

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee
held on Monday 8th February 2021 at 7.00pm online using Microsoft Teams

DRAFT
Subject to confirmation

PRESENT

Cllr H White – Committee Chairman	Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr L Lindsay – Committee Vice Chairman/Chairman of Council	Cllr R Carter
Cllr L Hitchings – Vice Chairman of Council	Cllr N Lacey-Clarke
Cllr J Stayt	Cllr C Jacques

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk	Operations Manager
Nicci Brown – Press	

30. PUBLIC SESSION

Following a complaint/concerns from a resident, Cllr Lindsay asked about the possibility of introducing signage on the bridges, reminding members of the public to wear masks and make space for others, etc. It was noted that it is not obligatory to wear a mask outside and this cannot be enforced but perhaps the Dorset Council could put up signage on their bridges, asking the public to be more considerate when passing each other.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

31. APOLOGIES

None

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

None were submitted.

33. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9TH NOVEMBER 2020

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke and AGREED (7 favour, 1 abstention) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED at the earliest opportunity.

34. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

34.1 Elections – The Dorset Council has written to confirm that the pavilion at Woodhouse Gardens and Larksmead pavilion will still be required as polling stations on 6th May 2021. The Government will ensure that the regulations and guidance governing the COVID-19 response take into account the need for essential elections activity. For example, regulations are already clear that:

- Voting is permitted, lawful reason to leave your house during general restrictions;
- Premises and business can open for the purpose of voting, counting of votes or associated activities;
- Track and trace is not required for polling stations (unless a voter remains in the building for some other purpose).

The Dorset Council will be supplying hand sanitiser for polling stations and any PPE required for their staff for the duration of their stay.

34. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

34.2 Toilets – The caretaker reported that two people are sleeping in the toilets at both the Marsh & Ham and the Tabernacle. The police have been informed.

34.3 Anti-social behaviour – The sports clubs at park Road recreation ground have all reported an increase in anti-social behaviour since the first lockdown last March. The town clerk described the incidents.

Cllr S Hitchings asked if CCTV signage could be introduced and the Operations Manager will find out if there is already signage in place as the clubs do have CCTV or are due to install it.

Cllr Lacey-Clarke asked if people congregating at the Parish Rooms has been reported to the town council and the town clerk confirmed that it had not. He also enquired if the cigarette bin will be replaced on the wall outside the offices and the town clerk explained that the two most recent purchases had been vandalised very quickly.

35. TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE HIRE CHARGES FOR 2021/2022

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Stayt but not seconded that all items are approved.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Stayt and AGREED unanimously that

The charges for all venues at section 4 are frozen for the 2021/2022 financial year (this excludes the overtime charge at 4.5).

An amendment to approving the remaining charges was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, but not seconded, that the Market Manager reports back to the committee sooner than October when it can then be decided if the delegation is extended.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Stayt and AGREED (7 in favour, 1 against) that

The Committee approves the proposed fees and hire charges for the 2021/22 financial year at Appendix A, subject to freezing the charges at section 4 as resolved above.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

36. REPORT BY OPERATIONS MANAGER NOVEMBER 2020 – JANUARY 2021

The paper was noted (see Appendix B) and the Operations Manager was thanked for his report.

Cllr Carter thanked the Operations Manager for the work on the planters throughout the town, which are a positive reminder that Spring is on its way.

The Chairman thanked Councillors and staff for their attendance and the meeting closed at 7:28 pm.

SIGNED: DATED: