

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Corn Exchange Meeting
Held on Monday 26th February 2024 at 7:01pm in the Corn Exchange



PRESENT

Cllr H Miéville – Chairman of Council
Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr R Holmes
Cllr A Cross
Cllr S Chapman

Cllr C Stevens – Acting Vice Chairman
Cllr R Carter
Cllr P Clark
Cllr H White

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk

Operations Manager

IN ATTENDANCE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Ross Ingham, Ingham Pinnock Associates

Kate Pinnock, Ingham Pinnock Associates

The Chairman invited Cllr Stevens to be Acting Vice Chairman for the duration of the meeting, in the Vice Chairman's absence.

27. PUBLIC SESSION

The Chairman thanked staff for organising the Community Expo held on Saturday and also thanked councillors who attended. It was a very busy event with positive feedback from attendees. After the Expo, a gathering was held in the Market Place to mark two years since 24th February 2024 with Ukrainian residents in attendance and the singing of the Ukrainian anthem.

Cllr Holmes raised concern over the responses from the surgery last week when her husband was seriously ill. It was recommended that she gets in touch with Cllr Lindsay, Cllr Quayle or Cllr Lacey-Clarke so this can be raised with the practice manager.

28. APOLOGIES

Cllr L Lindsay
Cllr P Osborne
Cllr L Hitchings
Cllr C Jacques
Malcolm Simmonds, Architect

Cllr N Lacey-Clarke – Vice Chairman of Council
Cllr B Quayle
Cllr K Herbert
Ian Walker, Quantity Surveyor
Cristian Petrescu, The Morton Partnership

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

None had been submitted.

30. MINUTES OF THE CORN EXCHANGE MEETING HELD ON 12th FEBRUARY 2024

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED (8 in favour, 1 abstentions) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

31. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PROJECT

31.1 Value Engineering and Contractor Procurement

The paper was noted (see Appendix A) and Ross Ingham, of Ingham Pinnock Associates, updated Councillors on the savings being made by the value engineering process and confirmed that the target has been met without sacrificing any of the priorities the Councillors had identified.

31. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PROJECT (cont.)

31.2 Fundraising and PWLB Application

The Town Clerk and Ross Ingham met another private donor on Friday, which may result in a small donation. Ross is looking at other ways of working with private donors who are supportive of the scheme.

The outcome of the PWLB application is awaited and it is anticipated that a response will be received by 4th March 2024.

Ross explained the current timetable to Councillors and the key date of 5th April 2024, when the contract needs to be agreed to retain the tender price. He added that it is a good exercise for Councillors to receive monthly updates on the project and the costs involved. The Quantity Surveyor will support the process by scrutinising the invoices and carrying out site visits. There will also be the opportunity for Councillors to be shown the progress work by the contractor and this is part of the agreement with them.

32. TO CONFIRM LOCATIONS FOR VARIOUS MEETINGS/EVENTS AND THE OFFICE / STORAGE

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

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

The Mayor Making ceremony on Friday 24th May 2024 is held in the Parish Church.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

The Mayor Making luncheon is held in the Overlord Room at Legion House after the ceremony.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

The Town Council merges/combines meetings as per the report, in order to free up Monday nights in Woodhouse Gardens for the existing hirer. However, Councillors raised some concerns over meetings running late, due to the size of the agenda, and agreed that the respective committees should retain their independence from full council meetings. This will be reviewed after the April – July period to determine if the system is working.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

The Indoor Market and its café is relocated to Woodhouse Gardens on Thursdays.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

The Town Museum is invited to view the artefacts (portraits/sculptures) to decide what items they are able, and would like, to display. The remaining items will be offered to other reputable Museums or stately homes in the county or stored securely in the basement of a local business.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

32. **TO CONFIRM LOCATIONS FOR VARIOUS MEETINGS/EVENTS AND THE OFFICE / STORAGE**

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

Delegated authority is given to the Town Clerk, Chairman of Council and the Chairman of Finance & Staffing to decide on the issues highlighted in this report, due to the fast-changing situation with storage requirements and the different requirements and the office relocation, and associated expenditure from the budgeted amount (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 s1-8). The Town Clerk is to keep all Councillors informed by email.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 8:17pm.

SIGNED

DATED