**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 4th of June 2025 at 7pm**

**Present:** Cllr M Albery – Chairman, Cllr J Dallison – Vice Chairman, Cllr I Mackay, Cllr M Dallison, Cllr Coats 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 request on the update on the delivery of the memorial bench. The Clerk confirmed the bench has been ordered and they will be contact direct with the recipient to arrange the delivery.

A member of the public reported the following matters:

There has been comments aired on the local Facebook page regarding the approval of the planning application at Wards Drove, where the Parish Council have been criticised. It has been responded too, giving information on Councillors, who volunteer their time on the Parish Council and also confirming that the Parish Council are only consultees on any Planning Application, and on this application, the Parish Council objected to it and supported the comments that was also sent from the Blandford + team. Dorset Council Planning team have the authority to approve or object planning applications and if an application is objected and the applicate appeals, this process can go as high as the secretary of state, where they make the final decision.

The hedges along Dorchester Hill have not all been cut back. Dorset Councillor Cooper has offered to meet with a Councillor from the Parish Council on site, so that he has a better understanding of the issues raised and will arrange a site visit with the relevant officers at Dorset Council. It was noted that the hedge owned by Persimmon has not been cut and a resident of the estate will send the Clerk contact details of the management team, so that she can also complain directly to them.

**14/25. To receive and accept apologies of absence, Declaration of interest and Dispensations.**

There were none.

**15/25. Co-option for new Councillor**

There were none.

**16/25. Approve minutes of the meeting held on the 7th of May 2025**

The Minutes of meeting held on the 7th of May 2025 were proposed by Cllr J Dallison 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 7th of May 2025 (no budgetary allocation required)

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

**Update – Village Hall –** The Parish Council are awaiting Dorset Council’s decision on the amended plans. In the meantime, structural engineering drawings and other necessary documentation are being worked on, ready to submit for Building Regulations and to start working on the finance and tender process. The Chairman has secured security fencing for the site, where banners will be placed showing the proposed project. It was agreed to add a section to the Parish Councils website allocated just to the Village Hall project, which will be available by the end of the month.

**To adopt the amended Financial Regulations** – this was agreed by all Councillors.

**Other matters arising from Councillors:**

**Cllr M Dallison reported –**that the repairs to the Play Area have now been completed. The Clerk confirmed that the funds for these repairs have been covered by developers 106 funds that Dorset Council hold.

**Cllr T Coats reported –** the Allotment Association had a committee meeting a few weeks ago. The main matters raised was that the water works on the site are now complete and works on the security fencing are underway. There are still plots available for resident of the Parish and Bryanston Parish. The Allotment Association are looking to hold a barbeque inviting any resident that is interested in having a plot to come along for a chat. To apply for a plot, the contact information are on both Parish Council website.

r 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.

Dorset Council have started work on the footpath on the Meadows.

**Cllr I Mackay reported –** The Blandford + team have asked a Councillors from each Parish/Town Council to look at and report places of interest and open spaces for their Parish.

**17/25. Planning
P/VOC/2025/02531** - Land At E 388615 N 105270 Roman Avenue – to amend approved plans – Duly noted

**P/FUL/2025/02344** - Blandford Town Museum – retain storage shed – no objection

**P/OUT/2024/01708** – Wards Drove – outline planning permission for 130 houses. This application went to appeal, due to Dorset Council not approving the application. At the appeal the application was approved, with conditions. Details will be published on the Parish Council’s website by the 12th of June. Cllr I Mackay reported that he felt Dorset Council planning team were not fully prepared for questions raised at the appeal hearing against the applicants representative.

Cllr N Russell has agreed to act at the Parish Councils tree officer.

**18/25. Finance**

**Payments for May 2025, the Bank Reconciliation and end of year figure-** The Clerk circulated the payment schedule and bank reconciliation for May 2025 for the sum of £22314.92. Cllr T Coats 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 May 2025 as above (18/25–C/A)

The bank reconciliation was tabled and agreed.

**19/25. Received report from Dorset Councillor B Cooper**

Cllr Cooper will forward the comments from Cllr I Mackay regarding the appeal hearing for the Ward Drove application.

**19/26. Chairmans’ report**

The Chairman had no report to give.

**19/27. Items for the next agenda and date of the next meeting.**

**Co-option – Village Hall**

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 2nd of July 2025, there being no further business the meeting closed at 19.38