

 Blandford St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Parish Council which will take place at The Brewery Hall in Hall & Woodhouse Visitor Centre, Bournemouth Road, Blandford St Mary

on Wednesday the 5th of February 2025 at 7pm

Present: *Cllr* M Albery – Chairman, Cllr J Dallison – Vice Chairman, Cllr T Coats, and Cllr M Dallison and Cllr I Mackay

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk). There were 6 members of the public present and Dorset Councillor Barrie Cooper

**Public Consultation- the following matters were raised:**

Nigel Suckling gave details on a project that the members of the Church are putting forward, that will require outside funding through grants and donations. The Councillors acknowledged what is being proposed, to enhance the church to enable it to be used not just for religious purposes, but for for the wider community for coffee mornings, meetings, Yoga etc. The Parish Council will be discussing grant in March, where this application will be considered.

A member of the public reported a large pothole along West Street. The Clerk will report this to Dorset Council.

A member of the public asked for the Police and Dorset Council to look at the poor parking situation around the estates in the village, as people are still parking to close to the junctions. It was also noted that the hedges along Dorchester Hill are still very overgrown and need cutting back. The Clerk will remind Dorset Council that these works have not been done. Action - Clerk

73/24. To receive and accept apologies of absence, Declaration of interest and Dispensations.

There were no apologies. There were no declarations of interest or dispensations.

**74/24. Co-option for new Councillor**

Nicki Russell came forward to be co-opted on as a Councillor for Blandford St Mary Parish Council. Nicki Russell gave a brief report on her history living in the village and her work background. Cllr M Albery proposed that Nicki Russell is co-opted on as a Councillor for Blandford St Mary Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr I Mackay, all in favour. Nicki Russell was asked to join the meeting.

 **RESOLVED:** to co-opt Nicki Russell on as Councillor for Blandford St Mary Parish Council (74/24 New Councillor)

The Clerk will update the notice on the website inviting other to join the Parish Council.

75/24. Approve minutes of the meeting held on the 5th of February 2025

The Minutes of meeting held on the 4th of December 2024 were proposed by Cllr I Mackay and seconded by Cllr M Dallison, that they are an accurate and true record of the meeting, all that read the minutes were in favour. The Chairman duly signed them.

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes dated the 4th of December 2024 (no budgetary allocation required)

**Items agreed to be discussed from the last meeting and matters arising:**

Update – Village Hall – Cllr I Mackay reported that the working group had met with the Architect Technician and have agreed a design plan to be submitted as an amendment to Dorset Council. The amended plan has been designed to a budget that the Parish Council can work to. Once the planning is approved and details drawings are produced, this will go out to tender. Funds that are not already available will be made up from a loan, which can be paid back using Community Benefit funds and donations/grants, not from the precept.

Update - Road Safety – A petition has been produced, which will be out for the residents of the village to sign, if they agree that there should some kind of crossing opposite Hall and Woodhouse brewery. The Clerk will contact the resident that raised this matter to see how the petition is going.

Other matters arising from Councillors:

Cllr T Coats reported – The Allotment Association are working on a project that can be put forward to Bryanston Parish Council and Dorset Council 106 funding to apply for the funds that have been allocated to them from the new development at Bryanston.

The Stour Meadows sign has still not been repaired. It was reported that the Parish Councils handyman has now got a full-time position in the Fire Service. Cllr Mackay will speak to a local man that maybe interested in helping the Parish Council will small maintenance issues. Cllr Mackay will ask the local man to have a look at the sign and send in a quote to repair it. Action – Cllr Mackay

Cllr I Mackay reported – at the previous meeting, Cllr Mackay reported on fallen trees at Lower Blanford St Mary. Cll Mackay expressed concern over some of the remaining large trees, which do not look in good health. The Clerk will report this to the tree officers so they can go out and have a look, and if they have any concerns, they can report them to the landowner of where the trees are situated. Action - Clerk

76/24. Planning

P/TRC/2025/00244 - 10 Blandford St Mary – tree works – duly noted

P/OUT/2024/01708 – Land North of Wards Drove – the Parish Council stood by their objections to the appeal application

77/24. Finance

The Clerk circulated the payment schedule and bank reconciliation for December 2024 for the sum of £2104.62 and January 2025 for the sum of £2133.32. Cllr Mackay proposed that the invoices on the payment schedule be paid, Cllr M Dallison seconded and all members in favour and the payment schedule was duly signed by the Chairman.



RESOLVED: To pay the invoices listed for December and January as above (77/24–C/A)

The bank reconciliation was tabled and agreed.

78/24. Received report from Dorset Councillor B Cooper

Cllr B Cooper asked the Clerk to contact Homes England again, to ask for a bigger bin be put next to the small play area on the new small development on the Hall & Woodhouse site, as the small bin still does not get emptied regularly enough and is always overflowing with dog waste bags ect. The Clerk will request this.

Updated that Dorset Council Rangers have agreed to put a more permanent surface for the path between the blue and black bridge at Stour Park. This will not be done until the spring the earliest.

The construction for the new recycling centre is causing a lot of traffic issues. Cllr Cooper will be speaking to Dorset Council to see if there is anything that can be done to help with the traffic flow.

Dorset Council have been working on their proposed budget for 2025-2026. At the moment the proposal is to increase the Council Tax by 5% in total, which 2% is for Adult and Children care. This has not been officially agreed, once it is the Clerk will provide more details of the approved budget.

79/24. Chairmans’ report

Welcomed Nicki Russell to the Parish Council.

80/24. Clerk Report and other matters.

Cllr J Dallison, as Vice Chairman to the Parish Council had the honour of opening the new Range store in the Village.

81/24. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting – Co-option – Village Hall - Grants

Signed…………………………………………………………………………………………

Website address http://www.blandfordstmary-pc.org.uk

Should you wish to contact any Councillor please only use this address.Clerk@blandfordstmary-pc.gov.uk

Date of next meeting The Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th of March 2025

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.50