

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of Thatcham Town Council
held on Monday 26th November 2018 at 7pm
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

Present: Councillor Jan Cover (Town Mayor)
 Councillors Steve Ardagh-Walter, Dominic Boeck, Mike Cole, Jason Collis,
 Richard Crumly, Sheila Ellison and David Lister

In attendance: Mel Alexander (Town Clerk) and Barbara Moffat (Responsible Financial
 Officer)
 Kevin Rose (IAC Audit & Consultancy Ltd)
 District Councillor Marigold Jaques
 Eric Bailey (Chairman) and Ian Halloway (Safety Officer & Committee
 Member) Thatcham Town Football Club
 1 member of the press (Newbury Weekly News)

FULL/2018/72 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jeff Brooks,
 Dan Carter, John Chelliah, Ellen Crumly, Rob Denton-Powell,
 Nathan Gregory and Anne Johnson.

FULL/2018/73 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor R Crumly declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item
 number 5 (FULL/2018/76) as a recipient of hospitality from Thatcham Town
 Football Club and an attendee of matches.

Councillor Boeck declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item number
 10 (FULL/2018/81) as a Member of the West Berkshire Council Executive
 and abstained from voting on this agenda item.

Councillor Collis declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item number
 10ii (FULL/2018/81ii) as a Trustee of Thatcham Youth.

FULL/2018/74 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

FULL/2018/75 MINUTES

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2018, having been
 previously circulated be signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

FULL/2018/76 PRESENTATION FROM THATCHAM TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

At a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 22nd
 October 2018 (FGP/2018/46), the Committee considered applications for
 grant aid and resolved to invite Thatcham Town Football Club to present to
 Council their application for funding for an Artificial Turf Multi-User Sports
 Area, due to the significant level of funding required (£199,042.54).
RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow representatives of Thatcham Town
 Football Club to address the Council.

Mr Bailey and Mr Halloway explained details of the Club's application and
 answered Members' questions.

**Full Council
26th November 2018**

**FULL/2018/76 PRESENTATION FROM THATCHAM TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
continued**

Seven funders had expressed an interest in the project, one pledging up to £7,000 of matched funding. The pitch would be three-quarters of full sized, all weather capability and could be used to host community events such as fetes etc. The Club would be writing to businesses seeking sponsorship on an advertising board.

RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders

Mr Bailey and Mr Halloway left the meeting

RESOLVED to agree in principle to support the application for funding and to refer this matter back to the Finance and General Purposes Committee with details of the Town Council's other commitments and future project funding requirements.

FULL/2018/77 INTERNAL AUDIT 2018/19

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow Mr Kevin Rose to address the Council.

Mr. Rose of IAC Audit & Consultancy Ltd, the Town Council's Internal Auditor, introduced himself and his company and presented his report following an Internal Audit carried out on Friday 2nd November 2018 and answered Members' questions. Mr. Rose provided a plan of actions that required attention.

Mr. Rose left the meeting

Barbara Moffat, Responsible Financial Officer, reported on actions that had already been taken and plans to address other matters raised.

RESOLVED to adopt the Internal Audit Report and request that progress reports on the action plan be presented to future meetings of Full Council.

Barbara Moffat left the meeting

**FULL/2018/78 REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR
(a) Town Mayor's report**

Councillor Cover's report was circulated with details of functions she had attended during October and November 2018, which included: the annual judicial service and a Remembrance Service at St. Mary's Minster in Reading; an exhibition at West Berkshire Museum to celebrate 70 years of Newbury College; a celebration of 70 years of the National Health Service held at West Berkshire Community Hospital; Readibus's AGM; a Remembrance Concert by Watership Brass and the Royal British Legion; The Samaritans AGM; an evening of War Poetry at Trinity School; a presentation day at Woolhampton Primary School; the opening of a new factory and a Festival of Engineering at Xtrac; a firework display by Kennet and Francis Baily Schools' PTA's; the unveiling of additional inscriptions on Thatcham War Memorial; Beenham Wind Orchestra's Poppies of Peace concert; 3rd Kennet Vale Rainbows' event to mark UK Parliament Week; a World War 1 exhibiton at Newbury Town Hall; West Berkshire Healthwatch's Voice of Disability Day and World Food Day; Buzz's Christmas party; an Army information day; and the official launch of the Community Furniture Project's annual Toy Appeal.

**Full Council
26th November 2018**

**FULL/2018/78 REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR
continued**

Councillor Cover also attended the following events organised by Thatcham Town Council: Thatcham Festival, the Remembrance Day Parade and Service, and a special concert to commemorate 100 years since the end of World War 1, along with further progress on her fundraising walk of the parish boundary.

(b) Deputy Town Mayor's report

Councillor R Crumly's report was circulated with details of functions he had attended during October and November 2018, which included: the unveiling of additional inscriptions on Thatcham War Memorial; and a performance by Kennet Opera.

Councillor Crumly also attended the following events organised by Thatcham Town Council: Thatcham Festival, the Remembrance Day Parade and Service, and a special concert to commemorate 100 years since the end of World War 1. Councillor Crumly also accompanied the Town Mayor on her fundraising walk of the parish boundary.

FULL/2018/79 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

At the last meeting of Council on 24th September 2018 a motion to amend Standing Orders to reflect changes to the Town Council's calendar of meetings was proposed and seconded (FULL/2018/65ii) and consequently stood adjourned.

