

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Corn Exchange Meeting
Held on Monday 19th July 2021 at 7:00pm online using Microsoft Teams

DRAFT
Subject to confirmation

PRESENT

Cllr L Hitchings – Chairman
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke
Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr R Carter
Cllr L Lindsay

Cllr C Stevens – Vice Chairman
Cllr R Holmes
Cllr P Osborne
Cllr P Clark

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk

Operations Manager

IN ATTENDANCE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Cllr H White
Kate Pinnock (Ingham Pinnock Associates)

Nicci Brown (Press)
Ross Ingham (Ingham Pinnock Associates)

7. PUBLIC SESSION

Cllr White asked if it would be possible to reschedule the date for the council photograph from 26th July to a date later in the year. The Town Clerk explained that this is only used as a framed photograph for the Community Room wall and the Facebook cover photo and everyone present agreed to postpone the photograph.

8. APOLOGIES

Cllr A Cross
Cllr C Jacques
Cllr B Quayle

Cllr H Mieville
Cllr J Stayt

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

None had been submitted.

10. MINUTES OF THE CORN EXCHANGE MEETINGS HELD ON 15TH FEBRUARY 2021

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED unanimously that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

MINUTES OF THE CORN EXCHANGE MEETINGS HELD ON 17TH MAY 2021 (HELD UNDER A SCHEME OF DELEGATION)

Cllr Lindsay was incorrectly listed as Chairman of Council, so Cllr L Hitchings amended the minutes and, subject to this amendment, it was PROPOSED by Cllr Holmes, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED (7 in favour, 2 abstentions) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

11. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing to report.

12. TO RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR THE M&E STRATEGY

The paper was noted (See Appendix A).

12. **TO RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR THE M&E STRATEGY (cont.)**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Osborne and AGREED unanimously that

The Town Council retrospectively approves expenditure of £5,000 + VAT for the M&E strategy of the Town Hall/Corn Exchange complex using funds from the Corn Exchange Project Manager budget line (Expenditure Authority: Localism Act 2011 s1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

13. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM INGHAM PINNOCK ASSOCIATES**

IPA provided an update on pre-app discussions with Historic England, the funding possibilities, and the current demand for lottery grants. IPA held a phasing meeting with partners and Councillors on 7th July but, at that meeting, Councillors considered the financial impact of going through the funding process compared to the Council funding the project themselves to carry out the work in one stage. This would be more cost effective, would be done quicker and smoother and provide residents with a result in a relatively short-term period instead of a possible decade.

14. **CONFIDENTIAL**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Holmes, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED unanimously that

The public and press may be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity might be prejudicial to the public interest as per the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

7:31pm Cllr Lindsay left the meeting and returned at 7:33pm.

Councillors discussed possible funding options if the Expression of Interest is not successful and the Chairman explained that the Town Council would need to precept as it currently is for the Corn Exchange project, in order to cover the interest. Councillors discussed the importance of considering the public's views and IPA advised that they can assist with a calculating tool to help consider what the costs/savings would be if the project was delivered via a loan.

It was agreed that discussions would be revisited following the outcome of the EoI submission.

The meeting closed at 8:10pm.

SIGNED

DATED