



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

To All Councillors; C Stevens (Chairman), Y Miéville (Vice Chairman), S Hitchings, H Miéville, L Hitchings, N Lacey-Clarke, B Quayle, R Holmes, S Chapman, T Clarkson, M Putt, G Del-Pinto, S Morgan, J Robinson, M Spruce
All other recipients for information only.

Tuesday, 22 September 2026

Dear Member

Summons

You are summoned to a meeting of the **Full Town Council** of Blandford Forum for the transaction of the business shown on the agenda below. To be held at 7 pm on **Monday, 28 September 2026** in the Corn Exchange. The quorum for Full Council is 9.

Public Participation and Democratic Quarter Hour

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 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 invite members of the public to comment on specific issues where their particular knowledge on a subject might prove of benefit to the Council.

[Join using this link for Teams](#)

General Duties of 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.

Recording of Meetings

All attendees should be aware that filming, recording, photography or similar activity may take place during the meeting.

Date of next Full Town Council Meeting: Tuesday, 27 October 2026

Yours sincerely

Claire Commons BA (Hons), Town Clerk

Twinned with Preetz, Germany



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



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

Full Town Council of Blandford Forum, **Monday, 28 September 2026, 7 pm**, Corn Exchange.

Agenda

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(8:35 pm)	To consider hire rate for use of community room	(5 mins)
	<i>Decision Item</i>	
TC3.12	GRANT AND FREE HIRE.....	22
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	<i>Decision Item</i>	
TC3.13	BLANDFORD+	23
(8:55 pm)	To reconsider signing of the Memorandum of Understanding	(10 mins)
	<i>Decision Item</i>	

Timings given on this agenda are for guidance only. The order of business may be changed at the Chair's discretion, and items may be taken earlier or later than indicated. (Standing Order 1a)

TC3.14	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE BADGE	24
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	<i>Decision Item</i>	
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	<i>Decision Item</i>	
TC3.16	STOUR VALLEY BAND	27
(9:25 pm)	To consider allocating a performance slot for a rehearsal for the Royal British Legion	(5 mins)
	<i>Decision Item</i>	
TC3.17	COUNCILLOR VACANCY	28
(9:30)	To fill council appointments vacated by Alan Cross	(10 mins)
	<i>Decision Item</i>	

Anticipated meeting end time 9:40pm

TC3.1 Public Participation

(7:00 pm) To allow the public to make representations to the Council.

(up to 15 mins)

Receive and note

Report Author: Town Clerk

Background

The Standing Orders of the Council (specifically Standing Order 3) provide for a designated Public Participation session at each meeting of the Council and its Committees.

During Public Participation, members of the public are invited to address the meeting regarding matters on the published agenda or within the Council's powers.

Public Participation is distinct from the formal business of the meeting. Once the session concludes, the public are observers only and must not participate further unless invited by a resolution of the Council.

The Council's commitment to openness, transparency, and community engagement supports the inclusion of Public Participation within the formal structure of the meeting.

At the Annual Meeting of the Council, Public Participation shall only commence after the election of the Chair, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972 and Standing Orders.

Members of the public registered to speak

None registered at the point of issuing papers.

Conduct of Public Participation

Public Participation will occur at the start of the meeting.

Each speaker may address the meeting for a maximum of three minutes, subject to the Chair's discretion to extend or reduce this time if necessary.

The maximum total duration for Public Participation shall normally be 15 minutes unless the Council resolves otherwise.

Speakers are asked to address the meeting courteously, and must not make offensive, defamatory, or irrelevant comments. Speakers do not have a right to expect debate or immediate responses.

Recording of Public Participation

The minutes of the meeting shall record that Public Participation took place and will summarise the general topics raised but shall not record the names of individual speakers.

Recommendation

That the public comments are received, and any points of note are identified for consideration at future meetings of the Council or its committees or for action by officers of the Council

Reason for Recommendation

To acknowledge public engagement in accordance with Standing Orders and ensure that matters raised are appropriately considered without committing the Council to immediate decisions.

TC3.2 **Apologies**

(7:15 pm) To receive and consider for acceptance, apologies for absence from Councillors summoned to attend (2 mins)

Decision Item

Report Author: Town Clerk

Background

Councillors are holders of public office and are summoned to attend meetings of the Council and its committees.

In accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council must consider and decide whether to accept the reason for absence provided by any Councillor who is unable to attend a meeting.

If a councillor fails to attend any meeting of the Council (or its committees) for a period of six consecutive months, without having obtained formal acceptance of their apologies by the Council (or the relevant committee), they are automatically disqualified from office.

Apologies received and reason

Cllr Putt due to personal commitments.

Recommendation

That the Council considers and either accepts or rejects each apology for absence received.

Reason for Recommendation

Accepting apologies resets the six-month period for continuous attendance, ensuring compliance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

(End)

TC3.3 **Declarations of Interest**

(7:17 pm) To declare interests relating to the business of the meeting.

(2 mins)

Receive and note

Report Author: Town Clerk

Background

All Councillors and Officers are reminded of their obligations under the Blandford Forum Town Council Code of Conduct to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Registerable Interests, or Non-Registerable Interests relating to matters on the agenda.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest, it is the individual Councillor's responsibility to declare that interest at the earliest opportunity in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

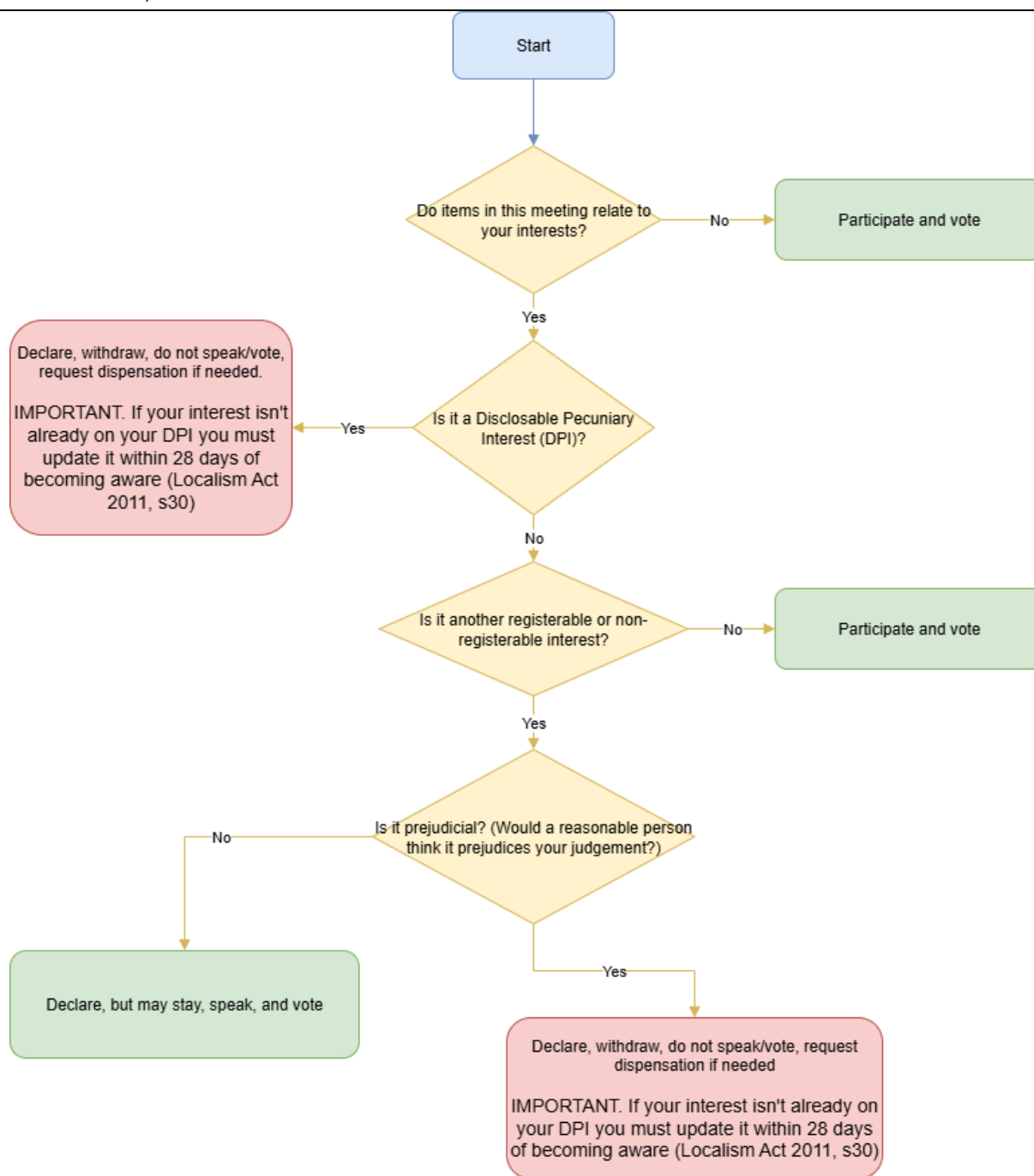
The Clerk will report any dispensations granted prior to the meeting.

Refer to Tables 1 and 2 in the [Code of Conduct](#) for further details about the types of interests which may apply.

If you think you need to request a dispensation, the process is included within the [Dispensation Request Form.docx](#).

The table below provides a summary of what your responsibilities are depending on the type of interest declared.

Type of Interest	Declare at Meeting?	Stay for Debate?	Vote?	Withdraw?	Notes
DPI (registered or not)	Yes	No	No	Yes	Must declare and withdraw, unless dispensation granted
Other/Non-Registerable (not prejudicial)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Declare, but may participate fully
Other/Non-Registerable (prejudicial)	Yes	No (except to speak if public can)	No	Yes	Declare, may speak if public can, then withdraw
With Dispensation	Yes	As specified	As specified	As specified	Dispensation may allow limited participation



Recommendation

That the Council notes the declarations made in relation to the business of the meeting.

Reason for Recommendation

Recording declarations at the meeting ensures transparency, compliance with the Council's adopted Code of Conduct, and adherence to statutory obligations.

(End)

TC3.4 Minutes

(7:19 pm) To receive the minutes of the previous meeting of the Full Town Council. (2 min)

Decision Item

Report Author: Town Clerk

Background

In approving draft minutes, the Council is concerned solely with whether the minutes accurately record the proceedings and resolutions of the relevant meeting.

It is immaterial whether individual Councillors were present at the meeting to which the minutes relate.

If any corrections are necessary due to inaccuracies, amendments must be approved by formal resolution before the minutes are signed.

Recommendation

That the minutes of [27th July 2026](#) be approved for signing as a true record of the decisions taken.

(End)

TC3.5 Report for Information to Full Council

(7:21 pm) To receive minutes and reports and consider recommendations from the Committees of the Council. (9 min)

Receive and Note

Report Author: Town Clerk

Summary

Reports provided within this item are to be received, they provide updates on decisions already taken by the Council or its Committee and actions taken under the Scheme of Delegation (where not previously reported). Any actions marked as complete at the last point of reporting will be removed from the list for conciseness.

Working Group and Representative Reports

Treads have provided their quarterly report, attached separately.

No other reports have been received in advance. Representatives and Working Groups are invited to provide a brief update at this point.

Mayor's Report

Colin Stevens – 21st July to 21st September 2026

DATE	FUNCTION	COMMENTS
Thursday 23 rd July 2026	35 th Birthday of the opening of Whitecliff House Nursing Home	Chris and I attended the 35 th birthday party of the opening of Whitecliff House Nursing Home. A very pleasant afternoon with the car park being turned into a lovely outside area with tables, chairs and gazebos. A well-attended event with an entertainer playing music and singing to the residents. A really nice afternoon as we knew many of the residents and visitors.
Sunday 26 th July 2026	Civic Service – Wareham	Chris and I attended the Civic service and Act of Commitment in the Priory Church of Lady St Mary, Wareham. A well-attended service with Civic leaders from all over Dorset, and Somerset. We then went to the parish rooms where refreshments were served and a chance to chat to others that attended.
Sunday 2 nd August 2026	Nepalese Co-Operative barbecue	Chris and I attended the Nepalese Co-Operative barbecue. This event is held in a different town each year. This year it was held at the cricket club in Blandford with Nepalese people from the surrounding area attending. We were made to feel very welcome and had a very enjoyable afternoon with good company and great Nepalese food.
Friday 7 th August 2026	Jamie Jigsaw	Chris and I did the refreshments with the help of the Opportunity Group staff. A very busy morning with lots of children attending, having fun with juggling, plate spinning and games.

Tuesday 11 th August 2026	Volunteers Tea Party – Fashion Museum	Chris and I attended the volunteer's tea party at the Fashion Museum where we were served a cream tea and met the volunteers who do a wonderful job there. I had the honour of unveiling the beautiful fabric wall hanging made by the museums sewing group to celebrate the 30 th anniversary of the opening of the Fashion Museum
Sunday 15 th August 2026	Blandford Railway Club exhibition	Chris and I attended the Blandford Railway Club exhibition at the Scout Hall. It was a very interesting morning looking at the many layouts and talking with the members about them. Thanks to Alan Cross, the chairman for inviting us to such an enjoyable event.
Sunday 15 th August 2026	Preview of the Blandford Art Society's open exhibition	Chris and I attended the evening preview of the Blandford Art Society's open exhibition. We were met by the Chairman Chris who showed us around and introduced us to Jack Dickson, the guest artist. We viewed his amazing paintings which were on display. A very interesting evening, and lovely to see this exhibition back in the Corn Exchange after a 4 year break.
Sunday 16 th August 2026	Skate Fest 2026	Chris and I had a busy day attending this well attended event. It was nice to see so many youngsters and families enjoying themselves. The weather was perfect for the well organised event, thanks to everyone who helped make this happen.
Wednesday 2 nd September 2026	100 th Birthday Castleman House	Chris and I went to Castleman House to attend a birthday party for Hilda Thatcher to celebrate her 100 th birthday. After accepting a glass of bubbly on arrival, there was music, singing and dancing with residents participating, followed by a birthday tea with a large birthday cake.

Dorset Council Reports

No reports have been received in advance. Dorset Councillors are invited to provide a brief update at this point.

Update from B+ Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group – September 2026

The B+ Monitoring Group met on 15th September with a very busy agenda.

Blandford St Mary is currently the only council to have signed the Memorandum of Understanding. Bryanston Council have approved it to be signed. Blandford Forum Town Council resolved not to sign it at their last Town Council Meeting in July, it is tabled to be on the agenda for their September Town Council meeting.

The group submitted 5 examples of Non-designated Heritage Assets to Cass Worman at Dorset Council. The feedback received from their peer review was that the group had done a fantastic job. They would like to revisit the grading that we have submitted. They would like us to look at source material that would back-up our claims. It was mentioned that 'Invisible assets', assets that Planning officers might not

understand, also need to be highlighted and looked at further. It was suggested that we re-look at the Design Code and see if this could help with supporting these assets.

Two members and the Committee Clerk attended the Dorset Council Building and Planning Forum in September. They updated us on changes to the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework), the future of NP's (Neighbourhood Plans) and changes to the Local Plan. A new NPPF came in on 17th August 2026. It does mean that there is a presumption in favour of development due to the government not meeting its housing targets. Neighbourhood Plans are mentioned heavily in the new NPPF but it is unclear whether or not it strengthens our position.

Dorset Council have re-set the new Local Plan timetable which will take no more than 30 months, the deadline is February 2029. Our NP expires in October 2028 which makes it seem important to renew our Neighbourhood Plan before this comes into action. The Chair spoke with Ed Gerry at the Dorset Council forum regarding the effect of removing B+NP policies that no longer conform to National Policies, at the next review process. Ed Gerry thought this would still probably be viewed as a 'light touch'.

All new NP must be in a digital format going forward, this is something we will have to look at in terms of costs.

It was discussed that when scoping different sites under this new Local Plan for new housing, that infrastructure and particularly employment land must be looked at with high importance.

Recommendation

That the reports are received and any points of note are identified for future meetings of the Council or its committees or for action by officers of the Council.

Reason for Recommendation

To provide a minute record of information provided to members of the Council and to determine matters which fall within the committee scheme of delegation for debate but exceed the delegation for determination.

(End)

TC3.6 Annual Return

(7:30 pm) To receive and adopt the External Auditor's Report

(5 mins)

Decision Item

Report Author: Town Clerk

Summary and Background information

It is the requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 that a smaller authority with a gross annual income and expenditure exceeding £25,000 but which does not exceed £6.5 million has to complete the Annual governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). The closing balance of the year end accounts are used, and the internal auditor must submit a report.

The AGAR was submitted to the external auditor and the report and certificate returned concludes that; *"On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information ... is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. On other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority: The authority has disclosed that it has not complied with one of the governance assertions within the Annual Governance Statement. The authority has provided the appointed auditor with an adequate explanation for non-compliance and details of the actions necessary to address identified weaknesses."*

The [External Auditor's Certificate and report](#) is published on the Town Council's website.

Actions on Conclusion of the Review

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI2015/234) set out what you must do at the conclusion of the review. In summary, you are required to:

Prepare a Notice of Conclusion of Audit which details the rights of inspection, in line with the statutory requirements – the Town Clerk has completed this task.

Publish the Notice along with the certified AGAR (sections 1, 2 & 3) before 30th September 2026, which must include publication on the smaller authority's website. (please note that when the statute and regulations were amended in 2014 and 2015, they did not include a requirement for the length of time for which the notice must be published. The previous statute required 14 days but it is now up to the authority to make this decision). – The Town Clerk has completed this task.

Keep copies of the AGAR available for purchase by any person on payment of a reasonable sum. – The Town Clerk confirms this requirement.

Ensure that Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the published AGAR remain available for public access for a period of not less than 5 years from the date of publication – The Town Clerk confirms this requirement.

Recommendation

To receive and note the conclusion of audit and adopt the External Auditor's report.

Reason for Recommendation

To fulfil the Council's governance responsibilities

(End)

TC3.7 Beres Yard

(7:35 pm) To consider ACV expression of interest and museum representation (20 mins)

Decision Item

Report Author: Town Clerk

Summary and Background information

The Council successfully registered Bere's Yard as an Asset of Community Value following an application submitted earlier this year. The museum has publicly stated that it has submitted a conditional offer for the Bere's Yard property and is pursuing funding opportunities to support the project.

The deadline for submitting and Expression of Interest to Dorset Council is 30th September 2026.

An informal councillor workshop is scheduled to take place on 22nd September 2026 to explore the issues in more detail. If required, a supplementary paper may be issued to inform Council.

Financial Implications

No direct financial implications arise from either recommendation contained within this report.

Legal Authority and Implication

No legal advice has been sought in relation to any future ownership arrangements or alternative proposals which may emerge.

Risk Assessment

Missing the deadline could forfeit ACV protections if the asset is sold.

Project Board representation would aid information sharing without further commitment but may create a conflict of interest in related Council discussions.

Recommendation 1

That the Council considers whether to submit an Expression of Interest to Dorset Council before 30th September 2026

Recommendation 2

That the Council considers whether:

- a) To appoint an additional councillor representative to the Museum's Bere's Yard Project Board; and/or
- b) To appoint an additional councillor representative to liaise with the museum and report back to Council on relevant matters

Reason for Recommendation

1. In order to trigger the Asset of Community Value moratorium provisions.
2. To report back to Council matters relating to the future of Bere's Yard and other relevant matters

(End)

TC3.8 Disposal of Sharps

(7:55 pm) Members Motion to consider a way for sharps to be disposed of for public use (15 mins)

Decision Item

Proposer: Cllr Chapman

Request from Cllr Chapman

Cllr Chapman has requested that the Council consider whether there is sufficient provision within Blandford Forum for the safe disposal of household medical sharps and whether there is a need for additional local facilities or signposting to assist residents who self-administer injectable medication.

The concern raised is that residents may experience difficulty identifying convenient local disposal routes for used needles and filled sharps containers and that this could potentially result in inappropriate disposal through household waste streams.

Officer Information

Officers have made enquiries regarding the current arrangements for sharps disposal. Boots Pharmacy confirmed that it does not accept sharps containers for disposal and directs residents to Dorset Council.

Dorset Council's published guidance states that needles, syringes and other clinical waste must not be placed in household rubbish, recycling or food waste bins, even when contained within a sharps box.

Residents requiring disposal of medical sharps are directed by Dorset Council to complete an online form to arrange collection of needles or syringes used for a medical condition. Dorset Council further advises that residents should ensure medical sharps are stored safely in a sealed sharps container pending collection.

The Town Council already provides sharps disposal units within both the Tabernacle and Marsh and Ham public conveniences and pays for their servicing and disposal through its contractor. These facilities are intended for the disposal of individual sharps while using the public conveniences and are not a collection point for household clinical waste or domestic sharps containers.

The evidence currently available suggests that a disposal route exists through Dorset Council's collection service, although members may wish to consider whether the arrangements are sufficiently accessible, clearly communicated and convenient for residents who use injectable medication.

Further Information

[Medical sharps - Dorset Council](#)

Legal Authority and Implication

The storage, collection and disposal of clinical waste is a regulated activity. The Town Council is not the waste disposal authority and does not currently provide a household clinical waste collection service.

Any proposal for the Council to provide, host or manage additional sharps collection facilities would require detailed consideration of legal powers, licensing and waste management requirements, insurance implications, health and safety responsibilities, collection and disposal contracts, ongoing revenue costs and liability from misuse.

Financial Implication

No direct financial commitment is proposed.

Should the Council wish to investigate additional disposal facilities in future, a separate report would be required detailing the financial, operational and legal implications.

Recommendation

That the Council notes Dorset Council's arrangements for household medical sharps and decides whether to make representations about their accessibility, convenience or communication.

Reason for Recommendation

This item has been placed before Council following a Members Motion submitted by Cllr Chapman. The recommendation provides a basis for debate and enables members to determine whether any further action is required by the Council.

(End)

TC3.9 White Ribbon – Ending Violence Against Women & Girls

(8:10 pm) Members Motion to consider becoming a White Ribbon Council

(15 mins)

Decision Item

Proposer: Cllr Spruce **Seconder:** Cllr Del-Pinto

Summary and Background information

White Ribbon is a UK-wide campaign focused on prevention through education, awareness, culture change and encouraging individuals and organisations to challenge attitudes and behaviours that contribute to violence against women and girls.

Violence against women and girls is a significant community issue. While the Council cannot address the problem alone, it has an important role in promoting a culture in which violence, harassment, abuse and misogynistic behaviour are not tolerated. White Ribbon is the UK's leading charity engaging with men and boys to prevent violence against women and girls in England and Wales, thus adopting a community and inclusive approach.

Becoming Accredited is a commitment to preventing harassment, abuse and violence against women and girls through promoting gender equality, raising awareness and ensuring that men as well as women are part of the solution. It is a strategic commitment to work with White Ribbon to develop and deliver a transformative Action Plan over a three-year cycle.

Accreditation would provide the Town Council with an opportunity to:

- Demonstrate visible leadership and commitment to preventing violence against women and girls.
- Work in alignment with national and local objectives for Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)
- Raise awareness of domestic abuse, sexual harassment and violence against women and girls.
- Encourage positive attitudes and respectful relationships across the community.
- Support local organisations, schools, businesses and community groups in promoting prevention.
- Provide councillors and staff with greater awareness of the issues and appropriate signposting.
- Use the Council's communications channels to promote White Ribbon messages and campaigns.
- Encourage men and boys to become active allies in challenging harmful attitudes and behaviours.
- Strengthen partnership working with relevant local services and community organisations.

The police figures for 2026 in Blandford (up to June 2026), record 96 violent and sexual crimes. Whilst it is currently not possible to determine the gender of the victims from the data, this proposal works to educate and involve the whole community. Moreover, there appears to be a pattern to the location of these crimes.

Proposed Commitment

It is proposed that Blandford Forum Town Council commits to working towards White Ribbon Accreditation and develops a local action plan reflecting the White Ribbon principles.

The Council would appoint a White Ribbon Champion and, if appropriate, an elected member or officer to act as a lead for the initiative.

The Council would also seek to identify and support White Ribbon Ambassadors within the Council and local community who can help promote the campaign and encourage others to make the White Ribbon Promise.

Proposed Action Plan

The Council's initial programme could include:

Leadership and governance

- Appoint a White Ribbon Champion.
- Establish clear responsibility for progressing accreditation.
- Include the commitment within relevant Council policies and strategic priorities.
- Develop an annual action plan with measurable objectives.

Training and awareness

- Provide appropriate White Ribbon training for councillors and staff.
- Ensure staff know how to respond appropriately to disclosures of domestic abuse, harassment or violence and where to signpost people for specialist support.
- Promote awareness of respectful behaviour and healthy relationships.
- Optional - key lead to attend (online only) [The Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Conference 2026: Prevention, Perpetrator Accountability, and Strengthening Victim Support - Government Events](#) (24 November 2026) [Cost £395]

Community engagement

- Promote the White Ribbon Promise and campaign messages.
- Support White Ribbon Day
- Work with local schools, community organisations, sports clubs, businesses and voluntary groups where appropriate.
- Encourage local men and boys to engage positively with prevention and allyship. Violence against women and girls is not only a women's issue -- and the majority of men agree. 63% of men agree that men in society aren't doing enough to ensure the safety of women and girls. (YouGov, 2021, cited from 3)

Communications

- Use the Council website, newsletters, social media and community noticeboards to promote relevant messages.
- Publicise local sources of support for anyone affected by domestic abuse or violence.
- Ensure communications are sensitive, inclusive and focused on prevention.

Partnership working

- Work with Dorset Council, Dorset Police, local domestic abuse services and voluntary-sector organisations.
- Identify opportunities to support existing local initiatives rather than duplicating services.
- Explore opportunities for joint awareness campaigns and community events.

Further Information Sources

- [Freedom from Violence and Abuse: a cross-government strategy to build a safer society for women and girls Volume 1 Strategy](#)
- [Police statics for Blandford:](#)
- [What Works to Reduce Violence Against Women and Girls](#)

Financial Implication

Initial application – no cost. If accredited - £345 p/a NB: this is normally a 3 year strategy

Impact Assessment

Category	Impact (Positive/Negative)	Level (Low/Medium/High)	Explanation
Equalities	● Positive	High	Wide reaching engagement with schools and businesses. Alignment with national, local drivers and legal statutes
Environmental	n/a	Medium to High	This objective is not a single solution but demonstrates our commitment against a growing issue
Crime and Disorder	● Positive	High	Partnership working with the police and national agencies. Empowering the whole community through education and positive role models. Prevention by working with schools and giving young people a voice.
Resources	● Positive	Low	Ensures the TC receives the correct training/education/legal compliance. Minimal financial commitment but project management time required.
Economic	● Positive	Low-Medium	Long term this may facilitate greater confidence in the town safety, thus positive impact upon residential and commercial enterprise.
Risk Management	● Positive	High importance	This is an important opportunity for the Town Council.

Recommendation

That Blandford Forum Town Council works towards White Ribbon Accreditation and appoints a White Ribbon Champion to develop, implement and report on an associated action plan.

Reason for Recommendation

White Ribbon Accreditation would provide Blandford Forum Town Council with a clear framework for demonstrating leadership on an important community issue. By supporting prevention, education, respectful relationships and positive male allyship, the Council can contribute to creating a community where women and girls feel safer and where violence and abuse are challenged rather than tolerated.

The proposed accreditation would complement the work already undertaken by local agencies and community organisations and would demonstrate the Town Council's commitment to building a safer, more respectful and inclusive community.

(End)

TC3.10 Planning Applications

8:25 pm To consider responses to (but not limited to) the following planning applications (10 mins)

(Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12)



Report Author: Committee Clerk

Summary and Background information

Planning applications listed below have been received and require comments to be submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Prior to the meeting, members are urged to view the planning application using the link below and to visit the site to understand local context.

As part of the town council's response to planning proposals it should provide material planning reasons for its comments, be they of support or objection. Simply stating 'no objection' is insufficient as there is a requirement to give reasons for that decision.

