

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee
held on Monday 22nd January 2024 at 7:05pm in the Corn Exchange

DRAFT
Subject to confirmation

PRESENT

Cllr L Lindsay – Committee Chairman	Cllr C Stevens – Committee Vice Chairman
Cllr H Miéville – Chairman of Council	Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke – Vice Chairman of Council	Cllr S Chapman
Cllr L Hitchings	Cllr R Carter

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk	Operations Manager
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30. PUBLIC SESSION

The Town Clerk noted that this is the last meeting Cllr Lynn Lindsay, the Committee Chairman will chair during her 25-year service to the Town Council. Cllr Lindsay remarked that it has been an honour to be involved in improving so many areas and how much has been achieved.

31. APOLOGIES

Cllr H White

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

Cllr Lacey-Clarke noted that he sponsors the planters, so he will not take part in voting on this item.

33. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th NOVEMBER 2023

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings and AGREED unanimously that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

34. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing to report.

35. REVIEW OF RECREATION & AMENITIES BUDGETS TO 31ST DECEMBER 2023

35.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

35.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

35.3 Reserve Accounts

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

36. TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE HIRE CHARGES FOR 2024/2025

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

36.1 Cemetery Fees and Charges

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

36. TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE HIRE CHARGES FOR 2024/2025 (CONT.)

The Committee approves the fees/charges for 2024/25 and agrees to raise the fee for the excavation of an ashes plot from £55 + VAT to £80 + VAT and introduces an administration fee of £20 + VAT when burial plots are sold back to the Town Council.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

36.2 Sports Clubs

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

The Sports Clubs rents are approved for 2024/25 (as below) but the costs incurred on sports pavilions and pitch maintenance will be reviewed in September/October, presenting the information to councillors for consideration at budget setting time, due to the expenditure involved.

Blandford United Football Club – £1,659.91 plus utilities

Blandford Rugby Football Club – £1,919.84 plus utilities

Blandford Bowling Club – £1,919.84 plus utilities

Blandford Cricket Club – £1,900.41 plus utilities (including 100% of water bill), with an additional 6 hours labour per week for 22 weeks to be charged at an hourly rate of £15.50.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

36.3 Indoor, Outdoor and The Shambles Markets

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Miéville and AGREED unanimously that

The recommended charges are approved, however the indoor market fees will only be frozen until the venue is refurbished.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

36.4 Town Council Venues

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

The Committee agrees to the following charges:

Corn Exchange, Town Hall, Council Chamber, Community Room – no increase for 2024/25 but a review will be carried out as part of a benchmarking review of other venues during the Corn Exchange refurbishment project.

Woodhouse Gardens – an increase of 3% to £23.86 a session for 2024/2025.

Overtime – increase the charge by 3% to £27.91 per hour for 2024/2025.

Commercial Rates and Items for Hire – no increase.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

36.5 Refreshments

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

The Committee increases the charge to £1 per person/per session for 2024/2025.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

36. TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE HIRE CHARGES FOR 2024/2025 (CONT.)

36.6 Planter Sponsorship

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Stevens and AGREED (7 in favour, 1 non-vote) that

The Committee agrees to freeze the amount of sponsorship requested per planter.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

36.7 Proof of Life

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

The Committee agrees that residents are charged £12.50 and non-residents are charged £25 for a Proof of Life appointment.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

37. TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY AND SET A DATE FOR THE SKATEFEST 2024

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

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

The Committee confirms the date of Sunday 18th August 2024.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Miéville, SECONDED by Cllr Stevens and AGREED (7 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Committee approves £2,150 + VAT for the Skatesfest 2024 organiser and £158 + VAT for St John Ambulance cover, using budget line 1071 Skatefest (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

38. TO APPROVE RETROSPECTIVE EXPENDITURE FOR REPAIRS TO ROUNDABOUT AT BALMER ROAD PLAY AREA

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

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

The Committee retrospectively approves expenditure of £2,344.20 + VAT using funds from 10521 (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

39. TO CONSIDER HOLDING AN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL SERVICE AT THE CEMETERY CHAPEL

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr L Hitchings and AGREED (7 in favour, 1 against) that

The Committee does not support the event at that time of year due to the high number of similar events in the area. It was agreed to discuss later in the year with the new council to consider an alternative month.

40. REPORT BY THE OPERATIONS MANAGER

The paper was noted (see Appendix H) and the Committee Chairman thanked the Operations Manager for his report.

Cllr Lindsay took the opportunity to thank the staff for their efforts and noted how fortunate the Town Council is to have such dedicated staff. She also thanked Councillors for their attendance and contribution to her final meeting, as R&A Committee Chairman.

The meeting closed at 7:56pm.

SIGNED: **DATED:**