

**BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 11 July 2011**



**PRESENT**

Cllr E Butler - Chairman  
Cllr S Hitchings  
Cllr RVJ Brannigan  
Cllr L Lindsay  
Cllr T Harrocks  
Cllr R Carter  
Cllr F West

Cllr H White – acting Vice Chair  
Cllr H Galpin  
Cllr H Mieville  
Cllr Pemberton  
Cllr R Holmes  
Cllr S Hixson Andrews  
Cllr Stayt

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Committee Clerk  
District Cllr J Hickish

District Cllr J E T Tanner  
Nicki Ginn

**YOUTH ADVISORS**

Felix Morris-Duffin  
Nadja Zachary

Lilly Stanley

**48. PUBLIC SESSION**

**48.1 Presentation from DT11 Forum – Community Arts Centre for Blandford**

Scott Norman, Chairman of DT11 Forum informed members that they were looking for a centre for culture and the arts in general within Blandford. He introduced Jon Ivay, a playwright and director, who presented the group's proposal for a centre called "The Fording Point". Jon explained that he had attended meetings about the Council's proposals for regenerating the Corn Exchange, but their view was that the building was not built for arts performances and therefore would never deliver the same experience as a purpose built venue. DT11's preferred site is an old orchard situated next to the town's museum and Victorian garden which is owned by the William Williams Trust. Their proposal is to build a theatre/cinema. DT11 is seeking support from the Town Council for their proposals. They envisage that all trades and professional services required to work on the project can be delivered by local people. Informal meetings have already been held with Planning and Highways and they are happy with the proposal in principle. DT11 will seek funding from a variety of sources including potential private backers, but wanted to present their ideas to the Town Council at this early stage to give the Council time to consider their ability to support the project. DT11 hope to pursue planning permission in September 2011 and develop a steering committee to work on the proposals. It is hoped that the Town Council will support this work and offer a representative to sit on the steering group.

48.2 Cllr Mieville reported that his stepson, John Watts, has nearly finished his walk around the south west coast path, raising money for Julia's House. Details of how to make a donation to this cause will be left in Councillors' pigeon holes, should they wish to make a personal donation.

48.3 Cllr Hixson Andrews reported that several of the new lamp posts have been put in less than a metre from the curb, specifically in the Whitecliff Mill Street area. This prevents someone in a wheelchair passing them

## **PUBLIC SESSION (CONT)**

and they are obliged to go off the pavement, into the road in order to get around the lamp post. Cllr Cooper has been informed and Cllr Hickish will also look into it.

As Cllr Loch is unable to attend the meeting, Cllr Butler asked Cllr White if he would act as Vice Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed the two new Youth Representatives to their first Council meeting.

### **49. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Cooper was unable to attend the meeting and no report has been tabled.

### **50. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

- 50.1 District Cllr E Butler – informed the meeting that she is still chasing up the lighting issue on Damory Down and that she had attended a Policy Review meeting outlining the Localism Bill and the implications it may have on planning.
- 50.2 District Cllr J Hickish – highlighted the various issues raised at the recent PACT meeting and confirmed that the matter is receiving a lot of attention from the District Council.
- 50.3 District Cllr T Harrocks – had received a complaint from a member of the public about HGV's speeding on Salisbury Road at unsociable hours. The police have been informed of the problem and Cllr Harrocks will contact the police to see if any progress has been made to resolve the issue.
- 50.4 District Cllr J Tanner – reported on the following items -
- 50.4.1 Trailway Court – the lights have still not been corrected and an enforcement notice has been issued to Synergy who now have 60 days from 15<sup>th</sup> June to resolve the issue.
- 50.4.2 Solar panels – under the 2008 Regulations, solar panels are almost a permitted development. This may have the potential to lead to various problems within conservation areas.
- 50.4.3 Blandford Surgeries – a review of average surgery waiting times has revealed that in some cases it can take 4 days to get a repeat prescription and 2 weeks to book an appointment with a GP. Cllr Tanner felt that the current situation is unacceptable.
- 50.4.4 Age concern will be holding their AGM in Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm.
- 50.4.5 Town centre enhancements – NDDC had sent out an invitation to some organisations requesting their ideas on town centre enhancements in relation to lighting, signage, etc. so that these ideas could be fed into the District Council's Planning Policy dept. which is currently developing the new planning guidance required by recent changes in planning law. However, Cllr Tanner discovered that not all relevant organisations or indeed the District Councillors had been contacted as part of the process. A second round of invitations to comment was sent out but this meant that organisations such as the Town Council then had no time to meet and agree on what they would like to see for future enhancements. The Council's Project Manager offered to write to NDDC requesting an extension to the deadline to allow Council to comment. The District Councillors present were also asked to discuss with NDDC officers an extension to the deadline

**ACTION: PROJECT MANAGER**

## **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS(CONT)**

50.4.6 Cllr Tanner reported that there was no further progress in relation to the proposed sports pitches north of the bypass.

