

**BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL**

**DRAFT**  
Subject to confirmation

**Minutes of the Corn Exchange Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7:03 pm in the Corn Exchange**

**PRESENT**

Cllr C Stevens – Chairman of Council  
Cllr L Hitchings  
Cllr A Cross  
Cllr S Hitchings  
Cllr H White  
Cllr B Quayle

Cllr H Mieville – Vice Chairman of Council  
Cllr R Holmes  
Cllr R Carter  
Cllr L Lindsay  
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Town Clerk  
Ed Morton (The Morton Partnership)  
Malcolm Simmonds (Architect)

Operations Manager  
Cristian Petrescu (The Morton Partnership)  
Kate Pinnock (IPA consultants)

**IN ATTENDANCE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Cllr P Osborne

Ross Ingham (IPA consultants)

**23. PUBLIC SESSION**

No matters were raised.

**24. APOLOGIES**

Cllr P Osborne (in attendance online)  
Cllr K Herbert  
Cllr E Bray

Cllr P Clark  
Cllr C Jacques

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

None had been submitted.

**26. MINUTES OF THE CORN EXCHANGE MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Holmes, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED (9 in favour, 2 abstentions) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

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

Nothing to report.

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

Ross Ingham summarised progress to date on the project and concluded that the council agreed to proceed with Option A+ as a basis to go to tender.

Malcolm Simmonds informed councillors of a consultation meeting held with hirers on performance use of the building. It was a successful and useful meeting, with valuable feedback that is now being considered. It was agreed to have another meeting when the design proposals have been drawn up.

The informal feedback on the planning application should be received in a couple of weeks and Malcolm attended a meeting with the Conservation Officer at Dorset Council and Historic England.

Dorset Council had opened up a second round of funding, but unfortunately it was unsuccessful and the Town Council was referred to s106 monies possibly available for the project.

IPA and BFTC have been working on submitting another Expression of Interest to the National Lottery and there are a couple of other possibilities IPA is looking into.

Ross advised that the day-to-day management of the project will shift to Ed and Cristian from The Morton Partnership and introduced them to Councillors.

Ed spoke about the consultants involved in the project and summarised how it will develop from now on. Once tenders are received, there will be a review of tenders, signed off by the Town Council. It will be based on quality as well as cost. This will take us up towards the end of the year. Ed will be managing and monitoring the design team throughout the process.

Malcolm will be working from front to back with a variety of organisations, including fire services, which will be a long process with a large amount of drawing.

Once the full design package is confirmed, the build period will be confirmed.

Kate advised that it is worth starting the planning for decanting sooner rather than later due to the amount of time it will take.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

The meeting closed at 8: pm.

**SIGNED** .....

**DATED** .....