BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee
held on Monday 19th January 2026 at 7:00pm in the Corn Exchange

DRAFT
Subject to confirmation

PRESENT

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

SITTING IN

Cllr Gail Del-Pinto

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Cllr L Hitchings (via Microsoft Teams)
Richard White (Blandford Bowling Club)
Operations Manager
Nicci Brown (via Microsoft Teams)
John Harding (Blandford Bowling Club)

21. PUBLIC SESSION

21.1 Blandford Bowling Club Centenary Project – Mr White and Mr Harding were in attendance to explain the improvements they would like to carry out at the Bowling Club; on the green (including machinery), the building, and its surrounding fencing.

22. APOLOGIES

Cllr L Hitchings (online via Microsoft Teams)
Cllr M Putt

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

None

24. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15th SEPTEMBER 2025

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Cross, SECONDED by Cllr H Miéville and AGREED (6 in favour, 1 abstention/non-vote) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

25. TO RESPOND TO BLANDFORD BOWLING CLUB CENTENARY PROJECT AND CONSIDER REFERRING THE MATTER TO THE BARNES FOR A RECREATION TRUST

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

The committee notes the proposals and defers the matter to both the full council meeting and a Barnes for a Recreation Trust meeting on 26th January 2026.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

26. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

26.1 Johnny Cash Tribute Event – This was a risky trial event, holding it at the beginning of January! But it sold itself, costing very little to the council in terms of time and printing with just social media and Around Blandford promotion carried out. The bar sales were over £500. We have also received a lovely thank you card from a couple, who are residents, thanking the council team for the event, the Christmas concert with the band and breathing new life back into the town.

26.2 Play Area Tender – The tender has been very popular with numerous queries regarding the equipment, surfacing and requests for site meetings.

26. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

26.3 Pump Track – The funding application to Dorset Council was submitted by the deadline on Thursday 15th January 2026. Cllr Barrie Cooper has been asked for his views on the proposal. Offcamber has received a response from Muc-Off and they are interested in getting involved but don't have much budget left this year due to other commitments. An approach has been made to the Chairman and Clerk to Blandford St Mary Parish Council and the Town Clerk offered that she and Tris Day from Offcamber attend a meeting to explain the project and its aims. The Chairman has accepted and this will take place on 4th March 2026 at The Brewery.

27. REVIEW OF RECREATION & AMENITIES BUDGETS TO 31st DECEMBER 2025

27.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

27.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

27.3 Reserve Accounts

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

28. TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE HIRE CHARGES FOR 2026/2027

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

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

The hire charges for the cemetery, sports clubs, markets, rooms and venues, items for hire, proof of life applications, planter sponsorship and civil ceremonies are approved for the 2026/27 financial year as per the report.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

To consider a request for exclusive use of Town Council venues

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

The Committee does not support the request for exclusivity and would like the building to be as accessible as possible to all potential hirers.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

New Hirer – Events

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Chapman, SECONDED by Cllr Y Miéville and AGREED (6 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Committee approves the offer of an introductory rate for the local events business to have 30% off the commercial rate for the weekend or the Sunday free, whichever is greater including VAT.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

29. TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY AND SET A DATE FOR SKATEFEST 2026

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

Cllr S Hitchings declared an interest because he sponsors this event.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr H Miéville, SECONDED by Cllr Cross and AGREED (6 in favour, 1 non-vote) that

29. TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY AND SET A DATE FOR SKATEFEST 2026 (cont.)

The Committee approves the date of Sunday 16th August 2026 for the Skatefest 2026 and associated expenditure of £2,150 + VAT for the organiser and £172 + VAT for St John Ambulance cover, using Reserve account 6502 (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 s1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

30. REPORT BY OPERATIONS MANAGER

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

The meeting closed at 8:12pm.

SIGNED: …… DATED: ……