

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the
Finance and General Purposes Committee
held on Monday 22nd October 2018 at 6.30pm
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

Present: Councillor Jason Collis (Chairman)
 Councillors Mike Cole, Jan Cover, Ellen Crumly, Richard Crumly,
 Nathan Gregory and David Lister

In attendance: Mel Alexander (Town Clerk) and Barbara Moffat (Responsible Financial Officer)

FGP/2018/40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

FGP/2018/41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cole declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item number 5 (FGP/2018/44) as a shareholder in the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Councillor Cole declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item number 7(d) (FGP/2018/46(d)), application number 19 as a Trustee of Kennet School Academy Trust.

Councillor Gregory declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item number 7(d) (FGP/2018/46(d)), application number 6 as a relative is a service user.

Councillors E and R Crumly declared non-pecuniary interests in agenda item number 7(d) (FGP/2018/46(d)), application number 15 as their daughter is a member of Crookham Common Athletic Track.

Councillors E and R Crumly declared non-pecuniary interests in agenda item number 7(d) (FGP/2018/46(d)), application number 20 as the recipients of hospitality from Thatcham Town Football Club and attendees of matches.

FGP/2018/42 MINUTES

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2018, having been previously circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

FGP/2018/43 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

FGP/2018/38 - BUDGET / EXPENDITURE COSTS

Councillor R Crumly enquired whether copies of the investment statements were available, as requested at the last meeting.

The Responsible Financial Officer advised that, as there were many papers, it would be more convenient for them to be inspected in the Office by appointment.

FGP/2018/37- VICTORIA CROSS STONES INTERPRETATION PANEL

Councillor R Crumly requested an update on the unveiling of the VC Stone Interpretation Panel and Councillor Gregory asked whether this was still scheduled to be unveiled before Armistice Day as expected and queried whether the Heritage Interpretation Panels would be unveiled at the same time as stated in the Minutes of the last meeting, as these were understood to be scheduled to be unveiled in the Spring 2019.

It was agreed that the Clerk would pursue this matter with the Civic and Community Manager and report back.

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FGP/2018/44 INVESTMENTS

Committee considered a recommendation from the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) that a Term Deposit of £50,000, currently invested with Lloyds Bank, be reinvested with Lloyds upon maturity on 12th November 2018, at an estimated interest rate of 1.1% (as at 15th October 2018, currently invested at 0.9%). Councillor Collis advised of an application process that provided access to various investment accounts and would provide more details to the RFO.

RESOLVED to approve reinvestment of a Term Deposit of £50,000 with Lloyds Bank upon maturity on 12th November 2018, at an estimated interest rate of 1.1% and that details of 3, 6 and 12 month investment rates be presented for future investments for comparison.

FGP/2018/45 BUDGET / EXPENDITURE COSTS

a) Committee received details of BACS and cheque payments due (appendix I to these Minutes).

RESOLVED to approve the list of payments and that Councillors Cole and R Crumly be appointed to sign the cheques and endorse the relevant documentation.

b) Committee received details of pre-authorized payments made from the Imprest account and Clerk's Account during the month of September 2018 (appendix II to these Minutes).

RESOLVED to note the payments.

c) Committee reviewed the whole Council budget for the first half of 2018/19, April to September 2018, along with projected income and expenditure for the year. The Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer answered questions raised by Members. There were no financial matters that had arisen during this period that were cause for concern.

RESOLVED to note the information.

d) Committee received bank reconciliations as at 30th September 2018 for the Current Account, Clerk's Account, Petty Cash, Public Sector Deposit Fund and Cricket Club Deposit Account (appendix III to these Minutes).

RESOLVED to note the information.

e) Committee received details of Earmarked Reserves and CIL/S106 funds held.

RESOLVED to note the information.

FGP/2018/46 REVENUE GRANT APPLICATIONS 2018/19

a) Committee considered monitoring and evaluation reports received from organisations awarded grants by the Town Council in February 2018.

RESOLVED to note the reports and to request that an accumulative summary of grant recipients and whether evaluation reports had been received be presented to future meetings.

b) Committee considered a Match Funding Agreement 2018/19 from Greenham Trust.

RESOLVED to agree to enter into the Match Funding Agreement 2018/19 with Greenham Trust.

