



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

To Recreation & Amenities Cllrs; Y Miéville (Chair), S Chapman (Vice-Chair), C Stevens, S Hitchings, L Hitchings, M Putt, J Robinson, H Miéville, A Cross
All other recipients for information only.

Monday, 08 June 2026

Dear Member

Summons

You are summoned to a meeting of the **Recreation and Amenities Committee** of Blandford Forum Town Council for the transaction of the business shown on the agenda below. To be held at 7 pm on **Monday, 15 June 2026** in the Corn Exchange. The quorum for the Recreation & Amenities Committee is 5.

Public Participation and Democratic Quarter Hour

Prior to consideration of the following Agenda, there will be a democratic quarter of an hour, which may be extended at the discretion of the Committee, during which time members of the public may speak. During the meeting, members of the public and our elected representatives from the Dorset Council may indicate they wish to speak, and, at the discretion of the Chairman, and with the approval of the Members, they may be allowed to do so on points of information only. The Committee may invite members of the public to comment on specific issues where their particular knowledge on a subject might prove of benefit to the Committee.

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/39648598211161?p=I5QqRmSIJp8zJxvYc>

Meeting ID: 396 485 982 111 61. Passcode: E897fY2S

General Duties of the Council

Members are reminded that, in exercising its functions, the Council must consider the following: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, belief or disability), Crime & Disorder, Health and Safety, and Human Rights. Disabled access is available. Councillors are reminded of The Seven Principles of Public Life:

Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership.

Recording of Meetings

All attendees should be aware that filming, recording, photography or similar activity may take place during the meeting.

Date of next Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting: Monday, 14 September 2026

Yours sincerely

Claire Commons BA (Hons), Town Clerk

Twinned with Preetz, Germany



Town Clerk's Office
Church Lane, Blandford Forum
Dorset DT11 7AD



Twinned with Mortain, France



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Agenda

RA1.1	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	3
(7:00 pm)	To allow the public to make representations to the Council.(up to 15 mins) <i>Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, S.10</i>	
RA1.2	APOLOGIES.....	4
(7:20 pm)	To receive and consider for acceptance, apologies for absence from Councillors summoned to attend (1 min) <i>(Local Government Act, 1972 s.85)</i>	
RA1.3	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	5
(7:21 pm)	To declare interests relating to the business of the meeting.....(2 min) <i>Blandford Forum Town Council Code of Conduct, 2021</i>	
RA1.4	MINUTES	7
(7:23 pm)	To receive the minutes of the previous meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee(2 min) <i>(Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12)</i>	
RA1.5	OFFICER REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE	8
(7:25 pm)	To receive reports pertaining to the Recreation and Amenities Committee.....(5 min) <i>(Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12)</i>	
RA1.6	ALLOTMENT RENTS	13
(7:35)	To review allotment agreements and rents for 2027/28..... (15 mins) <i>Allotments Act 1922</i>	
RA1.7	MEMBERS MOTION 26-001 – LIVING IN HARMONY.....	17
(7:45pm)	To consider the proposal ‘Living in Harmony’ and a) the identification and preservation of local apple trees and b) the development of a community orchard,..... (20 mins) <i>General Power of Competence</i>	
RA1.8	CREMATED REMAINS.....	20
(8:05pm)	To consider adding a cremated remains interment area to the Top Field..... (20 mins) <i>Local Government Act 1972 s214</i>	

Anticipated meeting end time 8:25pm

RA1.1 **Public Participation**

(7:00 pm) To allow the public to make representations to the Council.

(up to 15 mins)

Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, S.10

Report Author: Town Clerk

RA1.1.1 **Background**

- a The Standing Orders of the Council (specifically Standing Order 3) provide for a designated Public Participation session at each meeting of the Council and its Committees.
- b During Public Participation, members of the public are invited to address the meeting regarding matters on the published agenda or within the Council's powers.
- c Public Participation is distinct from the formal business of the meeting. Once the session concludes, the public are observers only and must not participate further unless invited by a resolution of the Council.
- d The Council's commitment to openness, transparency, and community engagement supports the inclusion of Public Participation within the formal structure of the meeting.
- e At the Annual Meeting of the Council, Public Participation shall only commence after the election of the Chair, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972 and Standing Orders.

RA1.1.2 **Members of the public registered to speak**

- a None registered at the point of issuing papers.

RA1.1.3 **Conduct of Public Participation**

- a Public Participation will occur at the start of the meeting.
- b Each speaker may address the meeting for a maximum of three minutes, subject to the Chair's discretion to extend or reduce this time if necessary.
- c The maximum total duration for Public Participation shall normally be 20 minutes unless the Council resolves otherwise.
- d Speakers are asked to address the meeting courteously, and must not make offensive, defamatory, or irrelevant comments. Speakers do not have a right to expect debate or immediate responses.

