

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee
held on Monday 23rd January 2023 at 7:04 pm in the Corn Exchange



PRESENT

Cllr L Lindsay – Committee Chairman
Cllr C Stevens – Chairman of Council
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke
Cllr R Carter
Cllr H White

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Cllr L Hitchings (online via Microsoft Teams)

Operations Manager

21. PUBLIC SESSION

Cllr Mieville thanked Cllr Stevens for the successful Bingo night on Friday and the Dorset Council Rangers for the tree planting on the Milldown extension over the weekend, which was well attended by the local community.

22. APOLOGIES

Cllr L Hitchings (although he was in attendance online via Microsoft Teams)

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

None were submitted.

24. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th NOVEMBER 2022

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

25. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

- 25.1 Corn Exchange Panto – Sam James held the Oh No It Isn't pantomime in the Corn Exchange on 13th – 14th January 2023 and it went down very well with audiences!
- 25.2 Performing Arts in the Corn Exchange – All of the regular hirers of the Town Hall, Council Chamber and Corn Exchange were invited to attend a workshop with the architect on 1st February 2023. Responses were only received from the hirers who hold performing arts events in the building – Wessex Acoustic, Oh No It Isn't and Artsreach. The session will also be attended by the Bookings Receptionist, Operations Manager and Town Clerk.
- 25.3 Trees for the Milldown Extension – Following Cllr L Hitchings' proposal to offer the opportunity of sponsoring the 70 trees being planted at the Milldown extension, all of them have now been purchased and officers are now working on a display panel.
- 25.4 Vacancy – There is a vacancy for a Grounds & Maintenance Assistant, which is now being advertised.
- 25.5 Corn Exchange Planning Applications – The planning application has now been validated and a press release will go out to inform the local community.

26. REVIEW OF RECREATION & AMENITIES BUDGETS TO 31ST DECEMBER 2022

26.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

26.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

26.3 Reserve Accounts

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

27. TO REVIEW AND AGREE HIRE CHARGES FOR 2023/2024

The paper was noted (see Appendix D) and Cllr Lacey-Clarke declared an interest due to his membership with the Rugby Club. He stayed in the room during discussion but did not take part in voting.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Bray, SECONDED by Cllr White and AGREED (7 in favour, 1 non-vote) that

The Committee agrees the proposed fees and hire charges for 2023/2024 as per the report for Cemetery Fees, Sports Clubs, Markets, Town Council Venues and Items for Hire.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

28. TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY AND SET A DATE FOR THE SKATEFEST 2023

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

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

The Committee confirms the date of Sunday 20th August 2023 and approves expenditure for the Skatefest 2023 of £2,150 + VAT for the organiser and £144 + VAT for St John Ambulance cover, using funds from budget line 1071 Skatefest (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 s1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

29. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE FOOTBALL CLUB TO ATTACH A SIGN TO ADVERTISE FORTHCOMING GAMES

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

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

The Committee supports the request.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr L Hitchings requested that the signage is suitably insured by the Club.

30. REPORT BY OPERATIONS MANAGER NOVEMBER 2022 – JANUARY 2023

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

Cllr Lacey-Clarke noted that he did not receive any negative comments about the Christmas lights in 2022. The Chairman thanked the Operations Manager for his detailed report and asked him to thank the caretaking and grounds team for their work.

The meeting closed at 7:14 pm.

SIGNED: **DATED:**