Material Planning Reasons

Biodiversity	Design
Economic Benefits	Effect on the Appearance of the Area
Flooding Issues	Height
Heritage	Impact on Access
Impact on Light	Landscape
Local or Government Policy	Noise/Disturbance
Other	Overlooking/Loss of Privacy
Parking	Residential Amenity
Road Safety	Traffic or Highways

To assist, here are a few examples as to how you might word something to give material planning reason for your thoughts.

Examples

House Extension No Objection as limited impact on amenity of neighbouring property
Or

Objection as will have detrimental impact on neighbouring property

New dwelling Support, design is in keeping with locality

Or

Objection as design is not in keeping with local area

Vehicular Access Support, will have no impact on road safety given proposed visibility splays

Or

Objection as visibility is poor in this location and traffic speeds are high.

Planning Applications for response

Application No & Deadline	Address	Application Detail	B+ Policies
P/ADV/2026/04700 And P/LBC/2026/04708 Deadline to comment: extended to 30 th September	21 Market Place Blandford Forum DT11 7AF	Display non illuminated 2 No. fascia signs and 1 No. hanging sign	Blandford + NP Policies: B10 Design Code: CA2 Built Form Codes: 8
P/LBC/2026/04659 Deadline to comment: extended to 30 th September	81 Salisbury Street Blandford Forum DT11 7PY	Remove existing North-East aspect lean to roof covering and set aside for re-use. Replace 4no existing roof windows with a pair of Conservation roof windows. Re- roof with the salvaged roof covering and insulate the vaulted ceiling with Sheep's wool insulation	Blandford + NP Policies: B10 Design Code: CA2 Built Form Codes: 10,11,12, 15,16 & 17
P/HOU/2026/04915 Deadline to comment: extended to 30 th September	32 Philip Road Blandford Forum DT11 7NR	Demolish existing conservatory and erect replacement conservatory.	Blandford + NP Policies: B10 Design Code: CA2 Built Form Codes: 10,11,12, 15,16 & 17

Legal Authority and Implication

The Town Council is a consultee but does not have the authority to determine planning applications. The Council has the power to be notified of planning applications affecting the Council's area and to comment (Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 sch 1 para8).

Recommendation

That the Council provides its response on the listed planning applications and considers responses to applications received without notice, in the form Support or Objection with supporting reasons.

Reason for Recommendation

To fulfil the Council's responsibility and exercise its views as a statutory consultee.

(End)

TC3.11 Use of Community Room

(8:35 pm) To consider hire rate for use of community room

(5 mins)

Decision Item

Report Author: Town Clerk

Summary and Background information

A local individual has requested the regular hire of the Community Room each Monday morning as a place from which to work. The proposed arrangement is for use of the room only; no additional Council services, equipment or administrative support would be provided.

Lighting and heating are already provided for the main office during this period, so the hire is not expected to create additional utility costs. The arrangement has caused little disruption to the office and makes productive use of available space.

The hire provides the individual, who would otherwise be working alone, with an office environment while also generating a modest income for the Council. A charge of £19 gross per Monday morning is considered proportionate to the limited facilities being used.

The arrangement should remain subject to availability, the Council's usual booking conditions and the operational needs of the Town Clerk's office. The Council may review the charge or arrangement if circumstances, costs or the level of disruption change.

Further Information Sources

No additional information sources are required for this decision.

Financial Implication

No additional expenditure is anticipated. The proposed charge is £19.20 gross for each Monday morning hire. At 52 hires per year, the maximum gross annual income would be £998.40 (assuming 52 weeks), subject to cancellations and room availability. Lighting and heating are already in operation for the main office, and no additional services are included.

Recommendation

That the Council approves the hire of the Community Room to the local individual each Monday morning at a charge of £19.20 gross per morning, subject to room availability and the Council's usual booking conditions, and delegates to the Town Clerk authority to administer and periodically review the arrangement.

Reason for Recommendation

The arrangement makes efficient use of available Council space, supports a lone worker with an office environment, causes little operational disruption and generates a modest income without requiring additional services or material expenditure.

(End)

TC3.12 Grant and Free Hire

(8:40 pm) To consider grants and free hire requests

(15 mins)

Decision Item

Report Author: Town Clerk

Summary and Background information

The Town Council has received requests for financial support and free venue hire from two local organisations.

Oh No It Isn't

ONII has requested support towards its annual pantomime at the Corn Exchange in the form of £700 grant funding and free venue hire valued at £700.

It is noted that the group had been unable to use the venue for productions during the renovations of the Corn Exchange, affecting its opportunity to generate income.

As the value of the free hire is £700, this has been referred to Full Council for determination alongside the grant application.

Blandford Literary Festival

BLF has requested support for literary events and a book fair using the Corn Exchange complex and Woodhouse Gardens. The application seeks £300 grant funding and free venue hire valued at £310.60. The Clerk and Chair of Finance have provided the free venue hire under delegated authority, with the financial grant being referred to Full Council for consideration.

Further Information

Oh No It Isn't Application (attached separately)

Blandford Literary Festival Application (attached separately)

Financial Implication

The direct grant expenditure requiring consideration is £1,000 with the additional value of the venue hire as set out above.

Recommendation

Considers and determines the request from Oh No It Isn't and Blandford Literary Festival at a combined value of £1,000 grant funding and free hire to the value of £700 for Oh No It Isn't.

Reason for Recommendation

To ensure that applications for financial assistance and free venue hire are considered by the Council and support is provided proportionately to community organisations.

(End)

TC3.13 Blandford+

(8:55 pm) To reconsider signing of the Memorandum of Understanding

(10 mins)

Decision Item

Report Author: Committee Clerk

Summary

This report seeks Council approval for the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) governing the relationship between the Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Group for the next 2 years.

