

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Corn Exchange Meeting
Held on Monday 24th July 2023 at 7:01pm in the Corn Exchange



PRESENT

Cllr H Mieville –Chairman of Council
Cllr C Stevens
Cllr P Osborne
Cllr H White
Cllr S Hitchings

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Nicci Brown

Operations Manager

IN ATTENDANCE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Malcolm Simmonds, Architect

Ed Morton, The Morton Partnership

8. PUBLIC SESSION

Cllr Lindsay delivered the good news about the Methodist Church lunch clubs continuing since numerous letters had been sent to the Probation Service, including support from the Member of Parliament. However, she also spoke about the demise of the Community Club since the church leaders have made the decision to close it. Cllr Lindsay expressed her disappointment and concern over this.

Cllr Mieville thanked Annabelle Valentine for her excellent work on the drains, raising awareness to help reduce litter being thrown in the drains. He expressed his disappointment that some members of the public had been rude to her about climate change and the use of public money on such a project.

9. APOLOGIES

Cllr A Cross
Cllr L Hitchings
Cllr C Jacques

Cllr B Quayle
Cllr P Clark

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

None had been submitted.

11. MINUTES OF THE CORN EXCHANGE MEETING HELD ON 22ND MAY 2023

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Holmes, SECONDED by Cllr Herbert and AGREED unanimously that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

12. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

12.1 Tender Process – Numerous online meetings have been held with the consultants regarding the tender documents and updates on project progress. As a record for this meeting, because the resolutions were made in the Planning meeting of December 2022, and as a reminder, the following has already been agreed:

Minute No. 72.1 – To approve an application for a loan to the Public Works Loan Board

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

12. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE (cont)

The Town Council authorises the commencement of a loan application to the Public Works Loan Board to enable the project to go forward.

Minute No. 72.2 – To seek approval to start the contractor procurement process

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

The Town Council authorises the commencement of the contractor procurement process, with officers then reporting back to council to seek a final decision on the appointment.

- 12.2 Stakeholder Meeting** – The Town Clerk, Operations Manager and Bookings Receptionist met with the Design Team and stakeholders (Sam James, Pat Thomas, John Butcher and Tim Griffin) on Tuesday 11th July 2023 to go through the plans again and discuss the AV and acoustic needs in more detail with those consultants in attendance.
- 12.3 Trustee Meeting** – Ross Ingham (Ingham Pinnock Associates), the Town Clerk and Operations Manager attended a William Williams Trustee meeting in Sturminster Newton on 11th July 2023 to present the latest plans and discuss the possibility of funding support.
- 12.4 Community Ownership Fund** – Ross Ingham drafted an application to this fund, which was proofed by officers and has received support from Simon Hoare MP. Subsequently, an online meeting was held between the MP, Ross Ingham and the Town Clerk to discuss other funding possibilities and these are now being explored.
- 12.5 Decanting** – The staff have started to go through the files in the store rooms and, so far, 20 sacks of confidential waste have been filled and are being collected by a secure disposal firm in Yeovil on 21st July 2023. The minutes from 1977-1994 and 2005-2023 must be preserved and they are being collated with the original agenda/reports with all staples and paper clips removed. The Town Clerk will discuss the best – and most affordable – way to archive these documents with the Dorset History Centre. For information, the retention policy for town and parish councils is being followed and it can [be viewed here](#).

13. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE DESIGN TEAM

Malcolm Simmonds and Ed Morton were in attendance. Ed updated members that the tender documents are being pulled together and the quantity surveyor is working towards the bill of quantities. We are a couple of weeks behind due to illness, but it shouldn't impact on the overall programme. Ed spoke about the party wall consultant and the requirements for neighbouring properties. Malcolm updated Councillors on the stakeholder meeting that took place recently and the thermal ventilation, AV and acoustic proposals were well received by attendees.

14. TO CONSIDER FUTURE USE OF TOWN COUNCIL PROPERTY

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

The Town Council retains the Mad Jack portrait and chest, which will need protecting for display purposes in the refurbished building, and Councillors consider the future use of the benches/tables at another meeting once a valuation is provided.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 7:41pm.

SIGNED

DATED