were raised.

**Bunting and Flags** – Request that they stay up until after the summer fayre, bring option for seasonal bunting to future meeting.

**Royal Visit** – thanks for all the work involved in organising and delivering the visit from King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

## TC4.2 Apologies

Officer report TC4.2 was received and it was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies for absence from Cllr Cross due to family circumstance, Cllr Robinson due to conflicting work engagement, Cllr Morgan due to personal circumstances and Cllr Quayle.

## TC4.3 Declarations of Interest

Officer report TC4.3 was received, all councillors were reminded of their duty to declare any interests in the business to be transacted and it was **NOTED** there were no interests declared.

## TC4.4 Minutes

Officer report TC4.4 was received and it was **RESOLVED**

*that the minutes of Monday 22 June 2026 and Monday, 06 July 2026 be approved for signing as a true record of the decisions taken. These were signed at the meeting.*

## TC4.5 Report for Information to Full Council

Officer report TC4.5 was received and **NOTED.**

DCllr Lacey-Clarke reported that Dorset Council is responsible for Tinpot Lane maintenance and has been asked to follow this up. Dorset Council has also been asked to review worn double yellow lines, particularly in Shorts Lane. Residents' concerns about hedges obstructing pavements were noted; enforcement can only be pursued where obstruction exceeds 50% and after nesting season ends in September. DCllr Lacey-Clarke also clarified that Pine Court

is understood to be proposed for specialist supported living for adults with additional needs and general affordable housing, not accommodation for asylum seekers.
Recommendation TGP1.9 was considered and it was **RESOLVED**

*That the Council choose Lumiere Events Southwest (Company A) at a cost of £20,715.00 to provide and install the 2026 Christmas lights.*

ACTION: OPERATIONS MANAGER

## TC4.6 Blandford+ Memorandum of Understanding

Officer report TC4.6 was received and it was **RESOLVED** **(***10 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstentions)*

*That Blandford+ representatives talk to the other members of the group about inviting Charlton Marshall and Pimperne Parish Councils to join the group and return the decision to the respective Councils.*

ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK

## TC4.7 Members Motion: Community Toilet Scheme

Report TC4.7 was received and it was **RESOLVED** *(10 in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions)*

*To approve, in principle, further investigation of a Blandford Forum Community Toilet Scheme, authorise officers to seek business interest, obtain costings and report back before any scheme is launched or expenditure committed.*

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

## TC4.8 Grant Application – Allotment Society

Officer report TC4.8 was received and it was **RECOMMENDED** *(8 in favour, 0 against, 4 abstentions)* to defer to the September meeting to allow time to review the accounts provided, and to apologise to the society for the delay.

ACTION: MAYOR'S ASSISTANT

## TC4.9 Town of Culture

Officer report TC4.9 was received and it was **PROPOSED** to withdraw the current application and apply again in another year. This motion **FELL** (4 in favour, 6 against, 2 abstentions). It was then **RESOLVED** *(6 in favour, 5 against, 1 abstention)*

*That the Council retrospectively approves the submission of the Blandford Forum Dorset Town of Culture 2027 application; commit in principle to setting aside up to £30,000 as match funding, subject to the bid being successful and final programme and budget approval; and confirm that the Town Clerk and Events Officer and one or two partner representatives attend the interview on 31st July 2026 on behalf of the Council. In the event that the Council is successful, to create a working group to manage the process.*

ACTION: TOWN CLERK AND EVENTS OFFICER

Initial:

## TC4.10 20mph

Officer report TC4.10 was received and it was **RESOLVED** *(11 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention)*

*To form a working group to identify zones for 20mph and provide a rationale with each zone to provide to Dorset Council. To proceed with the previous decision of the Town and General Purposes Committee to request an Automatic Traffic Counter.*

ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK

## TC4.11 Planning Applications

Officer report TC4.11 was received and it was **RESOLVED** to submit the following planning application responses to the Local Planning Authority

| **Application No.** | **Address** | **Application Detail** | **Resolution including votes for against and abstentions** |
|---|---|---|---|
| P/LBC/2026/03685 | 5 Market Place Blandford Forum DT11 7AH | Installation of defibrillator & bleed kit cabinets to external wall | No Objection *(unanimous)* |
| P/VOC/2026/03592 and P/VOL/2026/03600 | Natwest 23-25 Market Place Blandford Forum DT11 7AF | Subdivision of existing commercial unit into 2no. commercial units, with new doors, windows and internal alterations (With variation of condition 2 of planning permission P/FUL/2025/02463 to amend approved plans) | No Objection. *(11 in favour, 0 abstentions, 1 against)* |
| P/HOU/2026/03650 | Underone House Kings Road Blandford Forum DT11 7LD | Erect rear single storey extension and access ramp (Demolish existing conservatory) | No Objection *(10 in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions)* |
| P/TRC/2026/03819<br><br>Tree Works- For Information Only | Brecknock Court Salisbury Road Blandford Forum DT11 7QG | T1 - Ash - Fell to ground level. T2 - Silver Birch - Raise the crown to 4m over the footpath. Prune to provide 2m separation from the building and adjacent street light. T3 - Laurel - Prune back to the boundary of the property. Prune to provide 2m separation from the building. Remove overhanging branches over the footpath. | Noted |

Initial:

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| P/LBC2026/03916 | 38 Orchard Street Blandford Forum DT11 7RA | Installation of fibre-optic broadband connection to dwelling | No Objection *(11 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention)* |
| P/HOU/2026/03956 | 163 Salisbury Road, Blandford Forum DT11 7SW | Erect side double garage extension with room above, No 2 dormer windows and balcony to rear | No Objection *(11 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention)* |

ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK

## TC4.12 Tree Survey

Officer report TC4.12 was received and it was **RESOLVED** *(11 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention)*

*To select Bawden Tree Care (Company C) to carry out the quinquennial tree survey using funds from the tree survey budget line (1075), which has a balance of £21,733.20*

ACTION: OPERATIONS MANAGER

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9pm

These minutes will be considered for approval at the next meeting of the Town Council and, if approved, will be signed and dated by the Chair of that meeting.

Signed: _____ Date: _____