



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

To: All Members of the Recreation & Amenities Committee
(Cllr L Lindsay, Cllr C Stevens, Cllr H Mieville, Cllr N Lacey-Clarke, Cllr S Hitchings,
Cllr R Carter, Cllr L Hitchings, Cllr H White)

All other Town Councillors
Members of the Public & the Press

Dorset Council Councillors

Dear Member,

RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Recreation & Amenities Committee which will be held in the Corn Exchange, Market Place, Blandford on **Monday 19th June 2023 to follow the full council meeting starting at 7:00pm** to consider the following items. The meeting is also accessible for the public to attend remotely via Microsoft Teams [using this link](#).

Linda Scott-Giles
Town Clerk
12th June 2023

A G E N D A

Prior to consideration of the following Agenda, there will be a democratic quarter of an hour, which may be extended at the discretion of the Committee, during which time members of the public may speak. During the course of the meeting, members of the public and our elected representatives from the Dorset Council may indicate they wish to speak, and, at the discretion of the Chairman, and with the approval of the Members, they may be allowed to do so on points of information only. The Committee may on occasion invite members of the public to comment on specific issues where points of information or their particular knowledge on a subject might prove of benefit to the Committee.

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, belief or disability), Crime & Disorder, Health and Safety and Human Rights. Disabled access is available.

All in attendance should be aware that filming, recording, photography or otherwise may occur during the meeting.

1. Public Session
2. Apologies
3. To receive any Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations
4. [Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd January 2023](#)
5. [Town Clerk's Report & Correspondence](#)

6. Review of Recreation & Amenities Budgets to 31st May 2023
 - 6.1 [Analytical Review of Revenue Budget](#)
 - 6.2 [Review of Earmarked Reserves](#)
 - 6.3 [Reserve Accounts](#)
7. [Review and Approval of Allotment Agreements and Rents](#)
8. [To consider the VAT issue on sports facilities](#)
9. [Report by Operations Manager February 2023 – June 2023](#)

Minutes of the Town Council and Committee meetings are available from Blandford Library, the Town Clerk's Office and at www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

24 th June	Armed Forces Day Expo 10am to 1pm
3 rd July	Town Council Photograph at 6.30pm/Town Council Meeting (followed by Trust AGM) 7pm
10 th July	Town and General Purposes Meeting
17 th July	Planning Meeting
24 th July	Town Council Meeting (Corn Exchange)
31 st July	Town Council Meeting

Twinned with Preetz, Germany

Twinned with Mortain, France



**Town Clerk's Office
Church Lane, Blandford Forum
Dorset DT11 7AD**



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME
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ANNUAL REVENUE BUDGET REPORT 2023-2024

	Annual Budget	2023/24 Budget to Date	Actual Spend to Date	Budget Variance	Status
INCOME					
Corn Exchange	9,092	1,515	2,003	487	On Target
Woodhouse Gardens	6,695	1,116	1,059	(56)	Under-budget
Larksmead	1,864	311	0	(311)	Under-budget
Cemetery	13,390	2,232	1,238	(994)	Under-budget
Sundries	3,573	596	1,955	1,359	On Target
Skate park	0	0	0	0	Under-budget
Total Income	34,614	5,769	6,255	486	On Target
EXPENDITURE					
Vehicles	12,564	2,094	2,865	771	Over-Budget
Corn Exchange	44,241	7,374	12,251	4,877	Over-Budget
Woodhouse Gardens	3,548	591	505	(86)	On Target
Larksmead	2,425	404	2,371	1,966	Over-Budget
Recreation Ground (as Corporate Trustee)	37,163	6,194	0	(6,194)	On Target
Cemetery	6,753	1,257	1,316	59	Over-Budget
Glenmore Workshop	7,399	1,375	1,531	155	Over-Budget
Langton	335	56	87	31	Over-Budget
Skatepark	1,445	241	2,208	1,967	Over-Budget
Sundries	19,314	3,219	2,659	(560)	On Target
Total Expenditure	135,187	22,805	25,792	2,987	
TOTAL COST	100,573	17,036	19,538	2,501	Over-Budget

Note

Over budget figure positive variance

Under budget negative variance ()

