

# BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Town Council Meeting Held on Monday 14 February 2011

### PRESENT

Cllr E Butler – Chairman  
Cllr H Galpin  
Cllr S Hitchings  
Cllr RVJ Brannigan  
Cllr S Hixson Andrews  
Cllr L Lindsay  
Cllr F West

Cllr S Loch  
Cllr J Stayt  
Cllr A Pemberton  
Cllr H Lawson  
Cllr H White  
Cllr I Rose  
Cllr T Harrocks (late arrival – 7.05pm)

### IN ATTENDANCE

County Cllr B Cooper  
District Cllr J Tanner

District Cllr N Hickish  
District Cllr J Hickish

Town Clerk

Assistant Town Clerk

### YOUTH ADVISORS

Felix Morris-Duffin

### 142. PUBLIC SESSION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

### 143. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

143.1 Grit Bins – Cllr Cooper advised that the correspondence offering more grit to town/parish councils for pavements and grit bins was offered in addition to DCC keeping the grit bins topped up.

143.2 Police – £6.5million in savings have been identified, which will include a reduction of approximately 100 police officers and 140 back staff and a complete restructure will take place.

Cllr Tanner highlighted the move of the Transport Police to Ferndown, which could be a disadvantage to the town and the surrounding rural areas.

7.05pm – Cllr Harrocks arrived.

143.3 Road Condition – DCC has now completed the resurfacing works to the area outside WHSmith in the Market Place, which has made a huge improvement to both the road surface and the pedestrian crossing area.

Cllr Hixson Andrews asked Cllr Cooper for an update on the outcome of the recent Dorset Transport Survey.

**ACTION: CLLR COOPER**

## **144. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

### **144.1 District Cllr J Tanner**

144.1.1 NDDC's Budget – NDDC will be holding a full council meeting on Thursday 24 February 2011 to discuss its budget.

144.1.2 Housing Allocation – Cllr Tanner reported on the 40% increase in the amount of social housing on the Persimmon Housing estate.

144.1.3 Concessionary Travel – Cllr Tanner has advised that bus passes will once again be valid on Blandford and connecting services prior to 9.30am.

144.1.4 Planning Advice – A report is going to Cabinet to consider charging for pre-application advice on developments.

### **144.2 District Cllr N Hickish**

Nothing to report.

### **144.3 District Cllr B Cooper**

Nothing to report.

### **144.4 District Cllr S Hitchings**

Nothing to report.

### **144.5 District Cllr J Hickish**

144.5.1 Parking Review Meeting – Cllr Hickish informed Members that NDDC is keen for everyone involved to think about how parking can be promoted.

144.5.2 Telephone Service – Cllr Hickish advised that he is aware that there are some complaints regarding answer machines used by some staff at NDDC and asked Councillors to inform him of any incidents.

As a result of the car parking review meeting with District Cllr Croney, Cllr White asked all district councillors what additional services the towns receive in lieu of the free parking enjoyed by the surrounding villages as this had been suggested by NDDC at the meeting.

It was agreed that Cllr Rose would act as Vice Chairman in Cllr Holmes's absence.

## **145. APOLOGIES**

Cllr R J Holmes – Vice Chairman

Cllr M Owen

## **146. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

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

## **147. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 JANUARY 2011**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Hixson Andrews, SECONDED by Cllr Lawson and AGREED unanimously that the Minutes are APPROVED and SIGNED.

## **148. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE**

- 148.1 Parish Council Contributions – In November / December of last year, the Assistant Town Clerk wrote to the surrounding parish councils to ask if they would be willing to contribute to the cost of running public conveniences in the town. Responses have been received from Durweston, who are contributing £153.00 this year, Spetisbury £253.00, and Stourpaine £200.00. Their contributions have been acknowledged.
- 148.2 Grants – The Town Council has recently made payments for grants to the following organisations:- £1,500 to the Allotment society for new fencing around the Elizabeth Road site, which is now complete and looks impressive; £2,000 to Citizens Advice Bureau after receiving their annual report as per their Service Level Agreement; and £1,000 each to Blandford Museum and Treads after receiving quarterly reports from both organisations.
- 148.3 Library Closures – Petition – A petition that had been received by DCC in respect of library closures has been circulated to Members. DCC is considering how to respond to the petition and will be meeting on 17 February 2011 in full Council to hear representatives speak on behalf of the petitioners.
- 148.4 Medium Term Financial Strategy – DCC has sent the Town Council an update on its financial strategy for 2011/12, which has also been circulated to Members, and there are contact details if anyone wishes to comment or ask questions (Andy Ray, who can be contacted by telephone: 01305 224113 or email: [a.r.ray@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:a.r.ray@dorsetcc.gov.uk)).
- 148.5 Winter Self Help – Alan Muncaster, DCC's Asset Management Engineer for DCC, has written asking for a meeting to discuss joint working in terms of clearing snow and ice, and spreading grit. The Town Council has made its position clear about what it is able to do in respect of this but the Town Clerk will arrange a meeting to discuss the matter further.
- 148.6 Historic Towns Project – DCC recently carried out a number of studies on historic towns in the county. Blandford Forum was one town studied and we have received a copy of their draft report if Councillors would like to read it. Further information can also be found on the dorsetforyou web site.
- 148.7 Youth Advisor – One of the Town Council's Youth Advisors, Ryan Brown, has advised that he wishes to resign from the role with immediate effect. This is due to studying for his GCSE's and commitments to other school activities. Members wished Ryan well for the future and were advised that a letter has been sent thanking him for giving up his time and for his contribution to the Town Council meetings.
- 148.8 New Vehicle – The Town Council has now taken delivery of a “new” Ford Transit panel van on Friday 4 February 2011 as per the resolution made at Town Council on 13 September 2010 (Minute No. 70). The van is due to have the Town Council's name and logo applied in due course. It is parked overnight in the secure area at Nordon to which we have a key for access, and our thanks have been expressed to NDDC for allowing us to do so.
- 148.9 Car Parking Review Meeting – The Town Council voiced their objections to Sunday and overnight charging, and the introduction of charges at the Tabernacle and Station Court, at the meeting held with NDDC last week.

**149. CIVIC REPORT**

The paper was tabled (see Appendix A).

**150. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

150.1 Town & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 24 January 2011

The Minutes were RECEIVED.

**151. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

151.1 2/2011/0035 – 21 Jan 11 – D & A Ltd – 26 Salisbury Street – Divide existing unit into 2 units, infill side windows and install new shop fronts

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Stayt and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 against) that

**The Town Council has no objections to the application subject to the retention of the windows on the side of the building (within Church Lane car park).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**152. TO RECEIVE THE STRATEGIC PLAN QUARTERLY UPDATE**

The paper was noted (see Appendix B) and Members asked that Project No. EX0507 is updated as progress has been made on the management of the leisure centre.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**153. TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE APPROVAL TO PURCHASE TWO FRAMED PRINTS OF LOCATIONS IN BLANDFORD FORUM FOR THE TWIN TOWNS, MORTAIN AND PREETZ, AND AN ADDITIONAL SILVER GIFT FOR 25 YEARS TWINNING WITH MORTAIN**

Cllr Hitchings and Cllr Brannigan declared a personal interest as members of the Twinning Associations.

Members were advised that there will be a visit to Mortain in June 2011 and to Preetz in September 2011.

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

**The Town Council authorises expenditure of up to £200 for the purchase of a framed print of various monuments and buildings in the town for both Mortain and Preetz, with the addition of an engraved silver plate in a presentation box to commemorate 25 years of twinning with Mortain (Expenditure Authority: Local Government Act 1972, s. 144).**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**154. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR EXPENDITURE APPROVAL AND CIVIC EVENTS FOR THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2012**

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr West and AGREED unanimously that the Town Council

- 1. Supports the Town commemorating the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in 2012.**
- 2. Vires £5,000 from its 2010/11 Grants Budget to a Reserves Account entitled 'The Diamond Jubilee Celebrations'.**
- 3. Invites the Royal Corps of Signals to exercise their right to march through the town on Sunday 24 June 2012 (Armed Forces Day) to celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of the Freedom of the Town.**
- 4. Enters into discussions with Churches Together for a joint Jubilee Civic service.**
- 5. Asks the Town & General Purposes Committee to arrange the planting scheme for 2012 to be in red, white and blue.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**155. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (RBL) TO ACCEPT THE OFFER OF THE ARMED FORCES DAY FLAG AND TO FLY IT OUTSIDE THE CORN EXCHANGE ON SATURDAY 25 JUNE 2011 ALONGSIDE THE BLANDFORD BRANCH RBL FLAG**

The paper was noted (see Appendix D) and Cllr Brannigan declared a personal and prejudicial interest as the sender of the letter on behalf of the RBL.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Pemberton, SECONDED by Cllr Hixson Andrews and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 non-vote) that

**The Town Council kindly accepts the offer of the Armed Forces Day flag and agrees to fly the two flags on Armed Forces Day, Saturday 25 June 2011, alongside the Blandford Forum flag.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**156. TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS FROM THE DT11 FORUM COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR THE £2,000 THE TOWN COUNCIL HAS COMMITTED FOR 2011/2012**

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Loch, SECONDED by Cllr Brannigan and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 against) that

**The Town Council agrees to the purchase of a PC and printer by the DT11 Forum from the £2,000 grant approved in December 2010 with the items being located at the DT11 Forum Community Partnership's centre at The Three Choughs, subject to the group occupying these premises.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**157. TO CONSIDER DEVELOPING A TOWN PLAN FOR BLANDFORD FORUM**

The paper was noted (see Appendix F) and Cllr White asked that the additional heading ‘Boundaries’ is added to the list.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Loch, SECONDED by Cllr West and AGREED unanimously that

**The Town Council agrees to develop a Town Plan.**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Loch, SECONDED by Cllr West and AGREED unanimously that

**A Working Group is formed at the next informal meeting to initially compile ideas, and that advice is sought from neighbouring town/parish councils on how to go forward with a Town Plan.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**158. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE MAYOR TO DISPLAY THE TOWN’S SILVER FOR A MAYOR’S CHARITY EVENT**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Hixson Andrews, SECONDED by Cllr Loch and AGREED unanimously that

**The Town Council gives authority to the Mayor to display the Town’s silver for a charity fundraising event.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**159. TO CONSIDER THE OPTION TO TAX ON THE TABERNACLE TOILETS**

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr West and AGREED unanimously that

**The Town Council opts to tax the Tabernacle Public Toilet Building.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**160. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

**160.1 Blandford Museum**

The paper was noted (see Appendix H) and Cllr White asked that a copy of the Railway Modeller February edition is purchased and held in the office.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**160.2 Treads**

The paper was noted (see Appendix I).

**160.3 DT11 Meeting** – Cllr Loch reported on the last meeting held, stating that the theatrical group reported back on the meeting that they had on the Corn Exchange and they would continue to find somewhere else as it transpired that the building would not be of any use to them. The Chairman clarified that this was due to their needs for specific equipment and was not because of the building itself.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

**SIGNED .....** **DATED .....**