

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town & General Purposes Committee
Held on Monday 26 April 2010

DRAFT
Subject to confirmation

PRESENT

Cllr I Rose – Chairman
Cllr L Lindsay (Chairman of Council)
Cllr E Butler
Cllr A Pemberton

Cllr J Stayt – Vice Chairman
Cllr H Galpin (Vice Chairman of Council)
Cllr R Holmes
Cllr RVJ Brannigan

IN ATTENDANCE

Assistant Town Clerk

PC S Evans

YOUTH ADVISORS

Ryan Young

Felix Morris-Duffin

60. PUBLIC SESSION

Cllr Galpin raised the Annual Town Assembly and the fact that the members of the public present were not directly invited to ask questions.

Cllr Holmes raised the cleanliness of the town and the amount of cigarette butts, particularly on Salisbury Road.

61. APOLOGIES

Cllr P Randall

62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors were reminded of their obligations to declare orally their interests as per the Parish Councils Model Code of Conduct Order 2007 Number 1159.

63. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 22 February 2010

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Stayt, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED unanimously that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

64. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

64.1 Notice Board – The Holland Way notice board glass that was vandalised has been replaced with polycarbonate. Although this material can be scratched easier than glass it would take a great deal of force to smash it.

64.2 Town leaflet – The leaflet has been sent to the printer for the final proof and will be distributed throughout the town once it is printed.

64. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE (CONT)**

64.3 Parish Maintenance Unit Update – DCC has written to advise that changes are taking place to the system that has been in place since 2003. At present there are four two man PMU gangs who have been visiting six blocks of parishes twice a year for one month each visit. From 1 April 2010 there will be six one man PMU gangs which will enable DCC to increase the frequency of the visits to three of one month per visit.

64.4 Alexandra Street – Minor amendments have been made to the review of waiting restrictions proposed by DCC in February 2010 following comments from Cllr Cooper, who felt that Alexandra Street could not accommodate parking on both sides as it is very narrow.

65. **GENERAL UPDATE BY PC S EVANS**

PC Evans tabled the latest crime statistics (see Appendix A).

PC Evans advised that the latest PACT issues are anti-social behaviour outside The Kings Arms between 11pm and 2am, speeding vehicles between 10pm and 11pm on White Cliff Mill Street and vehicles being driven by people using mobile phones.

PC Evans informed Members that the Police are currently dealing with an issue raised by residents regarding rowdiness outside the launderette on East Street.

66. **REVIEW OF TOWN & GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGETS TO 31 MARCH 2010**

66.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

66.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

66.3 Reserve Accounts

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

67. **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

67.1 To install a new electricity supply for the Christmas tree

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Stayt and AGREED unanimously that

Officers proceed with obtaining the appropriate permissions and quotations in order to create an underground electrical connection from The Shambles to the Christmas tree.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

67.2 To consider the introduction of illustrated boarding around the Christmas tree

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Holmes, SECONDED by Cllr Butler and AGREED unanimously that

67. **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS (cont)**

The primary schools are approached to ascertain if they would like to include the competition in their school hours or if it should be run as an external competition. Officers will look into the costs involved and bring back details to the next Committee meeting.

Members asked that the barrels surrounding the Christmas tree are painting green instead of white.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

67.3 To consider the purchase of additional LED lights for the Christmas tree

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Butler, SECONDED by Cllr Lindsay and AGREED unanimously that

The Committee gives expenditure approval for the purchase of 10 x 5m white LED lights for the Christmas tree using funds of £341.32 from the Christmas Lights Earmarked Reserves budget (Expenditure Authority: Local Government Act 1972 s111).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

67.4 To consider the purchase of lights and electricity supply for the tree in the Marsh & Ham car park

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Brannigan, SECONDED by Cllr Pemberton and AGREED unanimously that

The Committee approaches the supermarket and suggests the idea of lighting up the tree to them. Officers will also investigate the possibility and costs of creating an underground electrical connection from the toilet block to the tree.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

67.5 To consider making a suggestion to The Crown Hotel to add a Christmas tree to their porch in West Street

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Stayt, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED unanimously that

The Committee writes to The Crown Hotel with the suggestion.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

6.8 Christmas Card

Cllr Butler asked if the Committee would give their support for a competition to design the Mayor's Christmas card. The Youth Advisors thought that it could be raised in a school assembly.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Butler, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED unanimously that