ANNUAL REVENUE BUDGET REPORT 2023-2024 SUMMARY

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend to Date	Budget Variance	Status
NET REVENUE					
VEHICLE RUNNING COSTS	12,564	2,094	2,865	771	Over-Budget
CEMETERY	(6,637)	(974)	78	1,053	Over-Budget
GLENMORE WORKSHOP	7,399	1,375	1,531	155	Over-Budget
LARKSMEAD	561	94	2,371	2,277	Over-Budget
CORN EXCHANGE	35,149	5,858	10,248	4,390	Over-Budget
RECREATION GROUND	37,163	6,194	0	(6,194)	On Target
WOODHOUSE GARDENS	(3,147)	(525)	(554)	(29)	On Target
SUNDRIES	15,741	2,624	704	(1,919)	On Target
LANGTON ROAD	335	56	87	31	Over-Budget
SKATEPARK	1,445	241	2,208	1,967	Over-Budget
REVENUE TOTAL	100,573	17,036	19,538	2,501	Over-Budget
Total	100,573	17,036	19,538	2,501	

Note

Over budget figure positive variance

Under budget negative variance ()

Review of Earmarked Reserves

			Balance as at 31/3/23	Income & Transfer of funds	Budget 2023/24	Total Reserves	Spend YTD	Committed YTD	Current Balance	Proposed budget for 2023/24
1050		Allotment	4,175	0	0	4,175			4,175	0
10510	2014	B/Heights Phase 1 - POS - S106	61,566	0	0	61,566	676 (1)		60,890	0
10520		B/Heights Phase 2 - POS - S106	28,470	0	0	28,470	676 (2)		27,794	0
10521	Transfe- red 2018	B/Heights Phase 2 - Playarea Maint - S106	51,568	0	0	51,568	0 (3)		51,568	0
10522		B/Heights Phase 2 - Playarea Capital - S106	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
10530		B/Heights Phase 3A -POS - AREA 1 (20 years) - S106	13,332	0	0	13,332	0		13,332	0
10531		B/Heights Phase 3A -POS - AREA 2 (20 years) -S106	50,966	0	0	50,966	0		50,966	0
10532		B/Heights Phase 3A -POS - AREA 3 (20 years) - S106	57,443	0	0	57,443	0		57,443	0
10533		B/Heights Phase 3A -POS - AREA 4 (20 years) - S106	24,484	0	0	24,484	0		24,484	0
10534		B/Heights Phase 3A -COM SUM - LAP (20 years) - S106	34,900	0	0	34,900	0		34,900	0
10535		B/Heights Phase 3A -COM SUM - LEAP (20 years) - S106	172,441	0	0	172,441	0		172,441	0
10536		B/Heights Phase 3A -COM SUM - NEAP (20 years) - S106	113,458	0	0	113,458	0		113,458	0
10537		B/Heights Phase 3A -CAP SUM - LAP - S106	9,978	0	0	9,978	0		9,978	0
10538		B/Heights Phase 3A -CAP SUM - LEAP -S106	52,801	0	0	52,801	0		52,801	0
10539		B/Heights Phase 3A -CAP SUM - NEAP -S106	116,944	0	0	116,944	0		116,944	0
10540		B/Heights Public Arts - S106	13,012	0	0	13,012	0		13,012	0
1060		Planned Preventative Maint (PPM)	23,784		5,000	28,784	0		28,784	5,000
1061		Cemetery Chapel (PPM)	6,420		1,000	7,420	0		7,420	1,000
1062		Cemetery Workshop (PPM)	9,000		1,000	10,000	0		10,000	1,000
1064		Cemetery Wall	31,654		0	31,654	0		31,654	0
1065		Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)	2,374		0	2,374	0		2,374	0
1067		Play Area Fencing & Surfacing	6,557		3,000	9,557	0		9,557	3,000
1068		Larksmead Outdoor Fitness	1,500		0	1,500	0		1,500	0
1070		Seat Replacement	1,696		0	1,696	0		1,696	0
1071		Skatefest	97		2,000	2,097	0		2,097	2,000
1075		Tree Survey & Works (5 Years)	8,913		3,000	11,913	0		11,913	3,000
1080		H & S Works Memorials	1,263		0	1,263	0		1,263	0
1090		Woodhouse Garden Wall Repairs	21,150		500	21,650	0		21,650	500
1096		Contingency	1,000		0	1,000	0		1,000	0
			920,944	0	15,500	936,444	1,352	0	935,092	15,500

(if Contingency budget is unspent on 31st March 2023 balance will remain committed to code 1096)