RA1.1.4 **Recording of Public Participation**

- a The minutes of the meeting shall record that Public Participation took place and will summarise the general topics raised, but shall not record the names of individual speakers.

RA1.1.5 **Recommendation**

- a That the public comments are received, and any points of note are identified for consideration at future meetings of the Council or its committees or for action by officers of the Council

RA1.1.6 **Reason for Recommendation**

- a To acknowledge public engagement in accordance with Standing Orders and ensure that matters raised are appropriately considered without committing the Council to immediate decisions.

RA1.2 Apologies

(7:20 pm) To receive and consider for acceptance, apologies for absence from Councillors summoned to attend (1 min)

(Local Government Act, 1972 s.85)

Report Author: Town Clerk

RA1.2.1 Background

- a Councillors are holders of public office and are summoned to attend meetings of the Council and its committees.
- b In accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council must consider and decide whether to accept the reason for absence provided by any Councillor who is unable to attend a meeting.
- c If a councillor fails to attend any meeting of the Council (or its committees) for a period of six consecutive months, without having obtained formal acceptance of their apologies by the Council (or the relevant committee), they are automatically disqualified from office.

RA1.2.2 Apologies received and reason

- a Cllr Cross due to a personal conflicting engagement.

RA1.2.3 Recommendation

- a That the Council considers and either accepts or rejects each apology for absence received.

RA1.2.4 Reason for Recommendation

- a Accepting apologies resets the six-month period for continuous attendance, ensuring compliance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

(End)

RA1.3 **Declarations of Interest**

(7:21 pm) To declare interests relating to the business of the meeting.

(2 min)

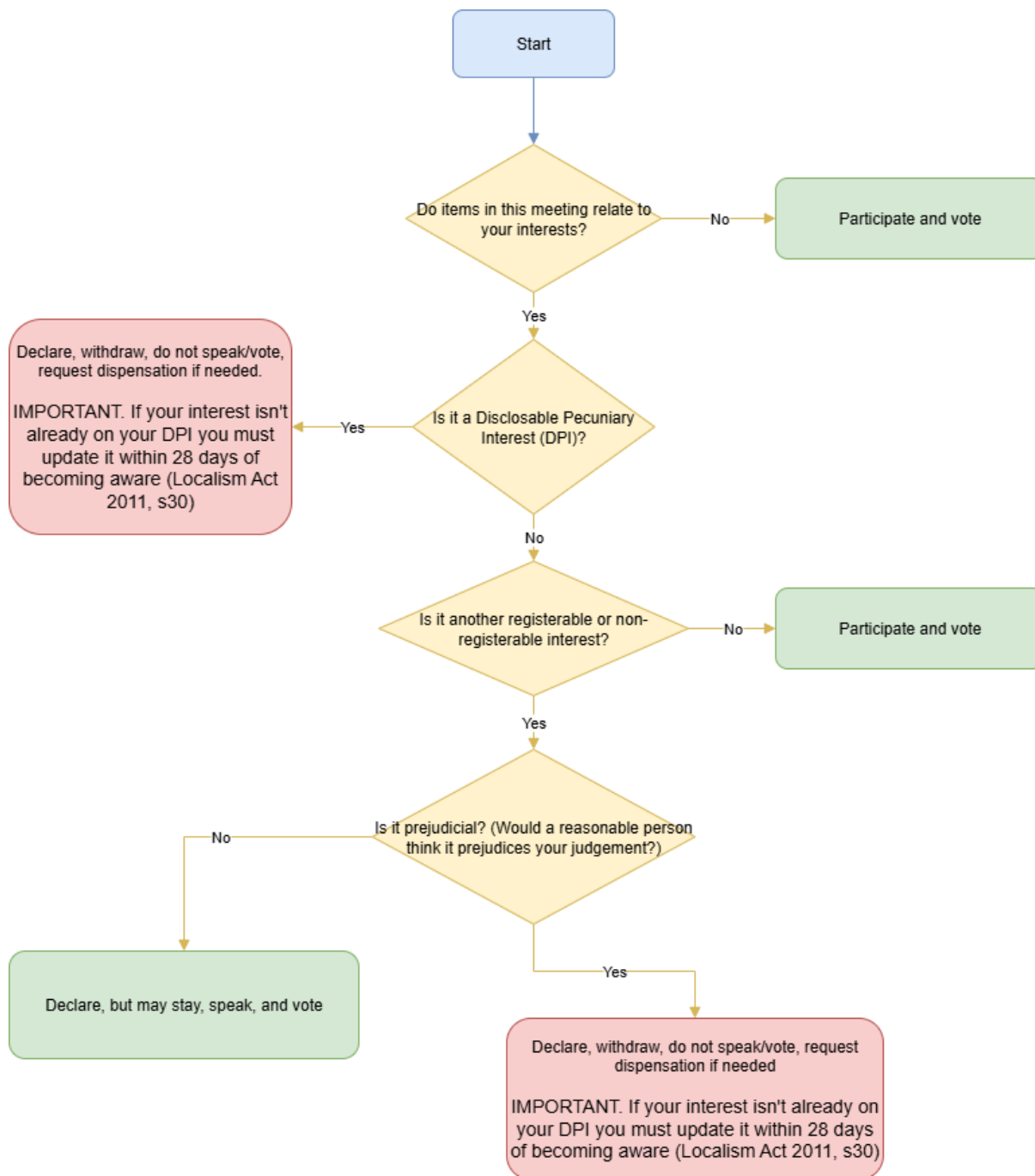
Blandford Forum Town Council Code of Conduct, 2021