As the Neighbourhood Plan enters its next phase, it is appropriate to establish a clear framework that defines the relationship between the Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Group. A Memorandum of Understanding provides this framework by setting out the respective roles, responsibilities, and expectations of both parties.

Although the Memorandum of Understanding is not a legally binding document, it represents a formal commitment to work collaboratively and transparently in delivering the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Memorandum of Understanding will:

- Define the purpose and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan Group.
- Clarify the respective roles of the Council and the Group.
- Establish appropriate governance and reporting arrangements.
- Promote transparency, accountability, and effective communication.
- Confirm arrangements for meetings, decision-making, and financial management where applicable.
- Provide a framework for collaborative working during the next two years.

Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding will:

- Provide clarity regarding responsibilities and expectations.
- Support good governance and accountability.
- Strengthen partnership working between the Council and community volunteers.
- Ensure continuity of the Neighbourhood Plan programme.
- Demonstrate the Council's ongoing commitment to community-led planning.

Background information

This item was heard at the Town Council Meeting held on 27th July 2026 at which the following resolution was made

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.

The Chair of the B+ Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group has provided Councillors with more information and has asked that should they have any further questions to contact her prior to this meeting.

Recommendation

The Council is asked to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the next 2 years.

(End)

TC3.14 Council Representative Badge

(9:05 pm) To consider designs for badge

(10 mins)

Decision Item

Report Author: Town Clerk

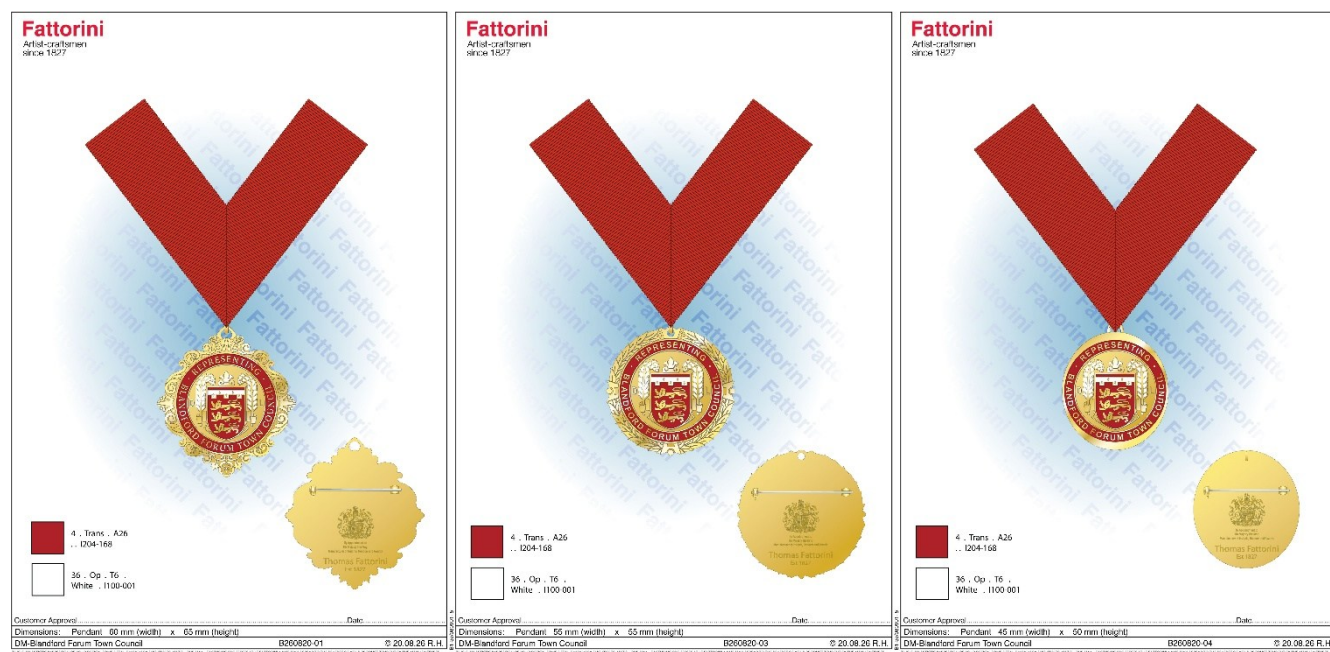
Summary and Background information

Three potential designs have been prepared for a new Council Representative Badge. The badge is intended to identify clearly a councillor or other authorised wearer when representing Blandford Forum Town Council, while remaining visually distinct from, and subordinate to, the badges associated with the Council's formal civic roles.

The supplier has shown the badge wording on a red background to reflect the colour of the Town Crest. Members may instead prefer a blue background, consistent with the background used for the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress badges. The Council is asked to select both the preferred design and the colour behind the wording.

The officer preference is the design shown in the bottom-left image, as it provides clear identification without competing visually with the civic badges. The top-left design is a possible alternative, although the circular motif within an oval may be considered less visually straightforward. The three design options will be presented with the meeting papers for comparison.

The supplier cannot provide the proposed two-tone ribbon unless the Council purchases a 50-metre roll at a cost of £630. It is therefore recommended that the existing red ribbon is retained. Each badge option will have a pin fastening on the reverse so that it may be worn with or without the ribbon. Following Full Council's decision, the selected specification will be used to obtain a formal quotation before an order is placed.



Legal Authority and Implication

There is no statutory requirement for a Council Representative Badge. Any procurement must follow the Council's adopted financial procedures and be supported by an appropriate budget. The design should not imply that the wearer holds a civic office that they do not hold.

Strategic Plan Reference

The proposal supports the Council's corporate identity and the effective, recognisable representation of the Council at civic, community and partnership events.