Agenda Item No. 6.3

Reserve Accounts as at 31st May 2023

Nominal Code(s)	Standard Asset Replacement Accruals	Responsible Committee	Balances	Sub Totals
			£	£
1300	IT	F & S	21,033.73	
1305	Skate park	R & A	160,318.73	
1310	General Play Equipment	R & A	74,839.80	
1315	Maintenance Equipment Replacement	R & A	13,268.94	
1320	Vehicle Replacement	R & A	16,258.00	
1325	Tractor Replacement	R & A	16,701.20	
1330	Mower Replacement	R & A	34,546.77	
1340	CCTV / ANPR	T & GP	36,230.92	
1345	Benches	T/C	12,516.65	
1350	Glenmore Depot	R & A	10,384.93	
1351	B/Heights Play Equipment	R & A	14,494.28	
1352	B/Heights Maintenance Equipment Replacement	R & A	2,386.62	
				412,980.57
	Earmarked Accounts			
10510-10540	Recreation & Amenities Funds B/Heights	R & A	800,684.74	
1020-1045&1135	Town & General Purposes Committee	T & GP	24,938.87	
1060-1096	Recreation & Amenities Funds Other	R & A	115,407.83	
				941,031.44
	Other Earmarked Accounts			
1001	Earmarked Interest	F & S	4,363.39	
1002	Property Fund Dividend	F & S	38,425.60	
1004	Well & Connected		-	
1005	Election Costs	T/C	4,976.35	
1006	Youth Services	T/C	10,726.03	
1007	Woodhouse Gardens Wall Rebuild (Moved to R & A)	R & A	-	
1008	High Street Clean Up	F & S	-	
1009	BFTC Commemoration Group	T/C	262.60	
1010	Capital Interest	F & S	2,793.86	
1011	Land North of Bypass / Sport & Recreation	T/C	5,772.98	
1012	The Blandford Events Group	T/C	442.17	
1013	Neighbourhood Plan	T/C	- 2.87	
1015	Support for Essential Services (Earmarked)	T/C	28,049.00	
1017	Woodhouse Garden Re-build	T/C	19,981.67	
1019	Old Bath House / St Peter & St Paul's Churchyard (Listed Wall & Town Pump	T & GP	52,964.49	
1050	Allotments	R&A	4,175.36	
1335	Civic Regalia	F & S	18,849.84	
1185	Pension Deficit	F & S	20,000.00	
1195	Improvements to Market Place	T/C	70,000.00	
1500	General Reserves	T/C	246,219.72	
				528,000.19
	Capital Projects			
1104	Corn Exchange S106 Funds	T/C	83,177.06	
1105	Corn Exchange	T/C	421,180.75	
1110	Corn Exchange Promotions Group	T/C	2,907.73	
1115	Corn Exchange Project Development	T/C	108,928.83	
1116	Corn Exchange HLF Stage 1 Matchfunding	T/C	117,379.97	
1120	Corn Exchange & Venues Refurbishment Project	T/C	79,000.00	
1122	Corn Exchange Community Hall S106 Funds	T/C	103,292.81	
1125	Cemetery Field Project	R & A	1,000.00	
1175	CCTV / ANPR - New Equipment	T & GP	13,341.23	930208.38
	Total Reserves			2,812,220.58

Review and Approval of Allotment Agreements and Rents

Representatives from the Town Council and the Allotment Management Committee met on 8th June 2023 for the annual meeting. The allotment statement of accounts is attached as [Appendix A](#). The notes of the meeting are as follows:

Present

Ian Ricketts	Chairman of Allotment Management Committee (AMC)
Barbara Marjoram	Plot Allocator
Garry Barker	Social & Minute Secretary
Cllr Colin Stevens	Vice Chairman of Recreation & Amenities Committee
Jon Goodenough	Operations Manager
Linda Scott-Giles	Town Clerk
Sarah Purdy	Mayor's Assistant
Robin Cole	Blanchards Bailey LLP

Apologies

Cllr Lynn Lindsay	Chairman of Recreation & Amenities Committee and Town Council Representative to Allotment Society
Cllr H Mievile	Town Council Representative to Allotment Society
Ros Foster	Treasurer of Allotment Management Committee

1. Review of Management Committee Agreement

The need for a constitution was discussed and Ian will email BFTC with a draft for review before it is formally adopted. BFTC will share this with Robin prior to adoption.