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FGP/2018/46 REVENUE GRANT APPLICATIONS 2018/19 continued

- c) Committee was advised that the total funding available for grant aid in 2018/19 was £17,000 and that there would be only one tranche during this financial year, due to changes to the Council meeting calendar. The next tranche was scheduled for April 2019.

RESOLVED to note this information.

- d) Committee considered an initial report of applications that highlighted a connection to Thatcham.

Councillor Collis advised of an application that had been uploaded to The Good Exchange after the Town Council's deadline for this tranche for a new debt advice centre¹, based in Newbury but serving Thatcham residents. Councillor Collis had been made aware of the application through his involvement with Foodbank and asked Members to consider allowing this application to be considered in this tranche.

RESOLVED that this application be shortlisted for further consideration at the next meeting of this Committee.

RESOLVED to shortlist the following applications for further consideration at the next meeting of this Committee on 5th November, 2018 and to invite representatives of these organisations to attend the meeting:

The Good Exchange Application Reference	Applicant	Project
11495	The Corn Exchange (Newbury) Trust	Ageing Creatively Projects
11861	BBOWT	Nature Discovery Centre Waterfront Project
11922	Time to Talk West Berkshire	Thatcham Outreach Project
11948	Parenting Special Children	Helping looked after and adopted children get access to therapy, counselling and support at school
12038	Berkshire MS Therapy Centre	Physiotherapy class sessions for people with Multiple Sclerosis in West Berkshire 2018
12039	Berkshire MS Therapy Centre	Oxygen treatment for people with Multiple Sclerosis in West Berkshire 2018-19
12085	Young People and Children First	Bridge to Independence (Housing Young People. Changing Lives)
12105	Thatcham Town Cricket Club	Junior Cricket Coaching Development
12127	Daisy's Dream	Daisy's Dream (West Berks) – supporting children affected by a life threatening illness or bereavement
12128	Recovery In Mind	Core courses 2018
12149	Crookham Common Athletic Track	Hammer Cage
12225	Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley	'Harold and the Life Bus' in West Berkshire Schools - 2018/19

¹ Post meeting note: Application Reference 12407 – Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Centre (Newbury and surrounding areas) start up and first year 2019-20

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FGP/2018/46 REVENUE GRANTS APPLICATIONS 2018/19 continued

The Good Exchange Application Reference	Applicant	Project
12238	West Berkshire Homeless (Newbury Area)	West Berkshire Homeless (Newbury Area) – Exiting Homelessness
12332	Newbury Family Counselling Service	Supporting Parents Supporting Children 2018-19

RESOLVED to shortlist the following applications for further consideration at the next meeting of this Committee on 5th November 2018 and that representatives of these organisation need not attend:

The Good Exchange Application Reference	Applicant	Project
12117	Home-Start West Berkshire	Transport for Isolated Families to Home-Start Family Groups 2018/19
12246	Kennet School	Inclusive Zone Basketball
12308	Home-Start West Berkshire	Isolated Families

RESOLVED to shortlist the following applications for further consideration at the next meeting of this Committee on 5th November 2018 subject to the outcome of the additional information sought:

The Good Exchange Application Reference	Applicant	Project	Additional information required
12178	Volunteer Centre West Berkshire	Volunteer Recruitment Service for West Berkshire 2018-2019	To be shortlisted only if sessions still held at Thatcham Library
12188	Parkinson's UK, Newbury	Speech Therapy Project 2018	To be shortlisted dependent on number of Thatcham residents

RESOLVED that, due to the significant level of funding required, the following application be considered by Full Council outside of the Community Grants process:

The Good Exchange Application Reference	Applicant	Project
12259	Thatcham Town Football Club	Thatcham Town FC Artificial Turf Multi-User Sports Area

Councillor Lister left the meeting after consideration of application number 21 (12269)

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FGP/2018/47 GRANT RECIPIENTS – THATCHAM LIBRARY

RESOLVED Committee received the West Berkshire Libraries Annual Report 2017/18.
to note the Report and to request improved signage to Thatcham Library.

FGP/2018/48 REPORTS BY TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTEES

The following verbal reports were received from Town Council Appointees:

- **Thatcham Youth** – Councillor Collis reported that they were due to meet this week and that things were going well.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____