RESOLVED

to amend Standing Order 1.7.1.1 as follows:

In addition to the annual meeting of the Council, at least three other ordinary meetings shall be held in each year on such dates and times as the Council decides.

FULL/2018/80 APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

i. The following Committee Minutes were presented for adoption:

- (a)** Finance and General Purposes Committee Minutes dated 22nd October 2018 and 5th November 2018.
- (b)** Recreation and Amenities Committee Minutes dated 19th November 2018.
- (c)** Planning and Highways Committee Minutes dated 2nd October 2018, 23rd October 2018 and 13th November 2018.

RESOLVED

to approve and adopt the Minutes.

ii. Proposed amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Planning and Highways Committee

Council considered a proposed amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Planning and Highways Committee, as recommended in the Minutes of that Committee's meeting on 23rd October 2018.

RESOLVED

to amend the Terms of Reference of the Planning and Highways Committee as detailed in appendix I to these Minutes.

**Full Council
26th November 2018**

- FULL/2018/81 DEVOLUTION**
i. Play Areas and Open Spaces
 Council received a progress report from the Town Clerk on the proposed transfer of play areas and open spaces from West Berkshire Council to Thatcham Town Council.
- RESOLVED** that Crowfield Drive Play Area and Open Space, Dunston Park Play Area and Open Space and Kennet Heath Play Area and Open Space, be transferred from West Berkshire Council to Thatcham Town Council, subject to the terms set out within the transfer documents and subject to a commitment from West Berkshire Council to meet expenditure for the cost of remedial works required.
- RESOLVED** that Councillors Cover and R Crumly be appointed to endorse all relevant documentation.
- ii. Moorside Community Centre**
 Council received a report, including a draft budget, from the Town Clerk regarding the proposed transfer of Moorside Community Centre from West Berkshire Council to Thatcham Town Council.
- RESOLVED** to commission a structural survey of Moorside Community Centre at a cost of up to £1,500 and that estimated costs be obtained for any resulting remedial works identified by the Survey.
- FULL/2018/82 WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET PROPOSALS 2019/20**
 Council considered details of West Berkshire Council's budget proposals 2019/20.
- RESOLVED** that the Town Council would not submit a response to the consultation but remind Members that they may respond individually.
- FULL/2018/83 TOWN TWINNING**
 Council considered a request from the City Councillor of Wasquehal (a French town) wishing to create a town twinning with Thatcham. Council was also advised that 2023 would mark the 50th anniversary of Thatcham's twinning with Nideggen and was asked if it wished to mark the anniversary.
- RESOLVED** that the Town Council would not pursue town twinning at this time but offer to support Kennet and/or Trinity Schools if they wished to pursue the proposal.
- FULL/2018/84 CLERK'S REPORT**
NALC Spring Conference 2019
 When: Monday 11th February 2019
 Where: Royal National Hotel, Bloomsbury, London
 Cost: £210 per delegate
 Programme: circulated
- RESOLVED** that Members inform the Town Clerk if they wished to attend.
- FULL/2018/85 REPORTS**
(a) Reports from Thatcham Town Councillors and West Berkshire District Councillors on Council Surgeries
 Members received reports from Councillors who were present at Council Surgery on 6th October 2018 and 3rd November 2018.
- RESOLVED** to note the report.

**Full Council
24th September 2018**

FULL/2018/85 REPORTS continued

(b) Reports from West Berkshire District Councillors

Councillor R Crumly reported that he continued to attend meetings regularly and an announcement from Central Government on funding for Local Authorities was expected on 6th December 2018.

Councillor Ardagh-Walter reported that the A4 cycle lane improvement works continued on the south side of the A4 between approximately the Mercedes garage and B&Q. This would be a two-way track, segregated from the main roadway by semi-permanent kerbs. The next stage, through the middle of Thatcham, would then be implemented. Future works to the east would see an area between Brimpton and Midgham take cyclists off the A4 for safety reasons and this would be implemented in 2019.

Councillor Ellison reported that she had substituted for Councillor R Crumly at a recent Eastern Area Planning meeting and had also attended licensing training with Councillor Crumly. Councillor Ellison also reported that the Greenham Common Trust distribution board had recently distributed funding, including to a number of Thatcham organisations.

Councillor Boeck advised that he had attended meetings of the Strategy Board, Budget Committee, the Executive and numerous Parish Council meetings. Councillor Boeck also attended the District Parish Conference and appealed to all Councillors to attend future Conferences.

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow District Councillor Marigold Jaques to address the Council.

Councillor Jaques reported that she was Deputy Portfolio Holder for Social Care and had attended several meetings. Councillor Jaques had also attended 4 x home-to-school transport appeals, as well as Chaining meetings of the JCP, a liaison group for elected representatives and union representatives. Councillor Jaques continued to attend meetings of Citizens Advice. The installation of double yellow lines at Nideggen Close was on hold for the time being, as not a road safety issue, but still on the list of works. Councillor Jaques had taken up concerns raised by Councillor Cole regarding the road surface on the A4, outside the Almhouses, and confirmed that the Highways department had remedial works scheduled for January/February 2019.

RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders.

**(c) Reports by Town Council Appointees to Outside Bodies
Thatcham Relief in Need Charity and Thatcham Parochial Charities**

Councillor Cole thanked Councillor Jaques for her actions regarding the deep ridges on the A4 that were causing structural concerns regarding the Almhouses.

There being no further business the Town Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.08pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____