Robin explained the issues the developer/landowner's lawyers have with the agreement between the AMC and BFTC.

The solicitor needs to ensure the document is compliant with the lease BFTC holds and that the landowner's solicitor is content with it.

Robin will send a draft document to BFTC for circulation at the R&A committee meeting, and delegated authority will be required to address any amendments after that meeting. It is recommended that the delegated authority is approved subject to consultation with the AMC.

2. Review of Management Committee Rent for 2023/24 (the existing amount for 2022/23 is £471.08 (+ VAT))

The rent paid for the year commencing 29th September 2022 was £471.08 (+ VAT) and it was agreed that the rent for the year commencing 29th September 2023 would increase by 3% in line with the Town Council budget (£14.13), giving a total of £485.21 (+VAT).

3. Review of Garden Allotment Rents at Lamperd's Field for 2024/25 (the existing amount for 2023/24 is £39.10)

The rent payable from September 2023 is £39.10 per full allotment site of 250sq metres and pro rata for smaller allotments.

It was agreed that the rent would increase by 3% (£1.17) to £40.30 for a full 250sqm plot (rounded up from £40.27).

4. Rents at Elizabeth Road Allotments for 2023/24 (the existing amount for 2022/23 is 0.24p per square metre)

The rent payable from September 2022 was 24p per square metre. The garden allotment rents were reviewed, and it was agreed that the rent would be increased by 1p, making it a total rent of £0.25p per sqm from September 2023.

5. Review of Annual Accounts

Ian tabled the accounts, which were shared with Linda prior to the meeting. There is a healthy balance, and they are well managed.

6. Register of Allotment Holders and update on waiting list

There are eight people on the waiting list for Lamperd's Field, plus three from outside of Blandford Forum. Interest in Elizabeth Road has increased, probably due to the proposed relocation at Lamperd's Field. There are 4 on the Elizabeth Road waiting list.

The AMC has sent out 10 yellow cards for Elizabeth Road, with three possible red cards to be issued and eight for Lamperd's Field. There are six available plots at Lamperd's Field and a possible five red cards to be issued.

7. Breaches of Agreement

None

8. Works Carried Out

8.1 Ian Ricketts on behalf of the Management Committee –

Elizabeth Road

- Hazel coppice was planted and is growing well
- New posts have been put in
- Gates were kicked in late last year

Lamperd's Field

- Had a break-in with wheelbarrows and tools stolen via the top field in February 2023.
- The AGM is booked for 22nd September 2023, 7pm Corn Exchange.

8.2 Jon Goodenough on behalf of Blandford Forum Town Council

- Spraying at Elizabeth Road
- PAT testing
- Fire alarm serviced
- Legionella testing
- Extinguisher testing
- Replaced water heater
- Fixed wire testing carried out

9. Review of Agreements

Composting bin – it was discussed that a change could be made to the agreement to allow more than one composting bin on a plot and this will be taken to the R&A committee meeting. The tenancy agreements currently state the following:

- B.6.2 not construct more than one timber compost bin of maximum dimensions of 4' high x 4' wide x 4' long (1.2 metres x 1.2 metres x 1.2 metres) or alternatively one commercial composting bin without the written consent of the Management Committee.

It is recommended that this section is reworded as follows because composting should be encouraged:

(The Tenant shall):

- B.6.2 Be permitted to construct a composting bin(s) of maximum dimensions of 4' high x 4' wide x 4' long (1.2 metres x 1.2 metres x 1.2 metres) or alternatively a commercial composting bin(s) on their plot(s).

10. Other Matters Raised by the Management Committee

The Society has arranged a BBQ on 9th July for allotment holders and they also arrange coffee mornings.

11. Other Matters Raised by the Town Council

The AMC was advised that there are funds accruing from the ringfenced amount and they are encouraged to spend it in accordance with the agreement.

The outcome of this meeting will be referred to the Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting on Monday 19th June 2023.

The meeting closed at 11:28am.

Recommendations

Under the R&A Remit it is recommended that the Councillors approve the following:

- The Allotment Management Committee Rent for 2023/24 increases to £485.21 + VAT.
- The rent for Lamperd's Field allotment for 2024/25 increases to £40.30 for a full 250sqm plot.
- The rent for Elizabeth Road allotment plots for 2023/24 is agreed at 25p per square metre.
- Amendments to the agreements for Lamperd's Field regarding composting bins.
- Amendments to the agreement between BFTC and the AMC (provided by the Town Council's solicitors) with delegated authority to the Town Clerk to approve any amendments subject to consent from the Chair or Vice Chair of the R&A Committee and the AMC.