### **51. APOLOGIES**

District & County Cllr B Cooper  
Cllr Owen  
Cllr Loch

### **52. 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.

### **53. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 JUNE 2011**

Cllr Butler highlighted to members that minute no. 41 should read £2,741.40 not £32,741.40

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Hitchings and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 abstention) that with the above amendment, the Minutes are APPROVED and SIGNED.

### **54. TOWN CLERK'S AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE**

54.1.1 Blandford Yuletide Festival – notification of the road closure on 14<sup>th</sup> December from 4pm- 9.30pm. Cllr Hitchings reported that the Group is likely to be charged £700 for the road closure. Cllr Butler suggested that the council wait until the request is submitted before taking any action to ascertain the true cost. If the resultant charge is this high, then the Town Council will write a letter of complaint.

54.1.2 Blandford Youth Trust – Evaluation Report for Spring Term 2011 – available for viewing at the Town Council Office.

54.1.3 Mrs Carol Sharp – letter of thanks for the honour of being made a Freeman of Blandford

54.1.4 TREADS quarterly report for the period Dec 2010 to March 2011 – available for viewing at the Town Council Office.

54.1.5 St James Palace – a letter of thanks for the card and best wishes from the Duke & Duchess of Kent

54.1.6 School Cups – have now been purchased, Archbishop Wake requested that their cup was named “Excellent Rights Respecting Citizenship” and the Mayor has been asked to present “The Milldown Community Cup” on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

54.1.7 Anti-social behaviour at Stour meadows – a letter has been received from a concerned resident. Cllr Butler has responded in writing, explaining the meaning of the DPPOs and the power of the Police in such situations.

54.1.8 Dorchester Hospitals Appeal for new mammography equipment – Cllr Butler wrote to Friends of Blandford Hospital asking them if they would consider making a donation towards the appeal. They responded by kindly donating £5,000.00. Cllr Butler informed the meeting that the Hospital has already raised 75% of the monies they need for the new machine.

## **TOWN CLERK'S AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE(CONT)**

54.1.9 Cllr Hitchings – invited all councillors to come along to the gym to see where the money has been spent and the improvements made, 10am on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

### **55. CIVIC REPORT**

The paper was tabled (see Appendix A)

55.1.1 Cllr Butler met with NDDC's Joyce Guest on 20<sup>th</sup> June regarding the Town Council's response to the proposed parking amendments within the town. This decision is now going to Cabinet for discussion and vote.

### **56. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

56.1 Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting held on 8 June 2011

56.1.1 Minute No. 8 – REVIEW OF END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS 2010/11

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

**The end of year accounts for the financial year 2010/11 are accepted as a true and accurate record.**

56.1.2 Minute No. 13 – TO CONSIDER GRANT APPLICATIONS

13.1 Blandford Forum First Responders

Cllr Hitching declared a personal interest as his son is a member.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Loch and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 non-vote) that

**A grant of £1,250 is awarded to the Blandford Forum First Responders to assist in the purchase of a defibrillator, the monies to be claimed upon production of invoices within 12 months. (Expenditure Authority: Local Government Act 1972 s137)**

**ACTION: CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL**

13.2 Broadsheet Stories

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Pemberton, SECONDED by Cllr White and AGREED (12 in favour, 2 against) that

**The Town Council does not support the grant application from Broadsheet Stories.**

**ACTION: CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL**

13.4 Blandford Amateur Dramatics

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr White and AGREED (11 in favour, 3 against) that

**The Town Council does not support the grant application from Blandford Amateur Dramatics**

**ACTION: CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL**

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES (CONT)

### 56.1.3 Review of Finance & Staffing remit

9.2.4 should include “/or termination of contract”

Cllr West expressed concerns over the Chairman of Council line managing the town clerk (8.5). Muddying the relationship between the operational development and the policy management.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Loch, SECONDED by Cllr Lindsay and AGREED (10 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention) that

**With the proposed alterations, the remit is accepted**

**ACTION: CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL**

The minutes were received.