Report Author: Town Clerk

RA1.3.1 **Background**

- a All Councillors and Officers are reminded of their obligations under the Blandford Forum Town Council Code of Conduct to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Registerable Interests, or Non-Registerable Interests relating to matters on the agenda.
- b Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest, it is the individual Councillor’s responsibility to declare that interest at the earliest opportunity in accordance with the Code of Conduct.
- c The Clerk will report any dispensations granted prior to the meeting.
- d Refer to Tables 1 and 2 in the [Code of Conduct](#) for further details about the types of interests which may apply.
- e If you think you need to request a dispensation, the process is included within the [Dispensation Request Form.docx](#).
- f The table below provides a summary of what your responsibilities are depending on the type of interest declared.

Type of Interest	Declare at Meeting?	Stay for Debate?	Vote?	Withdraw?	Notes
DPI (registered or not)	Yes	No	No	Yes	Must declare and withdraw, unless dispensation granted
Other/Non-Registerable (not prejudicial)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Declare, but may participate fully
Other/Non-Registerable (prejudicial)	Yes	No (except to speak if public can)	No	Yes	Declare, may speak if public can, then withdraw
With Dispensation	Yes	As specified	As specified	As specified	Dispensation may allow limited participation



RA1.3.2 Recommendation

a That the Council notes the declarations made in relation to the business of the meeting.

RA1.3.3 Reason for Recommendation

Recording declarations at the meeting ensures transparency, compliance with the Council's adopted Code of Conduct, and adherence to statutory obligations.

(End)

RA1.4 Minutes

(7:23 pm) To receive the minutes of the previous meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee. (2 min)
(Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12)

Report Author: Operations Manager

RA1.4.1 **Background**

- a In approving draft minutes, the Council is concerned solely with whether the minutes accurately record the proceedings and resolutions of the relevant meeting.
- b It is immaterial whether individual Councillors were present at the meeting to which the minutes relate.
- c If any corrections are necessary due to inaccuracies, amendments must be approved by formal resolution before the minutes are signed.

RA1.4.2 **Recommendation**

- a That the minutes of [9th February 2026](#) be approved for signing as a true record of the decisions taken.

(End)

RA1.5 Officer Report to the Committee

(7:25 pm) To receive reports pertaining to the Recreation and Amenities Committee. (5 min)

(Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12)

Report Author: Town Clerk

RA1.5.1 Summary

a Reports provided within this item are to be received, they provide updates on decisions already taken by the Committee and actions taken under the Scheme of Delegation (where not previously reported).

RA1.5.2 Updates and Actions from Monday, 09 February 2026

Minute Ref	Decision	Status	Update
31	Consider holding event for World Dance Day in 2027	● Not Started	<i>Scheduled for consideration in September</i>
36	Award tender for replacement play equipment at three sites	● In Progress	<i>Work is underway. Estimated completion July 2026.</i>

RA1.5.3 Staffing

a Sickness has caused issues since the turn of the year and staff are also getting used to the increase of bookings and events.

RA1.5.4 Corn Exchange

a Small snagging issues continue to be found and resolved in the Corn Exchange. Staff are still getting used to the mechanical and engineering within the building and also the Audio Visual system etc.

RA1.5.5 Park Road

a After a very successful season the football has finished, and the cricket has begun. The Bowling Club continue to be successful and work was carried out to replace all asbestos found in the soffits at the football pavilion

RA1.5.6 Scouts Hut

a No reply was received from the Scouts this year in respect of the grass cutting so it is presumed that they have made separate arrangements.

RA1.5.7 Allotments

a The annual meeting between the management society and the Town Council has been held and this is a later agenda item for this meeting.

RA1.5.8 Town

a The planters around the town have been entirely done in house by the outside staff and so far have received a number of compliments. It has been challenging to source and plant out all the plants required and this has been done against a background of highs and lows in the weather.

RA1.5.9 Health and Safety

a Asbestos monitoring has been carried out and monthly legionella testing continues.
b Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) is ongoing

- c Fire extinguishers have been serviced at all venues
- d All Risk Assessments, Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) and Systems of Work have been reviewed.
- e New Policy on Martyn's Law is under constructions
- f New Fire Risk Assessments have been carried out at all venues.

