



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Full Town Council

[Link to Agenda here](#)

MINUTES

Held on:	Monday, 28 September 2026 at 7:00 pm in the Corn Exchange
Summoned members present	All Councillors; C Stevens (Chairman), Y Miéville (Vice Chairman), S Hitchings, H Miéville, N Lacey-Clarke, B Quayle, R Holmes, S Chapman, T Clarkson, G Del-Pinto, S Morgan, M Spruce
Absent:	Cllrs M Putt, J Robinson
Officers Present:	Town Clerk, Committee Clerk
In attendance:	Cllr L Hitchings (online), Press (1 online), Members of the public (5).

TC5.1 Public Session

- a. 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.
- Twinning – To consider the relationship between the Town Council and the Blandford Mortain Twinning Association.
 - Hockey – Hoping that there may be an opportunity for the sports pitch designation on the new development is made suitable for playing hockey. Agreed to include on a future agenda.
 - 2 incidents of vandalism at the weekend, at the new building at the football club which resulted in damage to the away team area and a different occurrence at the Milldown.

TC5.2 Apologies

- a. Officer report TC5.2 was received and it was **RESOLVED** (*unanimously*) to

accept apologies for absence from Cllrs Putt and Robinson due to personal reasons.

TC5.3 Declarations of Interest

- a. Officer report TC5.3 was received, all councillors were reminded of their duty to declare any interests in the business to be transacted and it was **NOTED** Cllr Stevens declared a registerable interest in item 5.7, Bere's Yard as a trustee of the current owners. He would withdraw from the meeting and remain as a member of the public.

TC5.4 Minutes

- a. Officer report 5.4 was received and it was **RESOLVED** (*10 in favour, 2 abstentions*) that

the minutes of Wednesday, 01 July 2026 be approved for signing as a true record of the decisions taken. The minutes were signed at this point.

TC5.5 Officer Report to the Council

- a. Officer report TC5.5 was received and **NOTED**.
- b. Dorset Councillors Quayle and Lacey-Clarke reported on matters including the Dog PSPO consultation, the Local Plan, waste services and highways. The report was noted.

Initial:

TC5.6 Annual Return

- a. Officer report TC5.6 was received and it was **RESOLVED** (*unanimously*) to

Receive and note the conclusion of the audit and adopt the External Auditor's Report.

TC5.7 Bere's Yard

- a. Officer report TC5.7 was received and it was **RESOLVED** (*unanimously*) to

appoint an additional councillor representative to the museum and report back to Council on relevant matters but not to be involved in matters relating to Bere's Yard. Cllr Noc Lacey-Clarke was appointed as the additional representative.

TC5.8 Disposal of Sharps

- a. Officer report TC5.8 was received and it was **RESOLVED** (*unanimously*) that

Cllr Chapman investigates a means of disposal of medical sharps in the town.

ACTION: CLLR CHAMPMAN

TC5.9 White Ribbon – Ending Violence Against Women & Girls

- a. Officer report TC5.9 was received and it was **RESOLVED** (*unanimously*) that

that Blandford Forum Town Council works towards White Ribbon Accreditation and appoints Michelle Spruce as the White Ribbon Champion, to develop, implement and report on an associated plan. The White Ribbon Champion, Chairman of Council and Town Clerk to create a working group of 3 – 5 members with a balance of genders and explore group training offering. (Financial provision - £345 per annum accreditation fee and training requirements to be taken from councillor training budget.)

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

TC5.10 Planning Applications

- a. Officer report TC5.10 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/ADV/2026/04700 P/LBC/2026/04708 LBC/2026/04707 21 Market Place Blandford Forum DT11 7AF	Display non illuminated 2 No. fascia signs and 1 No. hanging sign. Internal and External Alterations of Air Convenor units	AGREED (<i>unanimously</i>) that the Town Council has no objections.
P/LBC/2026/04659 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	AGREED (<i>unanimously</i>) that the Town Council has no objections

Initial:

P/HOU/2026/04915 32 Philip Road Blandford Forum DT11 7NR	Demolish existing conservatory and erect replacement conservatory.	AGREED (<i>unanimously</i>) that the Town Council has no objections
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ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK

TC5.11 Use of Community Room

- a. Officer report TC5.11 was received and it was **RESOLVED** (*unanimously*) to

approve the hire of the Community Room at a charge of £19 per morning, subject to room availability and the Council's usual booking conditions.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

TC5.12 Grant and Free Hire

- a. Officer report TC5.12 was received and it was **RESOLVED** (*unanimously*) to

approve 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 (Financial provision - £1,000)

ACTION: BOOKINGS RECEPTIONIST

TC5.13 Blandford+

- a. Officer report TC5.13 was received and it was **RESOLVED** (*unanimously*) to

approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the next 2 years for signature.

- b. It was **REQUESTED** that before commencing the next Neighbourhood Plan, neighbouring villages be invited to join the Blandford+

ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK

TC5.14 Council Representative Badge

- a. Officer report TC5.14 was received, Cllr Holmes declared an interest as a trustee of the Fashion Museum and it was **RESOLVED** (*9 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention*)

not to proceed with the badge, but to work with the Fashion Museum to design a Council scarf and tie and bring design options back to Council for decision including proposal that profits raised from sale will support the Fashion Museum

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Initial:

TC5.15 Dorset History Centre

- a. Officer report TC5.15 was received and it was **PROPOSED** to provide £1,000 in support of the Dorset History Centre (*5 in favour, 7 against, the motion fell*). it was **RESOLVED** (*7 in favour, 4 against, 1 abstention*)

not to support the museum at this time and revisit in the future.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

TC5.16 Stour Valley Band

- a. Officer report TC5.16 was received and it was **RESOLVED** (*10 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention*)

not to use the rehearsal for the festival of remembrance as an allocated slot as the rehearsal could not be open to the public, for any unused slots to roll over to the following year.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

TC5.17 Councillor Vacancy

- a. Officer report TC5.17 was received and it was **RESOLVED** (*unanimously*)

to hold vacancies until the new councillor is in post and in the meantime if community organisations had meetings, any councillor may attend in a temporary capacity.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9:27pm

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

Signed: _____ Date: _____