

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee
held on Monday 25 January 2010

PRESENT

Cllr M Owen – Chairman
Cllr H Galpin (Vice Chairman of Council)
Cllr H White
Cllr S Hixson Andrews
Cllr H Lawson

Cllr L Lindsay – Vice Chairman (Chair of Council)
Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr S Loch
Cllr F West

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk

Assistant Town Clerk

54. PUBLIC SESSION

Members of the public were in attendance to hear the item on Memorial Kerbing (see Minute No. 57).

Dianne Brook, Reverend Redding, Jenny Galushka, DCC's Mike Evans and Mrs Escott's son appealed to Members relaying the distress and grief that has been suffered by the family as a result of kerbing not being permitted on Mrs Escott's grave.

They explained the significance and cultural importance of being buried for Romany gypsy families and the family stated how important the appearance of the cemetery is to them and that the good upkeep of the graves is passed down through the generations of the family.

55. APOLOGIES

None

56. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors were reminded of their obligations to declare orally their interests as per the Parish Councils Model Code of Conduct Order 2007 Number 1159.

It was agreed that the Item regarding Memorial Kerbing be brought forward for the benefit of the members of public in attendance.

57. TO CONSIDER A REPORT ON MEMORIAL KERBING AT BLANDFORD CEMETERY

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Owen, SECONDED by Cllr Loch and AGREED unanimously that the Town Council's Standing Orders are SUSPENDED in order to discuss the matter.

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

A Working Group is formed to research the subject further to ascertain if there are alternative options that might provide greater flexibility for those wishing to have memorial kerbing.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

57. TO CONSIDER A REPORT ON MEMORIAL KERBING AT BLANDFORD CEMETERY (CONT)

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

Cllr Owen, Cllr Lindsay and Cllr Lawson form the Working Group.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Owen, SECONDED by Cllr Hixson Andrews and AGREED unanimously that

The Working Group reports back to the next Committee meeting on 29 March 2010.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The Town Council's Standing Orders were reinstated.

58. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 16 November 2009

It was PROPOSED by Cllr White, SECONDED by Cllr Loch and AGREED (7 in favour, 2 abstentions) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

59. URGENT BUSINESS

None

60. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

60.1 Blandford Cemetery – The Town Council has received a very complimentary letter from a resident, whose family have five plots, thanking the Town Council for the high level of maintenance and care taken by the staff in the cemetery.

60.2 BLCAG – BLCAG's update from the group confirms DCC's support of £100,000 over the next 3 years, and explains that future management options are now being considered. In addition, reference is also made to two forthcoming fundraising events; a sponsored swimathon on 10 February 2010 and a Royal Signals Band concert on 17 April 2010. All the details can be seen on the BLCAG website.

60.3 Dog Warden Service – At a meeting with the Chief Executive of NDDC the Town Clerks of the district were informed that the present contract for the dog warden service is not likely to be renewed at the end of the contact period with the service possibly going to be provided by East Dorset District Council.

60.4 Stair Climber – In consultation with the Chairman of Council the Town Clerk has purchased a stair climber from Dorchester Town Council for £100 as they were having a lift installed into their building. The equipment can be stored in the Corn Exchange and will be made available to hirers of the Town Hall and the Council Chamber if required.

61. REVIEW OF RECREATION & AMENITIES BUDGETS TO 18 JANUARY 2010

61.1 Analytical Review of Revenue Budget

The paper was noted (see Appendix A).

61. REVIEW OF RECREATION & AMENITIES BUDGETS TO 18 JANUARY 2010 (CONT)

61.2 Review of Earmarked Reserves

The paper was noted (see Appendix B). It was agreed that the remaining £61 in the Woodhouse Garden Maze budget be transferred to the PPM budget and all future maintenance works on the maze should therefore be taken from the PPM budget.

ACTION: RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER

61.3 Reserve Accounts

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

62. REVIEW OF FEES AND HIRE CHARGES FOR TOWN COUNCIL VENUES, SPORTS CLUBS AND THE CEMETERY FOR 2010-2011

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Hixson Andrews and AGREED unanimously that

The Committee agrees the proposed fees and hire charges for 2010/11, as summarised below and detailed in the report, rather than calling a Working Group meeting.

- 1. Cemetery Fees and Charges – to be increased by 1.5% and rounded up to the nearest 50p or £1.00 (see Appendix A).**
- 2. Sports Clubs – to be increased by 1.5% (see Appendix B).**
- 3. Town Council Venues, Indoor Market Stalls and The Shambles – to be increased by 1.5% and rounded up to the nearest 10p (see Appendix B) with refreshments to remain at 60p per person/per session.**

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

63. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO MAKE EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BOWLING CLUB

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Loch, SECONDED by Cllr White and AGREED unanimously that

The Committee approves the installation of decking at the Bowling Club, but rejects the request to order the decking due to the VAT position.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Owen, SECONDED by Cllr Loch and AGREED unanimously that

The Committee supports the Bowling Club's request to expand the existing building, in principal, although it does not support Options 4 & 5.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

64. TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY FOR THE PLANNED PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE SURVEYS (PPM) AND FIRE INSURANCE REBUILDING COST ASSESSMENTS

The paper was noted (see Appendix G).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Loch, SECONDED by Cllr West and AGREED unanimously that a RECOMMENDATION is made to full Council that

The Town Council approves the suspension of Financial Regulations¹ for this Agenda Item and authorises expenditure of £5,500 from the PPM budget to update and prepare the new Planned Preventative Maintenance Surveys (PPM) and Fire Insurance Rebuilding Cost Assessments and £1,560 for mechanical and electrical inspections (Expenditure Authority: Local Government Act 1972 s111).

ACTION: TOWN COUNCIL

65. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE GEORGIAN FAYRE COMMITTEE TO SUB-LET WOODHOUSE GARDENS AND THE CORN EXCHANGE

The paper was noted (see Appendix H).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Hixson Andrews and AGREED unanimously that

The request to sub-let the Town Council venues is approved.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

66. REPORTS BY GROUNDS & PROPERTY MANAGER NOV 2009 – JAN 2010

The paper was noted (see Appendix I).

The meeting closed at 7.54 p.m.

SIGNED: DATED:

¹ 12.2(ii) for expenditure below £25,000 but above £5,000 the Clerk shall where possible obtain 3 quotations and where the expenditure is below £5,000 but above £1,500 the Clerk shall where possible obtain 3 estimates. Otherwise regulation 11.3 shall apply.

12.3 When applications are made to waive Standing Orders relating to contracts to enable a tender to be negotiated without competition, the reason shall be embodied in a recommendation to the Council.