RA1.5.10 Vandalism

- a The following incidents took place between February and June 2026. At various times during the same period there has been evidence of drug use and rough sleeping at public toilets. The police are aware.

Date	Location	Remarks
26 Feb	Skate Park	Broken Glass
01 Mar	Railway Arches	Broken Glass
05 Mar	Skate Park	Broken Glass
07 Mar	Railway Arches Boards	Graffiti
15 Mar	Marsh and Ham Toilets	Toilet Blocked
21 Mar	Skate Park	Broken Glass
26 Mar	Marsh and Ham Toilets	Toilet Blocked
29 Mar	Allotment Building	Attempted Break in
30 Mar	Woodhouse Gardens	Tree vandalised
5 Apr	Skate Park	Broken Glass
9 Apr	Railway Arches	Broken Glass
16 Apr	Skate Park	Broken Glass
22 Apr	Skate Park	Broken Glass
23 Apr	Marsh and Ham Toilets	Badly Vandalised
29 Apr	Marsh and Ham Toilets	Toilet Blocked
6 May	Skate Park	Broken Glass
10 May	Skate Park	Broken Glass
16 May	Railway Arches	Broken Glass
22 May	Skate Park	Broken Glass
27 May	Skate Park	Broken Glass
3 June	Marsh and Ham Toilets	Toilet Blocked

RA1.5.11 Financial Update

- a The following documents are submitted for members' information and scrutiny as part of routine financial monitoring. They are intended to help councillors assess budget performance, understand the availability and purpose of earmarked reserves, and review the Council's reserve account balances.
- b [Analytical Review of Revenue Budget](#)
- c [Review of Earmarked Reserves](#)
- d [Reserve Accounts](#)

RA1.5.12 Recommendation

- a That the reports are received and noted and any actions arising identified for future meetings of the Council or its Committees

RA1.5.13 Reason for Recommendation

- a To keep members updated on committee actions and information.

(End)

Analytical Review of Revenue Budget

Finance Staffing Committee
26th September 2022
Agenda Item No.8.2.2

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REVENUE BUDGET REPORT

2026/27

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual to Date	Budget Variance	Status	Comments
INCOME						
Corn Exchange	34,100	5,683	11,883	6,200	Over-Budget	Events income
Woodhouse Gardens	5,000	833	757	(77)	Under-budget	
Larksmead	1,500	250	386	136	Over-Budget	
Cemetery	16,000	2,667	2,781	114	Over-Budget	
Sundries	3,950	658	2,195	1,537	Over-Budget	
Park Road		0	716	0	Over-Budget	
Skate park	0	0	300	300	Over-Budget	
R & A Income	60,550	10,092	19,018	8,211	Over-Budget	
EXPENDITURE						
Vehicles	14,160	2,360	1,109	(1,251)	Under-budget	
Corn Exchange	78,200	13,033	14,896	1,863	Over-Budget	
Woodhouse Gardens	4,966	828	455	(373)	Under-budget	
Larksmead	2,000	333	1,023	690	Over-Budget	
Recreation Ground (Barnes Trust)	42,671	7,112	433	(6,679)	Under-budget	Admin and salary cost invoiced quarterly in arrears
Glenmore Workshop	10,110	1,685	1,354	(331)	Under-budget	
Cemetery	7,854	1,455	1,138	(316)	Under-budget	
Park Road EVCPs	1,000	167	997	831	Over-Budget	
Langton	450	75	96	21	Over-Budget	
Skatepark	3,725	621	96	(25)	Under-budget	
Sundries	20,350	3,392	5,073	1,682	Over-Budget	Annual waste contract paid upfront
R & A Totals	185,486	31,060	26,670	(3,890)	Under-budget	
TOTAL (NET COST)	124,936	20,968	7,653	(12,100)	Under-budget	

Note
Over budget figure positive variance
Under budget negative variance ()

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REVENUE BUDGET REPORT

SUMMARY

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual to Date	Budget Variance	
VEHICLE RUNNING COSTS	14,160	2,360	1,109	(1,251)	On Target
CEMETERY	(8,146)	(1,212)	(1,643)	(431)	On Target
LARKSMEAD	500	83	637	554	Over-Budget
PARK ROAD	1,000	167	282	115	Over-Budget
CORN EXCHANGE	44,100	7,350	3,013	(4,337)	On Target
RECREATION GROUND(Trust)	42,671	7,112	433	(6,679)	On Target
GLENMORE WORKSHOP	10,110	1,685	1,354	(331)	On Target
WOODHOUSE GARDENS	(34)	(6)	(302)	(296)	On Target
SUNDRIES	16,400	2,733	2,878	145	Over-Budget
LANGTON ROAD	450	75	96	21	Over-Budget
SKATEPARK	3,725	621	(204)	(325)	On Target
R & A BUDGET	124,936	20,968	7,653	(12,816)	On Target
Total	124,936	20,968	7,653	(12,816)	On Target

