

**BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Corn Exchange Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 7:00pm in the Corn Exchange**



**PRESENT**

Cllr H Mieville –Chairman of Council  
Cllr C Stevens  
Cllr P Osborne  
Cllr A Cross  
Cllr S Hitchings  
Cllr H White  
Cllr C Jacques  
Cllr L Hitchings – late arrival

Cllr N Lacey-Clarke – Vice Chairman of Council  
Cllr B Quayle  
Cllr Holmes  
Cllr R Carter  
Cllr L Lindsay  
Cllr P Clark  
Cllr K Herbert

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Town Clerk  
John Turnbull

Operations Manager

**IN ATTENDANCE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Ross Ingham & Kate Pinnock – Ingham Pinnock Associates

**1. PUBLIC SESSION**

The Chairman thanked the Town Clerk and her staff for the organisation of the successful Mayor Making event held on Friday, which he thoroughly enjoyed. Cllr Mieville noted that this was event held close to the Coronation events, that also required a lot of organising.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Cllr E Bray

Malcolm Simmonds – Architect

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

None had been submitted.

**4. MINUTES OF THE CORN EXCHANGE MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Cross, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED (10 in favour, 4 abstentions) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

7:04pm – Cllr Lee Hitchings arrived.

**5. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE**

Public Works Loan Board – At the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022, it was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr White and AGREED unanimously that the Town Council authorises the commencement of a loan application to the Public Works Loan Board to enable the project to go forward. This action will be carried out once the loan amount is known and (hopefully) interest rates have come down. A discussion was recently held with the Town Clerk of Swanage and the Chief Executive of the DAPTC, Neil Wedge. He confirmed that there is a large backlog and scrutiny for large PWLB applications is tighter and therefore, the more data/support and knowledge provided the more this will help applications. Neil Wedge added that, 'Community engagement is a critical part of the borrowing approval submission to DLUHC, so it is imperative that your councillors know what the community think.'

5. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE (cont)**

Coronation Events – It was wonderful to see the Corn Exchange full and bustling over the Coronation weekend of events.

Planning Application – Prior to the last extension to the deadline, the Planning Authority sought a further extension to P/FUL/2022/06707 and P/LBC/2022/06710 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023. This is to allow for the receipt of the comments of the Conservation Officer, of the Council, the possible submission of any necessary details and the processing of the applications. The architect has advised today that the Dorset Council Planning department has emailed to say they would try and get draft conditions to him by 2<sup>nd</sup> June, however this date is beyond the most recent extension they requested to 31<sup>st</sup> May.

6. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM INGHAM PINNOCK ASSOCIATES AND THE DESIGN TEAM**

Ross Ingham advised that the architect, Malcolm Simmonds was unable to join the meeting due to illness and Ross therefore provided Councillors with an update on the planning application.

Ross advised that the architect is working on producing a tender pack for contractors to view and consider, to enable them to price it and make a formal submission for consideration.

A timeline was presented, which will be shared with Councillors.

A discussion was held on the PWLB application process and what is involved, including the importance of the community engagement process.

7. **CONFIDENTIAL**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings 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 to the public interest as per the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.**

7.1 To approve fees for the next phase of the project

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

**The Town Council approves the fee proposal for the next phase of the project using funds from the Corn Exchange budget line 1105 (Expenditure Authority: Localism Act 2011 s1-8) to cover the professional fees for RIBA Stage 4.**

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

The meeting closed at 7:58pm.

SIGNED .....

DATED .....