### 56.2 Town & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 20 June 2011

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

**The remit is accepted with the one amendment that item 7.4 should include “Blandford Yuletide Festival”.**

**ACTION: CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL**

The minutes were received.

Note 8.15 pm Lilly Stanley and Nadja Zachary left the meeting.

### 56.3 Town Council Planning Committee Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Owen and AGREED (13 in favour, 1 abstention) that

**The Planning Remit is accepted following the amendments below:**

**Town Council Planning.**

**5. – Add “and tree”**

**6.1.3 – Remove paragraph**

**6.1.6 – Remove “or a member of the Management Team” and any reference to the Management Team**

**7. – Remove words “e.g. Justices Licence applications or transfers”.**

**Remit and Responsibilities of the Planning Chairman**

**2.2. – Remove “either by himself or the Management Team jointly.”**

**3. – Remove paragraph**

**ACTION: CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL**

**57. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM TREADS**

Cllr Carter & Cllr Hixson Andrews stated personal but non prejudicial interests. Cllr Butler declared a personal interest as TREADS is the Mayor's declared charity.

Cllr Carter left the room

It was PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Stayt and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 abstention, 1 non-vote) that

**The Town Council supports the request and that the Chairman of Council and Chairman of Finance and Staffing are given delegated authority to authorise payments up to the sum of £5,000 as and when required by TREADS from the Grants budget (Expenditure Authority: Local Government Act 1972 s137)**

**ACTION: CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL**

**58. TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DAPTC DUE TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2011**

There was nothing to submit.

**59. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO FORM A "FRIENDSHIP" WITH TORORO, UGANDA**

Cllr Hixson Andrews declared a personal interest due to connections with the museum.

Felix Morris-Duffin reported that the school already has links in Africa and are currently fund raising. He will pass the details regarding Tororo to the teacher involved with this.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED (9 in favour, 4 against, 1 abstention) that

**The Town Council enters into a cultural Friendship with Tororo, Uganda by way of letters, information and memorabilia subject to consideration of Foreign Office guidelines and any necessary checks**

**ACTION: CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL**

**60. TO RECEIVE THE QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN**

The report was noted.

**61. 2/2011/0620 – 07 JUNE 11 – MR & MRS BOULTON – THE OLD COACH HOUSE, PARK ROAD – ERECT FIRST FLOOR EXTENSION AND REPLACE WINDOW ON NORTH ELEVATION (REPLACE DOORS AND WINDOWS WITH PVCU).**

It was reported that NDDC had overlooked that the Town Council had been given an extension and had already determined this application. It has been refused due to the increase in massing, bulkiness and loss of legibility of the buildings original function which would fail to preserve the historic character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

62. **NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO CARRY OUT WORKS TO TREES (REPORT FROM TREE OFFICER)**

62.1 1 The Villa, Red Lion Yard  
Leylandii – Fell  
Douglas Fir – Fell

62.2 Kinsale House, The Close  
Cherry – Fell  
Sycamore – Crown clean and crown lift to approx half height of tree

A report was given by Cllr White on behalf of Cllr Owen; Cllr Owen had no objections to the above tree works therefore:

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

**The Town Council supports the Tree Officer's recommendations.**

**ACTION: CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL**

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

63.1 Cllr Pemberton commented that the Blandford Information Centre had taken on Geoff Barnett to the board of trustees and that an update report had been tabled for members' information.

63.2.1 Cllr Hixson Andrews reported that the Blandford Opportunity Group had received a bequest of £20,000 to support their work.

64. **PACT UPDATE**

Over 50 people attended the meeting and the anti social behaviour was the key issue. The Police are aware of the problem and had made many arrests in recent weeks. Other issues raised were speeding and parking and anti-social behaviour resulting from the presence of the fair in the Crown Meadows. The PACT panel will work together to try to resolve these issues and will report back to members of the public on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October in the Corn Exchange at 7.45pm.

Note 8.50pm Felix Morris-Duffin left

65. **CONFIDENTIAL**

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

**The public and press may be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity might be prejudicial to the public interest as per the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960.**

65.1 To consider a nomination for the Freedom of the Town of Blandford Forum

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED (12 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention) that

**The nomination is taken forward to the second round but a broader spectrum of information is sought**

**ACTION: CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL**

**CONFIDENTIAL (CONT)**

65.2 Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave an update on the recruitment of a Temporary Town Clerk, a concern from a member of staff and the forthcoming hospitalisation of a member of staff.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

**SIGNED** .....

**DATED** .....