Financial Implication

The quoted costs are, designs left to right: £729.43; £702.66; and £699.40. The proposed two-tone ribbon would require the additional purchase of a 50-metre roll costing £630 and is not recommended.

Marketing and Communications

No external communications are proposed. Once supplied, the badges will be issued to authorised representatives with guidance on their appropriate use.

Recommendation

That Full Council selects its preferred badge design from the three options presented; selects either a red or blue background for the badge wording; approves retention of the existing red ribbon; and authorises the Town Clerk to place an order for the agreed specification at the quoted price

Reason for Recommendation

A formal Full Council decision will establish a clear and consistent badge specification, ensure that the representative badge remains distinct from civic insignia, and enable the selected design to be ordered at the quoted price.

(End)

TC3.15 Dorset History Centre - capital project *Past Lives, Future Proofed*

(9:15 pm) To consider request for funding support to Dorset History Centre

(10 mins)

Decision Item

Report Author: Town Clerk

Summary and Background information

Dorset History Centre has asked Dorset town councils to consider contributing to its *Past Lives, Future Proofed* capital project. The Centre is Dorset's archives and local studies service, preserving physical and digital records—including town council records, documents, maps, photographs, film and sound—dating from AD965.

Its 1991 Dorchester building is nearing capacity: climate-controlled repositories are 96% full. The project would provide 30 years of secure, environmentally controlled storage, improve public areas and deliver engagement across Dorset.

Following a first-stage National Lottery Heritage Fund pass in March 2026, the Centre received £603,000 development funding and expects to seek £3.8 million in November 2027 towards the £4.6 million delivery phase (mid-2028 to 2031). With £540,000 pledged by Dorset Council and other match funding secured, the current gap is £95,000. Dorchester Town Council has conditionally pledged £10,000.

Legal Authority and Implication

The Council may contribute if satisfied that the expenditure benefits its area or residents. Any award should state the amount, funding source and conditions, including whether payment depends on the second-stage Lottery award.

Financial Implication

No amount has been requested. Council may decline funding or agree an amount, budget source and conditions.

Recommendation

That the Council considers whether to contribute to Dorset History Centre's *Past Lives, Future Proofed* project and, if so, specifies the amount, funding source and whether payment is conditional on the second-stage National Lottery Heritage Fund award.

Reason for Recommendation

No officer recommendation is made; Council is asked to decide whether the project warrants support from Town Council funds.

(End)

TC3.16 Stour Valley Band

(9:25 pm) To consider allocating a performance slot for a rehearsal for the Royal British Legion(5 mins)

Decision Item

Report Author: Town Clerk

Summary and Background information

The Town Council's agreement with Blandford Stour Valley Band provides for 10 performances during the year.

In February 2026 the Town Council considered a request from the Blandford Branch of the Royal British Legion in connection with its Festival of Remembrance. Council agreed, amongst other support, that one of the Band's 10 allocated performances could be used for the Festival.

The Band is therefore scheduled to perform at the Festival of Remembrance on 6th November 2026m, and this is recorded as one of its allocated performances.

The Band has now been asked to undertake a full rehearsal on 30th October 2026 for the Festival of Remembrance in the Corn Exchange. The event is organised by the Blandford branch of the Royal British Legion rather than the Town Council. The Band has requested that the rehearsal is also treated as one of the performances under its agreement with the Town Council.

The current performance schedule in relation to the agreement is:

8th May	Mayor's Charity Concert
15th May	Mayor Making
August	Summer fete
30 th Oct	Rehearsal
6th Nov	RBL Festival of Remembrance
8th Nov	Remembrance
4th Dec	Yuletide
9th Dec	Civic Carol Service
19th Dec	Mayor's Christmas Concert
TBC	Mayor's Concert

Financial Implication

Approval of the request would remain within the 10 performances provided for under the existing agreement. However, approval would utilise the final available performance leaving no remaining allocation for another event during the current agreement period.

Council should therefore consider whether it wishes to allocate its remaining performance to a rehearsal for an event organised by the Royal British Legion.

Recommendation

Approve the 30th October Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance rehearsal as the final performance under the existing agreement with the Stour Valley Band.

(End)

TC3.17 Councillor Vacancy

(9:30) To fill council appointments vacated by Alan Cross

(10 mins)

Decision Item

Report Author: Town Clerk

Summary and Background information

Following Alan Cross' resignation from the Council, Dorset Council has been notified and the statutory notice published. If ten electors request an election, a by-election will be held; otherwise, the Council may co-opt. Full Council may fill the other roles now or defer them until the council vacancy is filled.

Alan Cross's departure also created the following vacancies within the Council:

- Chairman - Planning Committee
- Member - Recreation & Amenities and Finance & Staffing Committees
- Council representative on:
 - BFTC Commemoration Group
 - Blandford Yuletide Festival
 - Clean Up Blandford Campaign
 - Mortain and Blandford Twinning Association
 - Town Museum, and Arts & Heritage Trust.

The Council may choose to fill these vacancies at this point, or defer filling them until the new councillor is on board so that they can have some areas of work to dive straight into.

Legal Authority and Implication

Sections 87 and 89 of the Local Government Act 1972 and election rules apply. Ten Blandford Hilltop Ward electors may request an election; otherwise, the Council may co-opt. Other appointments may be filled at any time, subject to membership and quorum requirements.

Strategic Plan Reference

Filling the roles supports governance and continuity.

Financial Implication

Appointments have no direct cost. A by-election may incur charges from Dorset Council; co-option requires officer time only.

Recommendation

That Full Council notes the casual vacancy; decides whether to fill now or defer the committee and representative positions listed above; and authorises the Town Clerk to notify relevant bodies and administer any election or co-option.

Reason for Recommendation

To maintain continuity while allowing appointments to be reserved for the elected or co-opted councillor.

(End)