

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Corn Exchange Meeting
Held on Monday 29th November 2021 at 7:17pm in the Corn Exchange

DRAFT
Subject to confirmation

PRESENT

Cllr C Stevens – Acting Chairman
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke
Cllr H White
Cllr P Clark
Cllr H Mieville
Cllr K Herbert

Cllr S Hitchings – Acting Vice Chairman
Cllr R Holmes
Cllr R Carter
Cllr L Lindsay
Cllr B Quayle

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk

Operations Manager

IN ATTENDANCE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Cllr L Hitchings – Chairman of Council
Kate Pinnock (Ingham Pinnock Associates)

Nicci Brown (Press)
Ross Ingham (Ingham Pinnock Associates)

15. PUBLIC SESSION

Cllr White referred to the Forum Focus announcement that the publication will cease to be published in four months' time. He thanked Nicci Brown for all the work she has carried out over the last ten years.

Cllr Holmes commented on how beautiful all the Christmas lights look this year, which Cllr Carter agreed with.

16. APOLOGIES

Cllr P Osborne
Cllr C Jacques

Cllr A Cross

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

None had been submitted.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED unanimously that Cllr S Hitchings would be acting Vice Chairman for the meeting, as Cllr Stevens will be chairing the meeting in the Chairman of Council's absence.

18. MINUTES OF THE CORN EXCHANGE MEETINGS HELD ON 19TH JULY 2021

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

19. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

19.1 FOI Request – A Freedom of Information Act 2000 request was received regarding the progress with the Corn Exchange, access to minutes and details of expenditure. The resident was provided with the relevant information and website links.

20. **TO CONSIDER PROCEEDING WITH THE INSTALLATION OF LOFT ACCESS TO THE TOWN HALL ATTIC**

The paper was noted (See Appendix A).

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

The Town Council resolves to proceed with the installation of a loft hatch in the Council Chamber separately to the overall project and as a matter of urgency.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

7:40pm – Cllr Herbert left the meeting due to a personal emergency.

21. **TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR A SURVEY OF THE POLE AND CROWN ON THE TOWN HALL**

The paper was noted (See Appendix B).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Mieville and AGREED unanimously (9 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council approves expenditure of up to £5,000 for the flagpole survey to be carried out using Corn Exchange budget line 5206 (Expenditure Authority: Localism Act 2011 s1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Ross asked that a surveyor of the flagpole also takes as many photos as they can whilst they are up on the roof.

22. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM INGHAM PINNOCK ASSOCIATES INCLUDING FEE PROPOSAL FOR NEXT PHASE**

The paper was noted (See Appendix C).

Ross Ingham of Ingham Pinnock Associates talked Councillors through the next phase of working towards submitting a planning permission and advised that the professional fees have been estimated by the Quantity Surveyor.

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

The Town Council approves the fee proposal for the next phase of budget to planning using funds of £181,000 from the Corn Exchange budget line 1105 (Expenditure Authority: Localism Act 2011 s1-8) to cover the professional fees for the following members of the design team; architect, quantity surveyor, structural engineer, M&E engineer and surveys, to include the following steps:

- Review approach to project governance
- Set up review meetings and milestones
- Review gaps and procure any missing services
- Start fundraising
- Start work on the preferred option

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

23. **TO DISCUSS FUNDING AND THE OPTION TO TAKE A LOAN FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BOARD**

The paper was noted (See Appendix D).

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

The Town Council considers applying for a loan from the Public Works Loans Board for in order to progress the Corn Exchange project in full.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

14. **CONFIDENTIAL**

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

The public and press may be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity might be prejudicial to the public interest as per the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

14.1 To discuss amounts of project cost, potential loan and funding

IPA discussed the commercially sensitive figures with Councillors and, as a result of discussions, it was PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Carter and AGREED unanimously that

The Town Council agrees to proceed with a loan via the Public Works Loan Board subject to it being the most feasible option when the council is in a position to do so.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 8:46 pm.

SIGNED

DATED