The Committee supports the idea of a Christmas card competition and gives expenditure approval of £40 for the first prize and £20 for a winner in each key stage using total funds of £100 from the Christmas Lights Earmarked Reserves budget (Expenditure Authority: Local Government Act 1972 s111).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

68. **GRIT BINS UPDATE**

The Assistant Town Clerk gave Members a presentation on the outcome of the site meeting with DCC and a general update on grit bins.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Brannigan and AGREED unanimously that

The ten grit bins being purchased will be located at the following sites and the remainder will be stored:

1. Woodhouse Gardens
2. Eastleaze Road
3. Badbury Drive
4. Angus Close
5. Wilson Park
6. Westbury Way
7. Queen's Road

The Assistant Town Clerk will approach DCC for one further location at the bottom of Kings Road/St Leonards Avenue which, if approved by DCC, will become No. 8 on the above list.

Members suggested that the information letters to be sent to all residents in the surrounding area of a grit bin once they are installed will be hand delivered by the ward members.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

69. **CCTV UPDATE REPORT**

The Assistant Town Clerk gave Members a detailed update on the progress being made with the request from the Police to provide improved coverage of the Town by installing an additional camera at the junction of Damory Street, East Street and Wimborne Road and opposite The Kings Arms on Salisbury Street.

The Town Council has just over £20,000 in the CCTV budget for new equipment. The quotation to provide and install CCTV equipment for both locations comes in at £17,454. This does not include the connection to a 230 volt mains supply.

A meeting has been held with a Conservation Officer from NDDC to discuss what may or may not be approved by NDDC in this instance and the Assistant Town Clerk will now explore the possible avenues discussed at the site meeting.

70. **TO AUTHORISE RETROSPECTIVE EXPENDITURE APPROVAL FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE GUESTS FROM THE BLANDFORD & PREETZ FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY FOR THE MAYOR MAKING CEREMONY AND LUNCH**

Cllr Brannigan declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a member of the society and left the room during discussion and voting.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Holmes, SECONDED by Cllr Butler and AGREED unanimously (7 in favour, 1 non-vote) that a **RECOMMENDATION** is made to Town Council that

70. TO AUTHORISE RETROSPECTIVE EXPENDITURE APPROVAL FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE GUESTS FROM THE BLANDFORD & PREETZ FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY FOR THE MAYOR MAKING CEREMONY AND LUNCH (cont)

Retrospective expenditure approval is given for five additional guests to attend the Mayor Making ceremony and lunch using funds from the Town Council's Civic Twinning budget (Expenditure Authority: Local Government Act 1972, s.144).

It was noted that Mr & Mrs Warrington were included in the original list of twelve although they would be invited to the lunch as he is a Freeman of the town hence the expenditure is only for required for three people.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

71. TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY TO REPLACE THE WOODEN TOWN MAP(S)

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Stayt and AGREED unanimously that

The Committee purchases three aluminium boards with headers using funds of £3,776.09 from the Earmarked Reserves Town Maps and Boards budget (Expenditure Authority: Local Government Act 1972 s111).

It is suggested that the rolling replacement programme is started again when budget setting occurs later this year.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

72. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE CIVIC SOCIETY FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL TO PURCHASE BLUE PLAQUES

The Assistant Town Clerk read out a letter from the Civic Society stating that they do not feel that a Blue Plaque to commemorate Frederick Abberline is appropriate as there is not sufficient documentary evidence to suggest that he was born or lived in East Street and he did not solve the case of Jack the Ripper.

The Committee therefore agreed not to pursue this matter as it does not have the support of the Civic Society.

73. TO RECEIVE A REPORT REGARDING THE £650 DONATED TO THE CHAMBER OF TRADE FOR THE PURPOSES OF A TOWN GUIDE

Cllr Holmes left the meeting at 8.24pm.

Cllr Pemberton declared a personal and prejudicial interest and left the room during discussion and voting. Before leaving the room he expressed that he was disappointed that the Chamber had used the funds for something other than the Town Guide.

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Butler and AGREED (4 in favour, 2 against, 1 non-vote) that

73. TO RECEIVE A REPORT REGARDING THE £650 DONATED TO THE CHAMBER OF TRADE FOR THE PURPOSES OF A TOWN GUIDE (cont)

The T&GP Committee does not seek the return of £650 from the Chamber of Trade and funds the distribution of the Town Guide using £650 from the Tourism budget (Expenditure Authority: Local Government Act 1972, s.144).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

SIGNED: **DATED:**