

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee
held on Monday 20th June 2022 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange



PRESENT

Cllr L Lindsay – Committee Chairman
Cllr C Stevens – Chairman of Council
Cllr R Carter
Cllr S Hitchings

Cllr E Bray – Committee Vice Chairman
Cllr H Mieville – Vice Chairman of Council
Cllr H White
Cllr L Hitchings

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Dr Sylvia Hixson Andrews (left at 7:11 pm)

Nicci Brown (via Microsoft Teams)

1. PUBLIC SESSION

Dr Sylvia Hixson Andrews spoke about two Blandford Environmental Fairs she is organising in the town under the name of Climate Action Now (CAN) and she distributed posters to the committee members. Sylvia feels that the environmental change has not been prioritised by the government since the pandemic and that it is linked to the financial pressures that we are all faced with. Sylvia has successfully applied for a £2,500 grant for climate-related events and received other donations from local groups to raise the profile and awareness of climate change and she is working to get local schools and the community involved. The events are planned to be held at the Railway Arches and Angus Woods on Saturday 30th July and Saturday 27th August 12-5pm. This is part of the CAN 2022 series of events about sustainability and climate change and is a Museum/BET/Church/War on Waste/CUBC/Civic Society project.

2. APOLOGIES

Cllr N Lacey-Clarke

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

None were submitted.

7:11 pm – Dr Hixson Andrews left the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH NOVEMBER 2021

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr S Hitchings and AGREED (6 in favour, 2 abstentions) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

5. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing to report.

6. REVIEW OF RECREATION & AMENITIES BUDGETS TO 31ST MAY 2022

6.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

6.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

6.3 Reserve Accounts

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

7. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ALLOTMENT AGREEMENTS AND RENTS

The paper was noted (see Appendix D) and the Chairman thanked Cllr Mieville for attending the meeting when she was unable to due to a hospital appointment.

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

The Committee agreed:

- The Allotment Management Committee Rent for 2022/23 increases to £471.08 +VAT.
- The rent for Lamperd's Field allotment for 2023/24 increases to £39.10 for a full 250sqm plot.
- The rent for Elizabeth Road allotment plots for 2022/23 is agreed at 24p per square metre.
- Amendments to the Allotment Management Committee and Tenants' agreements for Lamperd's Field (including the amendments provided by the Town Council's solicitors and pending receipt of the amended plans to be provided by Wyatt Homes).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

8. TO CONSIDER APPROVING THE PROPOSED LEASE FOR THE BLANDFORD RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr White, and AGREED (6 in favour, 2 abstentions) that

The Committee approves the draft lease and the proposed annual rental value of £1,500 + VAT, subject to any amendments recommended by the Town Council's Solicitor.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

9. REPORT BY OPERATIONS MANAGER FEBRUARY 2022 – JUNE 2022

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

The Chairman thanked the Operations Manager for his report and noted that the flowers and planters look fantastic.

7:41 pm – Cllr S Hitchings left the meeting.

10. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE TOWN MUSEUM

The paper was noted (see appendix G).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Stevens and AGREED unanimously that

The Committee agrees to the request for use of the arches for the two events being organised by Climate Action Now, subject to the appropriate insurance being in place and Dorset Council being asked permission as the landowner at Langton Meadows. The Town Council is only the leaseholder of the redundant railway arches.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

11. TO RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR ESSENTIAL REPAIRS TO LANGTON PLAY AREA

The paper was noted (see Appendix H).

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

The Committee retrospectively approves expenditure of £2,901.81 + VAT using budget line 1067 (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

12. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO LOCATE A DEFIBRILLATOR ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE RUGBY PAVILION AT LARKSMEAD RECREATION GROUND

Cllr L Hitchings explained that he would like to purchase a defibrillator to be attached to the outside of Larksmead pavilion.

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

The Committee approves receipt of a defibrillator unit from Cllr L Hitchings, which will be a donation from funds raised during his Mayoral year 21-22, that will be attached to Larksmead pavilion and become a Town Council asset.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 7:49 pm

SIGNED: DATED: