**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 verbatim**

**on Wednesday the 3rd of September 2025 at 7pm**

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

**In attendance:** Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk). There were 4 members of the public present

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

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

A member of the public reported problems with 2no streetlights off Chettle Way. It was noted that these lights are the responsibility of Sovereign Housing. The Clerk will report this matter on behalf of the residents. Action – Clerk

A member of the public had written, and was also present at the meeting, requesting a bin is erected next to the bus shelter at Tesco roundabout. The Clerk was instructed to contact Tesco’s to request they install a bin next to the shelter. Action – Clerk

A member of the public raised concerns over the parking in Pigeon Close and requested double yellow lines are painted. The Clerk confirmed that Dorset Council would need to authorise any changes to road management. The Clerk will request a site visit with Dorset Council road safety team. Action – Clerk

The Parish Councillors thanked Jenny for helping keep the village tidy but taking upon herself to do litter picking. The Councillors offered Jenny litter picking equipment that the Parish Council have.

A member of the public reported that there is a raised cast iron services cover outside Blandford St Mary Primary School. The Chairman will investigate what services are responsible for the cover and the Clerk will contact them to request it is made safe.

**36/25. To receive and accept apologies of absence, Declaration of interest and Dispensations.**

Dorset Councillor Barrie Cooper sent his apologies

**37/25. Co-option for new Councillor**

There were none.

**38/25. Approve minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd of July 2025**

The Minutes of meeting held on the 2nd of July 2025 were proposed by Cllr T Coats 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 2nd of July 2025 (no budgetary allocation required)

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

**Update – Village Hall –** Due to an unforeseen problem with an existing soak away on the development site, the plans for the Village Hall have had to be turned around and re-submitted to Dorset Council planning for approval. A draft letter of intent, inviting contractors to bid for building the hall has been produce by Cllr Mackay and was tabled for Councillor’s. The letter will be sent out to three developers Banners to surround the site have been designed and the Clerk will send the relevant details to the company who will give a quote to produce three banners.

**Update – Footpath and access to the triangle of land at the bottom of Dorchester Hill –** the Clerk confirmed that the original plan for a footpath from Fairmile, from the new development at Lower Bryanston, has been amended. The footpath will now go around the whole of the triangle, leaving a dropped curb for residents from Lower Bryanston to continue parking on. A suggestion was raised that the pavement should be extended up to Dorchester Hill, to meet with the path of Persimmon development. It was also noted that there were plans in place for a road narrowing section outside Apple Tree Cottage, which has not been done. The Clerk will contact the Highways Team to find out what their plans are for the road narrowing and to request that the footpath is extended up the road. Action - Clerk

**Consider – Dorset Local Plan –** Dorset Council have produced their draft Dorset Local Plan, which is out for consultation and can be views and commented on Dorset Council website at, dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-is-changing. Blandford St Mary have not been allocated any additional development, which has not already been applied for, but other areas have. This could cause issues for the village for road and the lack of infrastructure. **Please have your say.**

**Adopt – amended Standing Orders -** The Clerk had circulated amended Standing Orders for adoption. Cllr Albery proposed the amended Standing Orders are adopted, this was seconded by Cllr J Dallison, all in favour.

**RESOLVED**: Blandford St Mary Parish Council’s amended Standing Orders are adopted (38/25 – no budgetary requirements)

**Other matters arising from Councillor’s – the following were raised:**

Cllr Russell reported that the hedge along Dorchester Hill, on the inside of the Persimmon site has been cut back and the outside hedge along Dorchester Hill is being cut now.

Cllr M Dallison had nothing to report on the Play/recreation area. The Clerk reported that she had received a complaint that the new memorial bench has been placed behind her house and children are standing on it, looking into her garden. The Clerk will visit and do a risk assessment on where the bench has been placed. Action – Clerk

Cllr J Dallison reported that a report on any currently none designated heritage assets is being looked at for the Parish for the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Mackay reported that he is in the process of producing this report and if anyone has any information on heritage assets in the Parish to contact him. Cllr J Dallison had nothing to report on the environment but noted that 4 popular trees will be planted on the Stours Park by Dorset Council Rangers.

Cllr Coats reported that Blandford St Mary Allotment Assocaiotn are holding their AGM on the 4th of September 2025.

*At this point the Chairman withdrew standing order to allow members of the public to speak on agenda item 5*

**39/25. Planning
P/HOU/2025/04873** – 48 Bournemouth Road – erect two storey extension – The neighbour of the proposed application highlighted their concerns with this application and the Parish Council support the comments and concerns of the neighbour.

**P/FUL/2025/04719** – Lot 4 Blandford Brewery – erection of 21no dwellings – The Parish Council support the building of the 21 dwellings but raised concerns over the parking allocation and the footfall crossing the main road as in the past it was agreed for a zebra crossing next to the Brewery to be installed, There are already drop kerbs in place so this needs to be implemented. The other concern raised was that the acoustic report be reviewed in detail as there appears to be an assumption that elevated noise levels from the Air Source Heat Pumps are acceptable. This aspect needs to be examined by Dorset Council planning dept. The Clerk will also request appropriate 106 funds are allocated to the building of the Village Hall.

**40/25. Finance**

**Payments for July and August 2025, the Bank Reconciliation-** The Clerk circulated the payment schedules and bank reconciliations for July and August 2025. Cllr Mackay 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 July and August 2025 as above (40/25–C/A)

The bank reconciliation was tabled and agreed.

The Clerk had tabled the internal audit report, reporting there were no matters arising.

**41/25. Received report from Dorset Councillor B Cooper**

Nothing to report.

**42/25. Chairmans’ report**

Nothing to report.

**43/25. 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 1st of October 2025, there being no further business the meeting closed at 20.10