Review of Earmarked Reserves

Expenditure against R & A Earmarked Reserves 2026/27
As At 31.05.26

	Balance as at 31/3/26	Income & Transfer of funds	Budget 2026/27	Total Reserves	Spend YTD	Committed YTD	Current Balance	Provision Subject 2026/27
1050	4,317	0	0	4,317	580	1	3,738	
1052	14,126	0	0	14,126			14,126	
10510	41,229	0	0	41,229			41,229	
10520	16,433	0	0	16,433			16,433	
10521	2,257	0	0	2,257			2,257	
10530	12,109	0	0	12,109			12,109	
10531	50,966	0	0	50,966			50,966	
10532	57,443	0	0	57,443			57,443	
10533	24,484	0	0	24,484			24,484	
10534	34,900	0	0	34,900			34,900	
10535	172,441	0	0	172,441			172,441	
10536	113,458	0	0	113,458			113,458	
10537	9,978	0	0	9,978			9,978	
10538	52,801	0	0	52,801			52,801	
10539	116,944	0	0	116,944			116,944	
10540	13,012	0	0	13,012			13,012	
1060	3,195	0	20,000	3,195			3,195	20000
1061	11,420	0	1,000	11,420			11,420	1000
1062	13,000	0	1,000	13,000			13,000	1000
1064	32,654	0	0	32,654			32,654	
1065	3,134	0	900	3,134			3,134	900
1067	16,037	0	0	16,037			16,037	
1068	2,000	0	0	2,000			2,000	
1070	1,696	0	0	1,696			1,696	
1071	357	0	0	357			357	
1072	857	0	0	857			857	
1075	21,733	0	0	21,733			21,733	
1080	1,263	0	0	1,263			1,263	
1090	22,005	0	500	22,005			22,005	
	866,249	0	23,400	866,249	580	0	865,669	22900

Spend

Committed

579.95

1 Grant given to allotments

RA1.6 **Allotment Rents**

(7:35) To review allotment agreements and rents for 2027/28

(15 mins)

Allotments Act 1922

Report Author: Operations Manager

RA1.6.1 **Summary and Background information**

- a Representatives from the Town council and the Allotment Management Committee met on 3rd June 2026 for the annual meeting. The following are attached:
- o [Blandford Allotment Society Accounts Year 31st May 2024 to 31st May 2025](#)
 - o [BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL & ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING Held June 3rd 2026 10.30am](#)
- b The following recommendations came out of the meeting:
- o The Allotment Management Committee Rent for 2026/27 increases to £530.19 (+VAT).
 - o Both agenda point 4&5 were discussed together. The Chair of AMC would like to increase the rent Lamperds field in line with Elizabeth Road to achieve parity between the two sites. It was agreed that the AMC would obtain feedback on this from their members and then get back to the Town Council with the agreed figures by the 30th June in time for the information to be sent out to plot holders in July.
 - o The Chair of the AMC would like to change the name of the “Ring Fenced Fund” to “Maintenance Contribution”.

RA1.6.2 **Scheme of Delegation**

- a The Committee’s terms of reference require that it notes and responds appropriately to matters raised by the Allotment Management Committee.
- b Custom and practice for this committee is that it approves rent and agreement changes.

RA1.6.3 **Legal Authority and Implication**

- a The Allotments Act 1922, section 1, as amended by the Allotments Act 1950, section 1, requires not less than 12 months’ notice to quit a statutory allotment tenancy; accordingly, any future changes affecting allotment agreements or relocation to a new site must be managed with that notice requirement in mind.

RA1.6.4 **Recommendation**

- a To increase the rent for 2026/27 to £530.19 (+VAT), amend the name ‘ringfenced fund’ to ‘maintenance contribution and consider plot rents and potential grant request at the Town Council meeting on 27th July 2026.

(End)

Blandford Allotment Society Accounts Year 31st May 2024 to 31st May 2025

PROVISIONAL/DRAFT

BLANDFORD ALLOTMENT SOCIETY ACCOUNTS for the period - 1st June 2025 - 31st May 2026

