

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee
held on Monday 20th September 2021 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange

DRAFT
Subject to confirmation

PRESENT

Cllr L Lindsay – Committee Chairman
Cllr R Carter
Cllr C Stevens

Cllr H White – Committee Vice Chairman
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke
Cllr S Hitchings – arrived at 7.03pm

IN ATTENDANCE

Operations Manager

Assistant Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Cllr L Hitchings – Chairman of Council
Virginia Barnard

Nicci Brown – Press

1. PUBLIC SESSION

- 1.1 Cllr Stevens spoke about dog fouling at Larksmead, where he reported that a resident has complained about the 'Dogs to be kept on leads' signage having been removed, leading to dogs running around without leads and dog fouling. The Committee was unsure if signs had ever been in existence. The Operations Manager will check if they have been there before.

Post Meeting Note: The Grounds & Property Supervisor has confirmed that Larksmead has always been a popular dog walking area and signage regarding dogs on leads has not been present during his time with the council.

Cllr Carter enquired about the enforcement of dog fouling. Cllr Lacey-Clarke reported that perpetrators would have to be caught at the time of it happening. The Chairman requested for the next Town Council newsletter to include a section to remind people to be more considerate.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

- 1.2 Cllr S Hitchings apologised for being late due to the current traffic arrangements in town. The Chairman reported that the one-way system is being ignored. Cllr Lacey-Clarke will report it and look into it.

2. APOLOGIES

Cllr J Stayt

Cllr C Jacques

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

None were submitted.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2021

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

5. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

- 5.1 Larksmead – The ping pong table has been installed and has been well received on social media. The replacement tower for the play area is on order and should be installed in the next few weeks along with some surfacing repair works.

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

- 5.2 Capacity increase for the Corn Exchange - The Corn Exchange had a reduced capacity of 50 (instead of 200) since it reopened last June 2020. This was maintained following the 19th July after a discussion was held at a council meeting about the continuation of restrictions in council venues. The capacity was increased to 60 for the month of September, which was done considering events booked in as well as the increase in case numbers locally and the lack of ventilation in the hall. The capacity for Woodhouse Gardens pavilion was increased from 15 to 30 due to the good ventilation in that venue.

The Operations Manager and Bookings Receptionist have discussed this for October onwards and reached the following conclusion: The National Government have put the onus on individual organisations to set capacities and guidelines for the use of venues and therefore we have gradually increased our capacity whilst monitoring the local and national situation in regards of case numbers etc.

As we have had a number of requests to hold larger events in the Corn Exchange it seems sensible to raise the capacity to 150 from the 1st of November due to the fact that these events are not viable with lower numbers. We will continue to monitor the situation and to follow national guidelines should these change in the future.

- 5.3 Lions Christmas Fayre – The Blandford Lions have requested to sub-let the tables and chairs to exhibitors during their Christmas Craft Fair on 11th December 2021. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the R&A Committee and Town Clerk have no objection to this request.

6. REVIEW OF RECREATION AND AMENITIES BUDGETS TO 31ST AUGUST 2021

- 6.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

- 6.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves

The paper was tabled (see Appendix C).

- 6.3 Reserve Accounts

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

7. TO CONSIDER HONOURING ALLOTMENT PLOTS TO EXISTING NON-RESIDENT PLOT HOLDERS ON THE NEW ALLOTMENT SITE

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

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

The Town Council confirms that existing non-resident plot holders can retain their plot on the new allotment site and that the Allotment Management Committee is in the best position to manage this issue.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

8. **TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED HEADS OF TERMS FOR THE RUGBY CLUB LEASE**

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

8. **TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED HEADS OF TERMS FOR THE RUGBY CLUB LEASE (cont.)**

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

The Town Council confirms the Draft Heads of Terms but requested for the rent to be reviewed annually, to be in line with all other sports clubs. However, after this year’s budget setting the council will discuss to change all rent reviews from annually to three or five years.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

9. **TO CONSIDER THE GUIDELINES FOR THE COMMUNITY EXPO EXHIBITORS**

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

Cllr Lacey-Clarke will approach Catherine Chapman from the Blandford Business Support Group to organise a Business Expo, potentially in the Corn Exchange.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr S Hitchings and AGREED (5 in favour, 1 against) that

The Town Council agrees that the layout, space, what and how much attendees can bring is for officers to decide, based on the situation at the time. It was also agreed that the Expo should be for charities and groups in Blandford and surrounding area, and not for profit-making businesses. No political stalls are to be allowed.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

10. **REPORT BY OPERATIONS MANAGER JUNE 2021 – SEPTEMBER 2021**

The paper was noted (see Appendix H).

11. **AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS TO SUGGEST ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSIONS IN THE 2022/2023 BUDGET**

Cllr Carter requested for s106 monies to be used for further equipment in the new play park near the Milldown. Cllr Lacey-Clarke will look into it.

It was agreed that nothing further is added to the budget at this moment in time.

The meeting closed at 7:55pm.

SIGNED: DATED: