

**LOWER CENTRAL GARDENS TRUST BOARD**

**MONDAY, 27TH JANUARY, 2025**

**Present:** Councillor Matthew Gillett in the Chair

Councillors Cllr J Martin (Vice-Chair), Cllr B Nanovo  
and Cllr L Williams

**51     Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence received.

**52     Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**53     Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May were confirmed as accurate records and signed by the Chair.

**54     Exclusion of Press and Public**

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs such interest in disclosing the information.

**55     Lower Central Gardens Trust Board Meeting Update January 2025**

The Director of Commercial Operations presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The report provided service update information to the Lower Central Gardens Trust Board to demonstrate the Council commitment to maintain the public gardens known as "The Lower Central Gardens" in Bournemouth for the recreation and enjoyment of the public in accordance with the terms of the Charity Scheme made by the Charity Commission on the 13 May 2011.

Items include:

- Christmas event proposals for 2025 - 2030
- Art & Makers market update

The Committee discussed the report and the Christmas event proposals for 2025 - 2030 that they received from the proposed event operators.

The Lower Central Gardens Trust Board then went back into public session.

**RESOLVED that:**

- a) Trustees support the following:

- (i) the draft plans for the Christmas offer for 2025 - 2030 ahead of pre planning submission.
- (ii) the proposal for the operation of the Art & Makers market for 2025.

Voting: Unanimous

**56 Financial Statements 2023-24**

The Commission and Charity Accountant presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

It is a statutory requirement to agree the annual financial statements for the Lower Central Gardens Trust and submit them to the Charity Commission by 31 January each year.

The Board are asked to review and agree the financial statements and the Letter of Representation prior to them being signed off by Cabinet Member for Climate Response, Environment and Energy.

The Board considered the financial statements of 2023/24 and made the following comments:

- In response to a query raised regarding reduced turnover, the Board was advised that the mini golf concession had been closed for a period, resulting in decreased turnover.
- The Board was advised that the mini golf course had experienced a period of closure and had only been open during school holidays and on weekends for several months, which resulted in a decrease in income.
- In response to a query regarding the funds contributed by BCP Council, the Board was advised that the council's contributions had still exceeded the revenue generated by the Lower Central Gardens.

**RESOLVED that the Board agree the financial statements and the Letter of Representation for the financial year 2023-24.**

Voting: Unanimous

**57 Next Steps - Future Meeting Dates and Work**

The Board discussed and suggested items that they wished to be included on future meeting agendas.

It was agreed that a walk through the Lower Central Gardens would be organised to provide the Board with an opportunity to review the condition of the grass.

**Duration of the meeting:** 10.00 - 11.08 am

Chairman at the meeting on  
Monday, 27 January 2025