INCOME		Year 25-26	Year 24-25	EXPENDITURE		Year 25-26	Year 24-25
		£	£			£	£
Brought forward	Bank	4020.54	4177.21	Bank Charges		51.42	17.00
	Petty Cash	251.73	155.01				
INCOME				Rent - Blandford Town Council		617.70	599.71
Rental Payments	LF	3042.36	3962.65	Utilities			
Rental Payments	ER	1250.34	994.90	Electricity		1147.96	749.91
				Water	LF	2288.45	1238.00
					ER	709.44	249.49
				Insurance General		389.68	416.61
				Insurance Tractor		283.00	278.00
				Tractor Service/parts		198.00	337.28
				Tractor Diesel		30.59	26.89
				Rotavator/Lawn Mower service			174.02
				Petrol		8.31	25.80
				Repairs Troughs LF		24.80	
				Repairs and Materials		221.13	
				Notice Boards - purchased		197.99	
				Gazebo - purchased		69.99	
				Strimmers - purchased		144.37	
Grant from Rotary Club - Troughs			350.00	ER Troughs and Gates			1471.68
				Website		93.59	93.59
Seeds			1532.80	NAS Membership		526.00	485.00
Potato Competition		45.50	45.00	NAS Refund		12.00	
Sale of Plants/Tools		200.45	38.00	Kings Seeds			1223.38
Raffles		118.00	242.00	Potato Competition		6.29	45.12
Misc		28.00		BBQ			170.27
Compost		902.50	793.29	Misc		2.85	672.31
Manure		349.00	575.00	Compost		740.00	945.00
Pea Sticks etc		60.00	61.00	Manure		235.00	180.00
Rotavator etc hire		50.00	70.00				
Donation Greenhouse/Poly Tunnel/Storage Box			35.00	Awards vouchers		135.00	55.00
Donations Glass			2.00	Committee LongService Awards			100.00
Donations		72.50	26.00				
TOTAL INCOME excluding Bank/Petty Cash figures.		£6,118.65	£8,727.64	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£8,133.56	£9,554.06
2025-26 - Expenditure exceeded Income by £2,014.91p.				Blandford Allotment Society Funds		£	
				Lloyds Bank Account		2017.60	
				Petty Cash		89.76	
				Stock - compost		150.00	
				Total Funds and stock		2257.36	

The AMC has sent out a combined total of 11 yellow cards for Elizabeth Road and Lamperd's Field.

8. Breaches of Agreement

None

9. Works Carried Out

9.1 Nigel Barrow on behalf of the Management Committee

- Elizabeth Road

Nothing to report

- Lamperd's Field

Puddle issue outside shed resolved

9.2 Jon Goodenough on behalf of Blandford Forum Town Council

- PAT testing
- Fire alarm serviced
- Legionella testing
- Extinguisher testing

10. Review of Agreements

Clarity on charges to be written in

11. Other Matters Raised by the Management Committee

Chair of AMC would like to change the name of 'Ring Fence Fund' to 'Maintenance Contribution'. It was felt this would be more easily understood by members. This was agreed. The charge going forward will be £10 per plot for both sites.

Annual BBQ event on July 26th 2026

Chair of AMC would like to say a big thank you to Imad and Stephen for all the work they have done and the hours they have put in on the I.T side of things as well as the financial.

12. Other Matters Raised by the Town Council

Thank you from BFTC to the AMC for all the work and effort put in to overcoming the recent challenges.

The meeting closed at 11:35am.

RA1.7 Members Motion 26-001 – Living in Harmony

(7:45pm) To consider the proposal 'Living in Harmony' and a) the identification and preservation of local apple trees and b) the development of a community orchard, (20 mins)

General Power of Competence

Proposer: Cllr G Del Pinto **Seconder:** Cllr Y Miéville

Text in blue has been added for extra context by the Proper Officer.

RA1.7.1 **Summary and Background information provided by the proposer**

- a This proposal is brought to the committee due to the need to identify and protect ancient varieties of apple trees within our locality. Many trees are now coming to the end of their natural life span. It is therefore imperative that we ensure that these trees are identified and cuttings taken as soon as possible to ensure their survival for future generations.
- b The second stage would be to develop a Community Orchard so that further varieties can be added. Running alongside this would be the need to develop strategies which will help encourage the community to connect to nature. The use of the orchard as a starting point will not only offer an opportunity to encourage greater connections/interactions with highly skilled naturalists in all sorts of fields with the sharing of skills and information but also introduces the opportunity to connect with schools, local businesses, Doctors surgeries, care and dementia homes, as well as offering opportunities to develop a range of well-being activities etc for the further benefit of all.
- c The hope is that the Climate, Biodiversity and Nature Working Group could be intrinsically involved with the project so that the project is seen as a council project. (Please see BFTC Climate Change, Biodiversity and Nature Action Plan 28.10.19 updated August 2025).
- d The first part of the project the identification, preservation and development of community connection will require the backing of the Town Council for its implementation. The project would then need a site for the further Community Orchard together with funding to enable the project to move forward. The project will also require annual maintenance and development. Appropriate insurances to cover all eventualities.
- e **Costs:**
- o Administrative cost implications
 - o Land purchase
 - o Infrastructure costs
 - o Maintenance costs
 - o Project development costs
 - o Purchase of saplings
- f This type of project is already up and running at the Big Yellow bus Project as Shillingstone, so the idea works, it is the costs as above which remain unknown at present.
- g Much research has been undertaken which can be seen within the project proposal. Various apple orchards have been visited and offer huge advantages to the community that they appear in.