Linda Scott-Giles
Town Clerk
8th June 2023

Blandford Allotment Society Accounts Year 31 May 2022 to 31 May 2023

<u>INCOME</u>	Year 22-23	Year 21-22	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	Year22-23	Year 21-22	Balance
Brought forward	£4113.59	£3929.20				
Rental Payments	£4893.47	£4878.61	Blandford TC	£1205.29	£1186.94	
			Allotment phone (Including top up)	£20.00	£126.98	
			Website	£69.58	£8.34	
			Water			
			LF	£1571.19	£888.73	
			ER	£356.63	£213.86	
			N.A.S. Membership	£519.00	£522.00	
Seeds	£1442.65	£1670.75	Kings Seeds	£1211.51	£1400.59	
			Insurance	£343.96	£313.78	
			Tractor insurance	£268.00	£268.00	
			Electric	£448.62	£195.55	
Plant /tool sale	£153.45		BBQ	£117.41	£100.40	
Raffles	£190.50	£153.00				
Miscellaneous	£2227.50	£1277.81	Miscellaneous	£1763.00	£18146.46	
(Receipts for manure pea sticks, sales of compost etc.)			(Purchase of sundries, manure,compost for sale etc.)			
Rotavator hire	£20.00		Rotavator petrol	£21.25		
Greenhouse(donated)	£20.00		Tractor Service/parts	£117.00	£1256.80	
Glass	£13.00		Tractor diesel	£75.00		
Potato comp	£55.00	£38.00	Potato comp	£26.50		
Anne Raffle charity Donations	£50.00		Anne flowers Charity donation	£27.70 £100.00	£80.00	
			Awards vouchers	£60.00	£60.00	
Total	£13,159.16	£11,947.37	Total	£8,321.44	£7,833.78	

Lloyds Account	£4404.97
Pettycash	£432.85
Total Carried forward	£4837.72

To consider the VAT issue on sports facilities

The DAPTC shared the following advice note, provided by The Parkinson Partnership:

VAT on sporting fees

HMRC concede that charges for council sports facilities are non-business

HMRC's existing guidance is that local authority sports and leisure services can either be taxable or exempt from VAT. This has been challenged in the courts, with test cases for England, Scotland and Northern Ireland going on for several years.

In *Chelmsford City Council* [2020] UKFTT432(TC) the First Tier Tribunal determined that such services are provided under a 'special legal regime' and can be treated as 'non-business', providing that does not give rise to significant distortions of competition.

HMRC unsuccessfully appealed the first part of that decision, as they did not accept the reasoning that local authority sports services are subject to a 'special legal regime'. The Upper Tier Tribunal [2022] UKUT149(TCC) dismissed that appeal in March 2022.

On 26 January 2023, HMRC advised Chelmsford City Council that they will NOT be pursuing the 'significant distortion of competition' argument and accept that local authority sports services can be treated as non-business and outside the scope of VAT.

HMRC have yet to issue any further guidance as to the basis on which they accept no significant distortion of competition would be caused, how far the interpretation of "sport and leisure services" extends or what steps councils should take to recover VAT.

We suggest that councils consider the following steps in relation to sports facilities, bearing in mind that HMRC have not issued any guidance and might refuse claims or require them to be submitted in a particular way:

- 1) If you're VAT registered and charging VAT on your sports services, you should:
 - a. stop doing so as soon as possible and certainly before 1 April 2023,
 - b. compile and submit a claim to HMRC for a refund of such VAT declared for the past four years, and
 - c. consider whether you will refund that VAT to the bodies charged for sports.
- 2) If you're not VAT registered and have avoided reclaiming VAT on sports facilities because you thought they were taxable supplies, you should reclaim any such VAT incurred over the last 4 years.
- 3) If you treat any sports services as VAT-exempt and include VAT incurred on those activities in your partial exemption calculation, you should:
 - a. take that VAT out of the 2022/23 calculation,
 - b. if you had any irrecoverable VAT in the 2018/19 to 2021/22 calculations, review them to see if you can now reclaim some or all or of that VAT, and
 - c. if you have done a 7-year average calculation for any of those years or to forecast a future year, review it to see if you can recover any further VAT.

