**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**

**Minutes are not verbatum**

**on Wednesday the 2nd of July 2025 at 7pm**

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

**In attendance:** Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk). There were 2 members of the public present and Dorset Councillor Barrie Cooper

Cllr J Dallison opened the meeting, due to the Chairman running late.

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

A member of the public asked for the Clerk to chase up the delivery of the memorial bench for the recreation area.

A member of the public requested that the notice board at Dorchester Hill is updated.

**28/25. To receive and accept apologies of absence, Declaration of interest and Dispensations.**

Cllr I Mackay was not present

**29/25. Co-option for new Councillor**

There were none.

At this point the Chairman joined the meeting.

**30/25. Approve minutes of the meeting held on the 4th of June 2025**

The Minutes of meeting held on the 4th of June 2025 were proposed by Cllr M 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 Vice Chairman duly signed them.

**RESOLVED**: to approve the minutes dated the 74th of June 2025 (no budgetary allocation required)

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

Cllr Coats asked for an update on the website page for the village hall project. The Clerk confirmed that she is working with Vision ICT to get this page up and running.

**Update – Village Hall –** The Design Consultant has visited the site to get the final measurements, as it has come to light that a soakaway has already been put on the edge of the site, near to where the village hall is proposed to be sited. The Planning has been approved and building regulations have been sent. The structural engineers reports should be back to the Parish Council in the next few weeks. Cllr Mackay is producing a management plan ready for producing the tender. Local builders will be contacted to invite them to tender for the building of the village hall.

**Other matters arising from Councillors:**

**Cllr T Coats reported –** the Allotments are now secure with the new fencing and gates. It was reported that the Allotment Association’s Chairman is standing down at the next AGM.

Dorset Council have completed the tarmacking on the footpath on the Meadows.

**Cllr J Dallison reported –** reported that Central Government have withdrawn grant funding for Neighbourhood Development Plans. The Blandford + team are in a good position as they had already updated their plan, but there are a lot of Town and Parish Councils that require funding to update or produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan. DAPTC, have produced a petition to be requesting the funding is reinstated.

Cllr J Dallison tabled details of Dorset 20mph scheme. After debate it was agreed for the Clerk to circulate the details and conditions for applying for 20mph speed limit within the Parish. **Action – Clerk**

**Cllr M Dallison reported –** The play area is looking great and repairs have been completed on the multi-unit flooring. It was suggested that the surface on the multi-unit could be lifted back to the concrete flooring. The multi-unit flooring had been laid to help with the noise for local residents.

**Cllr N Russell reported –** Attended a site meeting with DCllr Cooper to discuss the overgrown hedges along Dorchester Hill. It was confirmed that the hedges need a big cut which can only be done after the nesting season at the end of August.

**The Clerk** reported that a 106 application for the play area repairs has been submitted and this needs to be approved by full Council. The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council apply for 106 funding to cover the cost to repair the play area, this was seconded by Cllr M Dallison, all in favour.

 **RESOLVED**: apply for 106 funding for repairs to the Play Area at Pigeon Close (30/25 – play area)

**The Clerk** reported that CCLA – investment company require undated information for their records. It was agreed that the Clerk – N Phillips, Cllr M Albery and Cllr J Dallison are signatories for the account.

**RESOLVED**: Clerk – N Phillips, Cllr M Albery and Cllr J Dallison signatories for the CCLA investment account (30/25a – CCLA investment)

**31/25. Planning**There were none.

**32/25. Finance**

**Payments for June 2025, the Bank Reconciliation-** The Clerk circulated the payment schedule and bank reconciliation for June 2025 for the sum of £3942.08. Cllr J Dallison 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 June 2025 as above (32/25–C/A)

The bank reconciliation was tabled and agreed.

**33/25. Received report from Dorset Councillor B Cooper**

Confirmed that the footpath at the meadows has been re-surfaced by Dorset Council, 106 fund were not used for this project.

Confirmed that there are a lot of criteria to reach for applying for a 20mph scheme.

Re-iterated that the hedges along Dorchester Hill will not be cut by Dorset Council until the end of August due to birds nesting.

Dorset Council consultation regarding the premises used for the pre-school will close on the 9th of July. There has been suggestions that the premises could be used for more groups when not being used for the pre-school.

Household waste centres are introducing a booking system, it is felt that the reason behind this is to ensure that only residents in Dorset are able to use the centres in Dorset, as there are a lot of centres that boarder other Counties, who should be using the own centres in their county.

**34/26. Chairmans’ report**

The Chairman thanked, Dorset Cllr Cooper, all of the Parish Councillors for all of their hard work, which is voluntary, for the Parish.

**Other matters-** The Clerk tabled an email from a resident complaining about the overgrown hedge over the footpath that surrounds the play area at Pigeon Close. The elderly owner of the property has been contacted and has stated that Sovereign Housing have agreed to remove the hedge and replace it with a fence. In the meantime, options to get the hedge cut back are being considered by family members and other local residents.

The process for organised litter picking is being reviewed, as Dorset Waste Partnership have not collected the rubbish, even though they had been instructed to do so, which in some cases has resulted in the waste being reported as fly tipping, which inquires cost for officers to investigate further. It has been suggested that stickers are produced and put on the bags to highlight it is not fly tipping.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council’s standing order will be updated, as the process for Councillor resigning from any Council is not clear and precise enough. This will be highlighted to DAPTC.

**35/27. 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 3rd of September 2025, there being no further business the meeting closed at 19.50