



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Town & Purposes Committee

[Link to Agenda here](#)

MINUTES

Held on:	Monday, 05 October 2026 at 7:00 pm in the Corn Exchange
Summoned members present	Town & General Purposes Cllrs; T Clarkson, R Holmes, C Stevens, Y Miéville , H Miéville, B Quayle, S Morgan, G Del-Pinto
Absent:	Cllr M Putt
Sitting in	Cllr S Hitchings, Cllr S Chapman
Officers Present:	Committee Clerk, Town Clerk
In attendance:	Press (0), Members of the public (0) On Microsoft Teams (2)

TGP2.1 Public Session

Members of the public were invited to make representations to the Committee on any matters relating to the work of the Council or to raise any issues of concern, no matters were raised.

TGP2.2 Apologies

Officer report P2.2 was received and it was **RESOLVED** unanimously to

Accept apologies for absence from Cllr Putt due to a personal conflicting engagement

ACTION: MAYOR'S ASSISTANT

TGP2.3 Declarations of Interest

Officer report TGP2.3 was received, all councillors were reminded of their duty to declare any interests in the business to be transacted. No declarations were made.

TGP2.4 Minutes

Officer report TGP2.4 was received and it was **RESOLVED** unanimously that

the minutes of Monday, 13 July 2026 be approved for signing as a true record of the decisions taken

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

TGP2.5 Committee Clerk's Report and Correspondence

Officer report TGP2.5 was received and **NOTED**. In addition to the report, the committee were informed that no Police report was provided, Cllr Lacey-Clarke will communicate with Dorset Council regarding signage on Tin Pot Lane and the Red Bench Campaign is now progressing.

Initial:

TGP2.6 Blandford Forum Market Update - October 2026

The Market Manger's report TGP2.6 was received and it was **RESOLVED** unanimously that *the committee delegates authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Town & General Purposes Committee, to negotiate temporary market rents and pitch fees for new traders, market operators and market development initiatives for a period not exceeding 12 months, with details of all agreements reported to the Committee quarterly.*

TGP2.7 Committee Budget Review

Officer report TGP2.7 was received and it was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Analytical Review of Revenue Budget, Earmarked Reserves and Reserve Accounts were received and noted.

TGP2.8 Christmas Decoration Sponsorship Letter

Officer report TGP2.8 was received and it was **RESOLVED** (7 in favour, 1 against) that *the committee approves the sponsorship letter and delegates authority to the Town Clerk to make minor administrative updates and circulate the letter annually to businesses in the town centre and to businesses in the surrounding industrial estates that have contributed in previous years. The letter will be issued each autumn as part of the council's annual Christmas decorations sponsorship process, unless otherwise directed by the Committee. It was decided to change the word from 'provide' to 'supply' and to increase the suggested cost of sponsorship to £20 plus vat.*

ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK

TGP2.9 Christmas Window Competition 2026

Officer report TGP2.9 was received and it was **RECOMMENDED** unanimously that

the committee approves the Christmas Window Competition as an annual Council event and to delegate authority to the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of the Town & General Purposes Committee and the Events Officer to organise the competition, appoint a special guest judge, determine the judging and prize arrangements and award prizes each year. The matter shall only return to Committee if substantive changes to the competition are proposed, with additional changes to the advert as follows; 2nd prize to be £75 and trophy, 3rd prize £50 plus trophy, a prize for the best Charity shop and a number of highly commended certificates.

ACTION: MAYOR'S ASSISTANT

TGP2.10 Market Place Enhancement

Officer report TGP2.10 was received and it was **RECOMMENDED** (5 in favour, 3 abstentions) that

the committee thanks Dorset Council for their design and asks the officer to attend a Market Enhancement working group meeting to discuss how we can further improve and enhance this design.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

TGP2.11 Window Wanderland Pilot

Officer report TGP2.11 was received and it was **RECOMMENDED** unanimously that

Initial:

the committee approves the delivery of a pilot Blandford Winter Window Wanderland after Christmas, with a budget of up to £1500 from the Town Improvements budget and establishes a councillor/officer working group to develop and deliver the initiative, including determining the preferred timing and engaging with community organisations and the local policing team.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20:32

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

Initial:

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Signed: _____ Date: _____