

**BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee**  
**held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7:11pm in the Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion**

**DRAFT**  
Subject to Confirmation

**PRESENT**

Cllr S Chapman – Committee Chairman  
Cllr N Lacey-Clarke – Chairman of Council  
Cllr H Miéville – Vice Chairman of Council  
Cllr S Hitchings

Cllr A Cross – Committee Vice Chairman  
Cllr T Clarkson  
Cllr M Putt

**SITTING IN**

Cllr C Stevens

Cllr Y Miéville

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Town Clerk

Operations Manager

**11. PUBLIC SESSION**

There were no members of public in attendance.

**12. APOLOGIES**

Cllr L Hitchings

**13. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None had been submitted.

**14. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

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

**15. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE**

Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion WiFi – The Town Council was paying £52 a month for broadband at the Pavilion with poor service and many attempts to rectify it had failed. Quotes were sourced from other companies, but there was no guarantee of a better service and prices were still high. The Town Clerk has therefore ordered two items totalling £149.88 and this is a one-off fee until January 2027 when the data runs out.

Indoor Market – Stall holders have decided to hire the Parish Rooms between them because they do not like being at the Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion and they say they are not making any money, however this was being stated when they were located in the Corn Exchange. The kitchen/café is still going strong at the Pavilion and the Market Manager will look to recruit new stall holders.

Blandford Allotment Society – The Chairman, Ian Ricketts has informed us that he is stepping down from his position as Chairman but will remain whilst his successor is chosen. Ian has been Chairman since 2018 and in that time the Town Council has worked with him on various challenges, not least the relocation of the allotments and all the Council staff have found him a joy to work with him and will miss him as Chairman.

Rugby Club request for fencing and Tug of War machine – The Operations Manager has received a request for fencing and the tug of war machine, which had been distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting. No concerns were raised by the Committee so the Rugby Club will be given approval with a retrospective item being added to the November agenda.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**16. REVIEW OF RECREATION & AMENITIES BUDGETS TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2024**

**16.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget**

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

Cllr Lacey-Clarke queried why some of the Income budget lines are marked as being under-budget when a budget hasn't been set and there is no expenditure either.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**16.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves**

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

**16.3 Reserve Accounts**

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

**17. TO REVIEW PROPOSALS FOR VENUE HIRE CHARGES FOR THE REFURBISHED CORN EXCHANGE COMPLEX PRIOR TO THE HIRE CHARGES REVIEW IN JANUARY 2025**

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

Cllr Lacey-Clarke welcomed the suggestion of having weddings at the Town Hall/Corn Exchange and wondered if it would be worth introducing a rate for local charitable organisations. He also suggested that the charges are rather low considering the facilities that will be on offer.

Cllr S Hitchings suggested making use of Woodhouse Gardens too.

Cllr Lacey-Clarke asked that the working group meeting dates are shared with all Committee members.

The Committee considers the points raised at a working group meeting with the aim of having two sessions prior to the January committee meeting when the hire charges will be set for 2025/26.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**18. REPORT BY OPERATIONS MANAGER JUNE 2024 – AUGUST 2024**

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

The Chairman thanked the Operations Manager for his report and there was a conversation about graffiti in the town.

**19. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS TO SUGGEST ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN THE 2025/2026 BUDGET TO ENABLE TIME FOR OFFICERS TO INVESTIGATE COSTS THAT CAN BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE NEXT COMMITTEEMEETING IN NOVEMBER.**

No suggestions were put forward and Cllr Lacey-Clarke stated that he felt the Town Council should focus on the Corn Exchange project and be frugal with resources and funding on other projects during this period.

The meeting closed at 7:43pm.

**SIGNED: ..... DATED: .....**