**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 2nd of April 2025 at 7pm**

**Present:** Cllr M Albery – Chairman, Cllr J Dallison – Vice Chairman, Cllr I Mackay, Cllr M Dallison and Cllr N Russell

**In attendance:** Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk). There were 5 members of the public present.

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

A member of the public asked for the Clerk to ensure that bullet points from the minutes are forwarded to the Three Village magazine and that they are on all noticeboards and on the Parish Councils website. The Clerk confirmed that the agendas and minutes are put on the Parish Councils website before and after the meetings but will double check that there is not an issue with the website. The Clerk will also try and get the bullet points to the Three Village magazine before their cut off time.

The noticeboards around the Parish will be updated, as not all are used to display the agenda or minutes.

**91/24. To receive and accept apologies of absence, Declaration of interest and Dispensations.**

Cllr T Coats and DC Cllr Barrie Cooper sent their apologies.  There were no declarations of interest or dispensations.

**92/24. Co-option for new Councillor**

There were none.

**93/24. Approve minutes of the meeting held on the 5th of March 2025**

The Minutes of meeting held on the 5th of March 2025 were proposed by Cllr J Dallison and seconded by Cllr N Russell, 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 5th of March 2025 (no budgetary allocation required)

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

**Update – Village Hall –** The plans have now been amended and are with Dorset Council for approval. The Architect Technician is now working on producing building regulations plans and structural engineer drawings, to be approved by the Parish Council before going out to tender.

**Update on overgrown hedges along Dorchester Hill-** the acting Highways Officer from Dorset Council has looked at the area and the hedges in question are privately owned. Dorset Council will speak or write to the owners to instruct them to get the hedges cut back.

**Update on rubbish bins around the Parish –** the Clerk has asked to meet with the Manager of Dorset Waste Partnership to go around the Parish looking at broken bins and bins that are too small that need replacing. A date is yet to be agreed.

**Other matters arising from Councillors:**

**Cllr M Dallison reported –**that the repairs to the small multi-unit in the Play Area has not been done, and there are other areas that need to be looked at, where wood is rotting away. The Clerk will chase Ministry of Play as they have been instructed to do the necessary repairs. **Action – Clerk**

**Cllr I Mackay reported –** the contractor will be doing the necessary repairs to the new sign at Stour Meadows in the very near future. Cllr I Mackay will forward the contractors details on to the Clerk for her to try and arrange for white lines to be put in front of the goal post in the recreation ground.

**94/24. Planning**

P/HOU/2025/01720 – 10 Turnpike Lane – erect single storey extension – No objection

The Chairman confirmed that the proposed planning application P/OUT/2024/01708 – Land North of Wards Drove, is going to appeal and the Chairman and Cllr I Mackay will be in attendance. Cllr I Mackay confirmed that the members of Blandford + had also objected to this application.

**95/24. Finance**

**To consider donation for Blandford St Mary School for laptops and Blandford St Mary fund day –** after debate the following was proposed by Cllr M Albery and seconded by Cllr I Makay, all in favour.

* To donate from the Community Benefit Funding (these are funds that the Parish Council received from the Solar Panel Farm, not public funds) £1000.00 to Blandford St Mary School for the sole use towards purchasing laptops for the pupils.
* To donate from grants/donations £600.00 towards the Fun Day for the Parish.

**RESOLVED:** to agree the above donations for 2025-2026.

**Payments for March 2025, the Bank Reconciliation and end of year figure-** The Clerk circulated the payment schedule and bank reconciliation for March 2025 for the sum of £5282.54. Cllr M Albery proposed that the invoices on the payment schedule be paid, Cllr J Dallison seconded and all members in favour and the payment schedule was duly signed by the Chairman.



**RESOLVED:** To pay the invoices listed for March 2025 as above (95/24–C/A)

The bank reconciliation was tabled and agreed.

**96/24. Received report from Dorset Councillor B Cooper**

There was no report given.

**97/24. Chairmans’ report**

Nothing to report

**98/24. Clerk Report and other matters.**

An email had been recently received from the Church Warden regarding the decision the Parish Council gave to their proposal for a grant as explained in the minutes dated the 5th of March 2025. This matter will be added as an agenda item for the AGM in May.

It was also suggested that a member of the Church committee could join the Parish Council or attend the Parish Council meetings with updates from Church wardens.

**99/24. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting – Co-option – Village Hall – Community Engagement project at St Mary’s Church - AGM**

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 7th of May 2025, there being no further business the meeting closed at 19.45