RA1.7.2 **Further Information Sources**

- a [Apple Orchard for Blandford](#) (this is a valuable document to read to support this proposal, provided as a link to reduce printing costs)

RA1.7.3 **Legal Authority and Implication**

- a The Council holds the General Power of Competence which is the power of first resort and allows this to proceed as a benefit to the community.

RA1.7.4 **Financial Implication**

a The following costs relate to Phase 1 of the project proposal.

Descriptor	Cost	Notes
2 x Volunteers	2 x man hours x 15 sites = 30 hours identifying 73 apple trees	Source volunteers – possible Climate, Biodiversity and Nature Working Group
Arboriculturist	£27,993 £448.50 for	Pro rata £14.95 per hour? 73 trees approx. over 15 sites – 2hrs per garden identifying/data collection. 15 sites x 2 hours x £14.95 = £448.50
Arboriculturist – volunteer	FREE	If available around Autumn (October)
Leaflet Campaign	£22.68 (1000) £36.57 (2500)	500 leaflets needed on re-wilding gardens 'how to encourage wildlife into your garden'.
Labels for identified trees	£9.41 for 3 pk of 150	Ebay
Open Evening to share data	£44.69	Corn Exchange evening 6 – 10pm Shaftesbury Orchard Town Team and Sherborne Re-Wilding team to launch the Apple identification and re-wilding message.
Community Expo Day	£87.33	Inviting community groups/charities to share information about their given field of expertise for the community
Weekly Market Days	FREE	Availability of group to local community for advice and help
Social Media	Use of Facebook	To advertise and share information regarding ways to encourage biodiversity
Total	£612.61	

RA1.7.5 Impact Assessment

- a **Equalities** – Both projects will enable all peoples to take part based on age, disability gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. The only impact of any of the above will be site safety.
- b **Environmental** – The preservation of existing apple tree varieties and the development of a new apple orchard which will help develop greater biodiversity through the re-wilding of private gardens, housing estate areas and other areas and the survival of varieties as yet unknown whilst developing strategies to connect with community and develop a greater understanding of the importance of working alongside nature and not against it.
- c **Crime and Disorder** – *Low positive impact.* The project is not directly aimed at crime reduction, but increased community use, stewardship and informal surveillance of public spaces may help discourage antisocial behaviour and vandalism. Any future orchard site should be designed and managed to minimise opportunities for damage, trespass or nuisance, with appropriate risk assessment, maintenance and community oversight.
- d Resources – none
- e Economic – The development of a Community Orchard could marginally impact Blandford's economy as the eventual produce will be used in the preserving and bottling of foods for sale, alongside vegetables and other fruits together with sales of honey from hives once these have been established. It could also help establish Blandford as a place of interest.
- f Risk Management – Please see BFTC ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

RA1.7.6 Recommendation

- a That the Town Council takes the opportunity to identify and safeguard for the future ancient apple tree varieties and takes forward the chance to develop a community orchard that will benefit the peoples of Blandford in so many unique ways.

RA1.7.7 Alternative recommendation provided by the Proper Officer

- a That the Council supports Phase 1 of the “Apple Orchard for Blandford” project, comprising the mapping, identification and preservation of existing apple and fruit trees within Blandford Forum, together with engagement with landowners and relevant partner organisations to assess biodiversity, heritage and community opportunities.
- b That officers and the relevant Committee or working group work with the proposer and stakeholders to develop a fully scoped Phase 2 proposal for the establishment of a Community Orchard, including potential sites, costs, funding opportunities, governance and maintenance arrangements, for consideration by Council at a future meeting.

RA1.7.8 Reason for Recommendation

- a Time according to the DWT is running out fast to turn the tide back on Global Warming and loss of biodiversity, 2030 is the deadline given. This is Blandford’s response to this emergency!

(End)

RA1.8 Cremated Remains

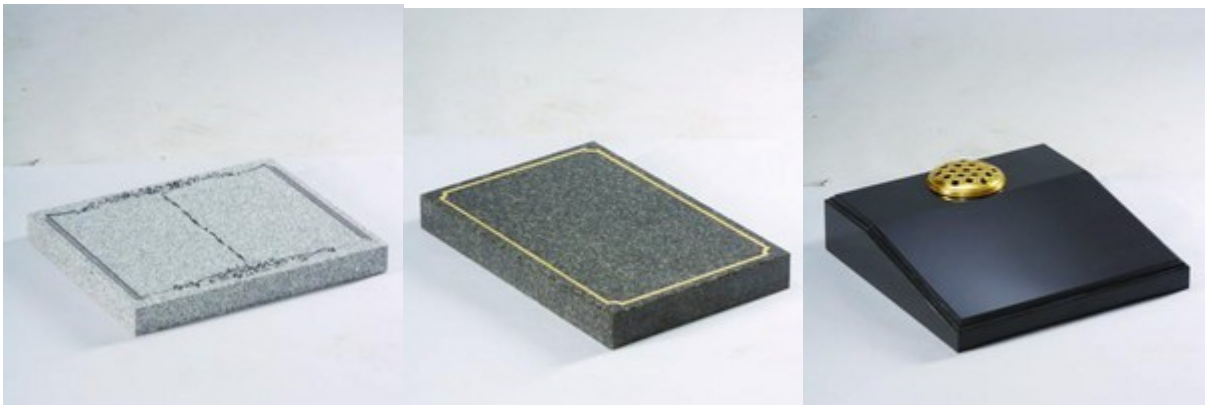
(8:05pm) To consider adding a cremated remains interment area to the Top Field (20 mins)

