BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee
held on Monday 15th September 2025 at 7:00pm in the Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion

DRAFT
Subject to confirmation

PRESENT

Cllr S Chapman – Committee Chairman
Cllr A Cross – Committee Vice Chairman
Cllr H Miéville – Chairman of Council
Cllr C Stevens – Vice Chairman of Council
Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr M Putt
Cllr Y Miéville

SITTING IN

Cllr G Del-Pinto

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Operations Manager
Tristan Day (Offcamber Cycles)

9. PUBLIC SESSION

Tristan Day was in attendance from Offcamber Cycles as he and his Dad, Julian Day suggested the introduction of a pump track in Blandford. It is a simple looping course for bikers, scooters and skateboards. Instead of pedalling you pump to generate speed. It would be a space where everyone can join in, and it lets you join in at your own pace. A pump track doesn't replace the skate park, it complements it. The nearest one is currently a 30-minute drive away. They are relatively low cost to build and low maintenance.

Cllr H Miéville thanked everyone involved in Saturday's civic event for their efforts and mentioned Liz Rawlings who had also contributed to the day.

10. APOLOGIES

Cllr J Robsinon
Cllr L Hitchings

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

Cllr S Hitchings noted that he has purchased a grave space at the top field of the cemetery.

12. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16th June 2025

It was PROPOSED by Cllr H Miéville, SECONDED by Cllr Putt and AGREED unanimously that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

It was agreed to bring the pump track agenda item forward for discussion whilst Mr Day was still present.

13. TO CONSIDER SUPPORT FOR A PUMP TRACK AT STOUR

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

Councillors asked questions from Mr Day and he explained more about the pump tracks and how well used they would be, especially with more housing coming.

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

The committee supports the idea and authorises staff to work with Offcamber to seek permissions, support and associated funding for future consideration.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

14. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

14.1 Commonwealth War Graves Commission Tours – The Town Clerk and Business Support Officer met with Stew Kilby, volunteer for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) and Lt Col (Retd.) Bob Brannigan. The Commonwealth War Graves Foundation engages and educates people about the CWGC and part of that is offering free talks and tours of its war graves sections and Cllr Terry Clarkson thought it would be good to have these in Blandford Cemetery, where there are many CWGC war graves. Stew Kilby kindly offered free tours to be held in May, during the War Graves Tours week, and the aim is for people to find out more about the CWGC work involved in caring for cemeteries, memorials, and the history of the individuals commemorated. He has also offered to deliver a talk on the work of the CWGC in the Corn Exchange next year, which we welcome and look forward to. In addition, the Unknown Sailor headstone was discussed and lots of information has since been found, and it is hoped that a name will be confirmed and a new headstone introduced by the CWGC in due course.

15. REVIEW OF RECREATION & AMENITIES BUDGETS TO 31ST AUGUST 2025

15.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

15.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

15.3 Reserve Accounts

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

16. TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR NEW SURFACING AT THE PLAY AREAS

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

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

The committee selects the surfacing methods provided by Company B totalling £39,166.70 for the three play area sites, including replacement equipment, using budget line for General Play Equipment (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 s1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Post Meeting Note: Due to the volume of work involved, Company B had agreed to provide and install a tower unit at Park Road Recreation Ground in addition to the approved works. However, due to the overall value for one contract the entire works – surfacing and equipment – will be advertised via Contracts Finder, specifying the method preferred by the Committee, and brought back to council in due course.

17. TO APPROVE THE SITING OF A MEMORIAL BENCH

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

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

The committee authorises the siting of a wooden bench within the Gardens, subject to it being suitable for public use and not domestic use.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

18. TO CONSIDER ADDING CREMATED REMAINS INTERMENT AREA TO TOP FIELD

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

18. TO CONSIDER ADDING CREMATED REMAINS INTERMENT AREA TO TOP FIELD (cont.)

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

The committee authorises officers to look into this and brings further information and proposals back to a future meeting.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

19. REPORT BY OPERATIONS MANAGER JUNE 2025 - AUGUST 2025

The paper was noted (see Appendix H).

The Chairman thanked the Operations Manager for his report.

20. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS TO SUGGEST ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN THE 2026/2027 BUDGET TO ENABLE TIME FOR OFFICERS TO INVESTIGATE COSTS THAT CAN BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING IN NOVEMBER

Due to the initial commitment to the pump track project, the committee will consider a financial contribution to the pump track project.

20.1 To consider budgeting for shading at the play areas

The paper was noted (see Appendix I).

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

The committee does not pursue this suggestion at this stage due to the numerous pressures and demands on the council's budgets.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting closed at 7:59pm.

SIGNED: …… DATED: ……