It is therefore recommended that the Committee agrees to

- **stop charging VAT with immediate effect and reissue the agreements/invoices from 1st April 2023 excluding VAT.**
- **submit a claim to HMRC for a refund of the VAT paid. The RFO has summarised the amount of VAT paid at [Appendix A](#).**
- **authorise the payment of these amounts back to the respective sports clubs.**

Linda Scott-Giles
Town Clerk
8th June 2023

Appendix A

Date	Inv No	Client		VAT
23.12.20	10062	Blandford Rugby Football Club	Oct to Dec 2020	29.28
31.02.22	10176	Blandford Rugby Football Club	Oct to Dec 2021	89.14
31.03.22	10185	Blandford Rugby Football Club	Jan to March 2022	89.14
30.09.22	10221	Blandford Rugby Football Club	July to Sept 2022	90.48
20.12.22	9065	Blandford Rugby Football Club	Rent 01.10.22 to 31.12.22	90.48
05.10.22	9046	Blandford Rugby Football Club	Rent 01.07.22 to 30.09.22	90.48
				479.00
Barnes				
23.12.20	144	Football Club	October to December 2020	25.31
23.12.20	142	Bowling Club	October to December 2020	29.28
23.12.20	143	Cricket Club	October to December 2020	28.98
07.07.21	148	Cricket Club	April to June 2021	84.20
07.07.21	149	Bowling Club	April to June 2021	44.57
30.09.21	151	Bowling Club	July to Sept 2021	44.57
30.09.21	152	Cricket Club	July to Sept 2021	84.20
31.01.22	154	Bowling Club	October to December 2021	89.15
31.12.21	155	Football Club	October to December 2021	77.08
31.01.22	156	Cricket Club	October to December 2021	88.67
31.03.22	157	Bowling Club	Jan to March 2022	89.15
31.03.23	158	Football Club	Jan to March 2022	77.08
31.03.23	159	Cricket Club	Jan to March 2022	87.81
30.06.22	162	Cricket Club	April to June 2022	89.57
30.06.22	161	Football Club	April to June 2022	78.23
30.06.22	160	Bowling Club	April to June 2022	90.48
21.12.22	166	Cricket Club	July to Sept 2022	89.57
21.12.22	165	Football Club	July to Sept 2022	78.23
21.12.22	164	Bowling Club	July to Sept 2022	90.48
04.01.23	169	Cricket Club	Oct to December 22	89.57
04.01.23	168	Football Club	Oct to December 22	78.23
04.01.23	167	Bowling Club	Oct to December 22	90.48
				1624.89
				2103.89

Report by Operations Manager February 2023-June 2023

STAFFING

One member of staff left us in January and was replaced by a new employee in April after a recruitment process.

GLENMORE DEPOT

The alarms and CCTV have been serviced

CORN EXCHANGE

The loft hatch in the Council Chamber has now been finished and scaffolding removed. The clock has now been serviced.

Further meetings and exploratory investigations have taken place as have design team meetings.

PARK ROAD

The new Cricket season is underway, and the boiler and shutters have been serviced at the Cricket Pavilion

TOWN

The planters are being placed throughout the town.

TREES

Tree works are only carried out if they are emergencies now.

CEMETERY

Internments at the cemetery are at average levels for the time of year.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Asbestos monitoring has been done and monthly legionella testing continues.

Six monthly ladder checks are complete.

A full Legionella risk assessment was carried out in November and remedial works completed.

Annual emergency light servicing is being carried out and PAT testing done.

All Risk assessments, Safe Systems of Work and COSHH were updated.

Yearly review of all Health and Safety Policies and Fire Risk assessments.

VANDALISM

January 2023-June 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
8 Feb	Churchyard	Broken Glass and general vandalism
18 Feb	Town	Flags drawn on properties
5 Mar	Skate Park	Broken Glass
9 Mar	Railway Arches	Broken Glass
15 Mar	Marsh and Ham Toilets	Toilet blocked
20 Mar	Skate Park	Shopping trolley dumped
5 Apr	Skate Park	Broken Plates
19 Apr	Railway Arches	Broken Glass
22 Apr	Skate Park	Broken Glass
29 Apr	Skate Park	Broken Glass
1 May	Skate Park	Broken Glass
10 May	Railway Arches	Broken Glass
15 May	Corn Exchange	Rear side door damaged
19 May	Churchyard	Broken glass and bottles
20 May	Skate Park	Broken Glass
28 May	Skate Park	Broken Glass
31 May	Railway Arches	Broken Glass and evidence of small fires.
1 June	Skate Park	Broken Glass
5 June	Larksmead	Broken Glass
12 June	Churchyard	Stone broken off from the wall

Evidence of drug use at public toilets at various times throughout the period (Police aware).

We have recently received the following from a resident near Park Road Rec, Bowling Club:

"We have called the 101 number on numerous occasions twice in the last three months which we do not do lightly.

Last night we had to call 101 again as a group of youths were congregated on the entrance step at 2230 shouting Swearing and Playing loud music this continued until 2330. We are helpless to do anything about it as to ask them to move on may result in confrontation and to be honest their behaviour can be interpreted as threatening.

We have seen that this also affects members of the Bowling Club who we have seen having to gingerly step over the youths presumably because they are afraid to ask them to move on. We have photos and videos as evidence of youths rolling weed, smoking it openly in front of the general public and using threatening behaviour and verbal aggression towards the public and each other which we have reported on many occasions.

*On one occasion during the morning youths on the way to school were gathered there. They saw my wife looking at them through our kitchen window then came into our drive shouting obscenities "F***** Tosser & Come on then" etc. My wife was in the house on her own at the time and phoned me at work and was very distressed. This was reported to the Police and we didn't hear a thing back. On that occasion the issue was pointed out to the Bowling club again the response being "Its not our problem this is a police issue"*

This is a community problem that has only started happening since the Blandford Bowling Club extended their club house and added the Entrance porch which now provides seating for anyone who cares to use it. It may not affect its members who do not live in the vicinity and do not have to put up with the anxiety of not knowing when the next group fancies using it as a social area. Due to their club house being in a residential area they have a responsibility to the local people who reside there, especially when their building design is encouraging this anti social behaviour. This can only be resolved with cooperation from all. A simple solution would be to install shutters like the Blandford Cricket Club and Football Club has done in response to this issue. Since they have made their club more secure youths are no longer congregating in these areas, however the Bowling Club seem reluctant to be so accommodating and we are living with the uncertainty of what is next. "

I have spoken to the bowling club who are sympathetic but cannot see what as a club they can do and do not see the installation of shutters a requirement or a solution, (I add their reply). They see the only answer as more patrols from the Police as it is they who should be dealing with anti-social behaviour. I am unsure as to what the Town Council could do to help resolve the issues, but I have contacted our local PCSO to get his opinion. They are investigating and are hoping to get back to us before the meeting.

Bowling Club response:

"I am aware of some of the problems outlined and was, one morning, challenged by a lady who was clearly upset and anxious. I listened to her and reported her claims to the police. This coincided with some low-level vandalism at the club and culminated in the issue of a crime number (55230038989) but no firm commitment which could have included police visits to the car park to check on anti-social behaviour. I don't think a meeting with residents took place.

Since then, my team regularly pick up litter early mornings but I'm usually the first member at the Club most mornings and I've never been threatened or abused by the school children. The young people sit on the steps by the front door, they are generally polite and on one occasion when some of the boys were kicking a football in the car park they stopped straight away when I asked them to stop. We are talking of two different groups of young people; the school children are invariably,

compliant, polite, and friendly. Some of the boy's smoke but they are a minority. These groups of 2 to 10 people gather around 8.00 to 9.15 each school morning. The group the resident condemn is an older age group who I think gather later. in the evenings - probably more often in the period from October to April. I've not met these people but we often clean up empty bottles, cans, and vapes left by this group. Club members have not, as far as I am aware, complained about these people because they have not been around when the Club has been open.

This is why I think that most complaints must be when the club is not bowling ie closed season. The complaining residents have good grounds for complaint in terms of antisocial behaviour. I personally have not experienced such aggression. I fail to see that the Bowling Club attracts such deviance, and don't really understand why some residents feel themselves to be targeted while other residents apparently remain abuse free.

I do feel that the Police could offer more reassurance with town patrols responding to crises and with a more active follow-up to reported anti-social behaviour. The Police have in the past committed to visiting the car park in the evenings, but I don't think that casual patrol has been maintained.

I hope you find this helpful. I have circulated this email to Club Chair and Secretary in case they have more to add."