Local Government Act 1972 s214

Report Author: Business Support Officer

RA1.8.1 Summary and Background information

- a Currently, our regulations state that the plots in the Top Field are to be sold as full burial plots only, although people can buy a full plot and inter their loved ones' cremated remains. It is recommended making use of part of the Top Field for cremated remains plots only with regulated memorials.
- b Although there are still plots for cremated remains in certain parts of the Old Section that can be used, these often have to be found and marked, whereas if the cemetery had a separate section, it would be rotation only which is easier to maintain.
- c It is recommended that the plot size is for 2 sets of Cremated Remains, with the ability to purchase the next plot in rotation at the time of need for further interments.
- d It is suggested that the Council allows only one type of memorial to be erected, pictures below to be considered, to help with maintaining the area. The cost to place one is recommended to be £135 for residents and £268 for non-residents which is the same as this years costs.



RA1.8.2

- a Currently the Council is using sections E and F for full burials, the recommendation would be to use area G along the hedge line marked Top Field

RA1.8.3 Further Information Sources

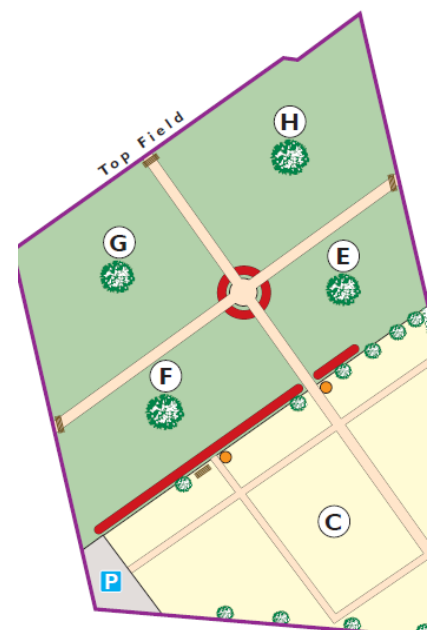
- a [Shaftesbury Cemetery costs](#)
- b [Wimborne Cemetery costs](#)

RA1.8.4 Legal Authority and Implication

- a The Local Government Act 1972 s.214 provides that parish and town councils are burial authorities and may provide and maintain cemeteries. It also states that "cemetery" includes any place for interment of the dead, including a part set aside for the interment of ashes.

RA1.8.5 Financial Implication

- a Recommended costs £150 for residents, £300 non-residents plus interment fees.
- b Recommended memorial costs £135 for residents and



£268 for non-residents

RA1.8.6 Impact Assessment

Positive Negative Neutral

Category	Impact (Positive/Negative)	Level (Low/Medium/High)	Explanation
Equalities	<input type="radio"/> Neutral	Low	No specific impact has been identified from the report
Environmental	<input type="radio"/> Neutral	Low	No significant environmental impact is identified in the report
Crime and Disorder	<input type="radio"/> Neutral	Low	No direct crime and disorder implications are identified
Resources	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Positive	Medium	A separate rotation-only area for cremated remains would be easier to maintain and manage
Risk Management	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Positive	Medium	A designated area with one type of memorial provides clarity and maintenance control.

RA1.8.7 Marketing and Communications

- a The following marketing and communications are proposed to accompany this resolution. The resolution must specify if any alteration is required to this proposal.
- Social Media:** A short post advising that a separate cremated remains only area has been introduced in the Top Field of the cemetery.
- Website:** Update the cemetery page with the details of the new cremated remains area, permitted memorial type and relevant fees.
- Press Release:** Committee to determine whether it considers this appropriate, if so, a brief release summarising the decision and reasons for the new arrangement.
- Community Engagement:** Respond to enquiries from funeral directors, stonemasons and residents as required
- Other:** As this relates to cemetery provision, communications should be factual, clear and sensitive in tone.
- Timescale:** Following approval and once any regulations, fees and operational details have been confirmed.

RA1.8.8 Recommendation

- a That a cremated remains interment area be established in Area G of the Top Field, with plots for up to two sets of cremated remains, one approved memorial type only, and the fees set at £150 for residents and £300 for non-residents plus interment fees, with memorial fees of £135 for residents and £268 for non-residents. . Communications to be executed as outlined above with quotes and media interviews to be provided by the Chair of Committee or Chair of Council. Delegate to the Town Clerk all details in discharging this decision.

(End)