

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Corn Exchange Meeting
Held on Monday 21st February 2022 at 7:00pm in the Corn Exchange



PRESENT

Cllr L Hitchings – Chairman of Council
Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr R Holmes
Cllr H White
Cllr A Cross
Cllr H Mieville
Cllr P Osborne

Cllr C Stevens – Vice Chairman of Council
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke
Cllr K Herbert
Cllr R Carter
Cllr L Lindsay
Cllr E Bray

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Nicci Brown (Press)

Operations Manager

IN ATTENDANCE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Kate Pinnock (Ingham Pinnock Associates)

Ross Ingham (Ingham Pinnock Associates)

25. PUBLIC SESSION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

26. APOLOGIES

Cllr B Quayle
Cllr P Clark

Cllr C Jacques

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

None had been submitted.

28. MINUTES OF THE CORN EXCHANGE MEETINGS HELD ON 29TH NOVEMBER 2021

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED (9 in favour, 3 abstentions, 1 non-vote) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

29. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

29.1 Flagpole Survey – The survey to the main flagpole and crown was carried out in January and the findings are summarised below:

- The flagpole was inspected throughout its length and found to be in sound condition with no cracks or structural deterioration.
- The flagpole was checked for movement and none was evident.
- The flagpole upper support bracket in the roof space was checked and found to be secure.
- The base plate secured to the floor inside the roof was checked and found to be secure.
- The flagpole had a significant build up of surface pollution throughout its exposed length.
- The crown was securely fixed to the top of the flagpole and presents no concerns.

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

- The securing bolt and nut had surface rust but this did not appear to compromise the fixing in any way.
- The crown had bird dropping which is expected in a town environment.
- The crown surface condition could be improved at a later visit.

Work carried out:

- Inspection of the flagpole.
- Inspection of the support brackets inside the roof space.
- The exposed length of the flagpole was thoroughly washed and dried and has presented well.
- All pollution, greenery, mould, etc removed.
- Inspection of the crown.

Recommendations:

- Full inspection in three years or before if exposed to severe windstorms or knowingly struck by lightning and there are concerns over its integrity.
- The crown could be washed and re-painted (spray) whilst on site in 2025.

The three flagpoles on the front of the building are due to be surveyed in March.

30. TO RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR AN UPDATED HERITAGE STATEMENT

The paper was noted (See Appendix B).

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

The Town Council retrospectively approves expenditure of £1,760.00 + VAT for Stage 1 using funds from the Corn Exchange Capital Projects budget line (1105) and a further cost will be brought for approval for Stage 2 (Expenditure Authority: Localism Act 2011 s1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

The plan is to submit a planning application towards the middle of the year, aiming for July.

IPA has been reviewing the professional team and obtaining quotations for the relevant services.

The Heritage Statement, referred to at Minute 30, will identify the issues with the proposed amendments and assess the harm depending on the historic significance of the different parts of the complex. It is a very important document in making the case for the changes and will be considered by Heritage England and Dorset Council.

IPA is in the process of formalising the process with the architect, who most of the Councillors have now met.

QODA has been appointed and will advise on sustainability with improved insulation, and to fully research the feasibility of ground/air source heat pumps.

31. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM INGHAM PINNOCK ASSOCIATES AND THE DESIGN TEAM (cont)**

The Operations Manager is arranging for the blue panelling to be exposed so that the key contractors can see the condition of the tiling behind them. The heating and acoustic issues will then need to be mitigated.

IPA will also be re-engaging with Sam James in the short term to discuss the stage area.

IPA showed the sketch plans that have been approved by Councillors, which will be fully drawn up for planning purposes. The architect is shortly due to convert the sketch drawings to CAD, which will produce detailed architectural drawings.

The Town Clerk will circulate the sketch plans for the benefit of the new Councillors and offer them the opportunity to meet with IPA online for a briefing update.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

With regards to community consultation, IPA is preparing some exhibition panels ready for the Community Expo scheduled for 26th March 2022. This will include some FAQs, to address the common questions that are asked, which will help manage expectations.

Cllr Bray would like to work with schoolchildren and has discussed presenting an update to The Blandford School with the Town Clerk.

IPA is looking at possible funding opportunities and asked the Town Clerk to arrange an initial meeting with a local charity.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr Holmes thanked Ross and Kate for helping the council move forward with the project, which is refreshing to see after many years of attempts.

The meeting closed at 7:43 pm.

SIGNED

DATED