

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee
held on Monday 17th June 2024 at 6:30pm in the Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion



PRESENT

Cllr S Chapman – Committee Chairman
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke – Chairman of Council
Cllr L Hitchings
Cllr M Putt

Cllr A Cross – Committee Vice Chairman
Cllr H Miéville – Vice Chairman of Council
Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr T Clarkson

SITTING IN

Cllr Y Miéville

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk

1. PUBLIC SESSION

Cllr Cross commented on the excellent turnout for the litter pick on Saturday.

2. APOLOGIES

None

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

None had been submitted.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22nd January 2024

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke and AGREED (5 in favour, 3 abstentions) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

5. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

Corn Exchange Funding – Four letters have been sent to the private donors who did not respond to the initial letters sent out regarding the Corn Exchange project. An additional, local donor has also been approached.

6. REVIEW OF RECREATION & AMENITIES BUDGETS TO 31ST MAY 2024

6.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

6.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

6.3 Reserve Accounts

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

Councillors asked the Town Clerk to check the 'Sundries' budget figures with the RFO.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

7. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ALLOTMENT AGREEMENTS AND RENTS

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

Cllr L Hitchings queried the administrative time and costs for the invoicing, letters, agreements and chasing late payments, which is time consuming for staff to add to their workloads.

7. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ALLOTMENT AGREEMENTS AND RENTS (cont.)**

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

- **The Allotment Management Committee Rent for 2024/25 increases to £499.76 + VAT.**
- **The rent for Lamperd’s Field allotment for 2025/26 increases to £41.50 for a full 250sqm plot.**
- **The rent for Elizabeth Road allotment plots for 2024/25 is agreed at 26p per square metre.**
- **Minor amendments to the agreements, which have been checked by the Allotment Society, are approved with delegated authority to the Town Clerk to make any further amendments subject to consent from the Chair or Vice Chair of the R&A Committee and the AMC.**
- **Staff record administrative time spent on the new responsibilities being carried out so that this can be assessed prior to next year’s fees being agreed.**

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

8. **TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL LIGHTING ALONG THE FOOTPATH AT WOODHOUSE GARDENS**

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

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

It is recommended that the Committee approve the extra lighting at Woodhouse Gardens using £2,200 from the PPM budget Line which has a balance of £33,784.00 (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 s1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

9. **TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE FOR A REPLACEMENT PIECE OF EQUIPMENT FOR LARKSMEAD**

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

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

The quote from company A is approved for the pirouette spinner using funds of £2,150 from the General Play Equipment budget line, 1310 (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 s1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

10. **REPORT BY OPERATIONS MANAGER FEBRUARY 2024 – JUNE 2024**

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

The Chairman thanked the Operations Manager for his report, and all the staff for their work on the Corn Exchange project.

The meeting closed at 6:54pm.

SIGNED: DATED: