

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee
held on Monday 16th September 2019 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange

DRAFT
Subject to confirmation

PRESENT

Cllr H White – Committee Chairman
Cllr L Lindsay – Committee Vice Chairman/Chairman of Council
Cllr L Hitchings – Vice Chairman of Council
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke
Cllr J Stayt

Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr C Jacques
Cllr D Russell
Cllr R Carter

SITTING IN

Cllr C Stevens

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Nicci Brown – Press

Operations Manager

11. PUBLIC SESSION

Two members of the Allotment Society were in attendance regarding agenda item no. 8.

Cllr Carter thanked the staff for the three events held on Saturday 14th September 2019, which were well attended.

Cllr Stevens suggested that the Football Club might benefit from having an advertising board up promoting when they have matches on and the Town Clerk will write to them to suggest it.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

12. APOLOGIES

None

13. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None had been submitted.

14. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH JUNE 2019

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Russell and AGREED (4 in favour, 5 abstentions) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

15. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

15.1 Expo – Read Easy has written to thank the Town Council for the opportunity to take part in the Expo. They also gave ‘a big thank you from the people of Blandford for organising such a splendid event and reminding us all why we love living in Blandford!’

15.2 Cemetery – Legislation has been amended so we will no longer be charging a fee for a burial plot or interment for a child over 24 weeks and under 18. Up to now, we have waived charges for stillborn or up to 28 days. We will however be able to claim the charges back from the Children’s Funeral Fund for England.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

15.3 Gate to the Recreation Ground – The contractor at the recreation ground has replaced the two gates with a wider entrance gate, at a cost of £765.00 + VAT, which is now suitable for emergency vehicles and this will also ease access for the grounds staff.

15. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE (CONT)

15.4 Rugby Club – An e mail was received from the chairman of the rugby club at 9.30 Saturday morning stating that: “*Our steward has gone over to Larksmead to find tiles have come off & the whole place is steamed up from the showers and while they were up there a light fitting fell down with water coming through all the electrics. Can you please have a look as I think it's dangerous*”. The operations manager responded asking that no one enter the pavilion until it is checked, arrangements were then made for the Grounds and Property Supervisor to visit the pavilion and he reported back that it was clear that the showers had been left on and this had caused a massive build-up of condensation within the dressing room, wall tiles had come off and the ceiling tiles were wet through. The operations manager then arranged for an electrician to attend on Sunday morning, who turned off the lighting circuits for safety reasons. Further instruction was given to the rugby club to ensure the area is not used but is ventilated to dry the area out. A further inspection of the dressing room will be carried out on Tuesday, with the electrician, to assess the damage and the best way forward. The costs will be brought to council if an agreement cannot be made with the club about the costs involved.

15.5 Football Club Spectator Stand & Footpath Ceremony – The event was a success and the Club has asked if the Town Council would be minded to support the introduction of floodlights. It was agreed that a letter is sent inviting the hospital and Trailway Court to a meeting about this possibility.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Councillors also felt that the charge to BUFC for use of The Blandford School's 4G pitch is excessive for a community club and requested that a letter is sent to them expressing the Council's concerns.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

16. REVIEW OF RECREATION & AMENITIES BUDGETS TO 31ST AUGUST 2019

16.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

16.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

16.3 Reserve Accounts

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

The Chairman brought agenda item no. 8 forward as members of the public were in attendance to hear the outcome.

17. TO RECEIVE A REQUEST FROM THE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY TO AMEND THE REGULATIONS ON WOODEN SHEDS

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Stayt and AGREED unanimously that

The Committee noted the contents of the report and approve the request to amend the regulations on wooden sheds at Lamperd's Field Allotments.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

18. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REPORT ON THE DAMORY DOWN TREE CONSULTATION AND THE TREE FOR WOODHOUSE GARDENS FROM THE TREE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

18. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REPORT ON THE DAMORY DOWN TREE CONSULTATION AND THE TREE FOR WOODHOUSE GARDENS FROM THE TREE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION (CONT)**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Russell and AGREED unanimously that

The Committee:

- notes the contents of the report
- approves the replacement of seven felled trees using Ornamental Cherry, Ornamental Pear and Field Maple species in the Damory Down area
- introduces an Ornamental Cherry tree to be planted by the competition winner of the Tree Photography Competition
- wishes to pursue the creation of a wildflower area in Jubilee Way

The Chairman asked that beech and ash trees are considered in the future for larger areas.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

19. **TO RECEIVE A FINAL REPORT ON THE WOODHOUSE GARDENS PAVILION EXTENSION AND RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVE ANY OVERSPEND**

The paper was noted (see Appendix F) and the Town Clerk advised that the final account has not yet been received.

It is currently known that the soakaway and wired smoke alarms, required by Building Control, and the extra day's decorating were additional to the project and it was therefore PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Stayt and AGREED unanimously that

The Committee approves retrospective expenditure using funds of £3,400 from the PPM budget line for the soakaway, smoke alarms and decorating, prior to receipt of the final account (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

The architectural designer confirmed that the damp proof membrane under the kitchen floor, works to the parapet gutter and kitchen/toilet wall and the bird boxes were additional works and the Town Clerk will bring this matter back to council should the figure be higher once the final account is received.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The Committee instructs officers to seek quotations for both grey slate and sinusoidal material on the pavilion roof.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

20. **REPORT BY OPERATIONS MANAGER JUNE 2019 – SEPTEMBER 2019**

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

21. **AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS TO SUGGEST ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN 2020/21 BUDGET**

No new projects were suggested at this stage.

The meeting closed at 7:49pm.

SIGNED: **DATED:**