

**THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a meeting of the**  
**Recreation and Amenities Committee**  
**held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 7pm**  
**in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham**

Present: Councillor Rob Denton-Powell (Vice-Chairman)  
 Councillors Jason Collis, Ellen Crumly (substituting for Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter), Lee Dillon, Sheila Ellison, Julie Goode and Anne Johnson

In attendance: Mel Alexander (Town Clerk)  
 Mark Thomas (Old Bluecoat School Trust)  
 1 member of the press (Newbury Weekly News)

**In the absence of the Chairman the meeting was chaired by the Vice-Chairman,  
 Councillor Denton-Powell**

**RA/2018/90 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Ardagh-Walter (Ellen Crumly appointed as substitute), Dominic Boeck and Jeff Brooks.

**RA/2018/91 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**RA/2018/92 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018, having been previously circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

**RA/2018/93 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

There were no matters arising.

**RA/2018/94 OLD BLUECOAT SCHOOL**

**RESOLVED**

to suspend Standing Orders to allow Mark Thomas, Old Bluecoat School Trust, to address the Committee.

Mr. Thomas advised Committee that the Trust had recently received Listed Building Consent for the installation of CCTV cameras and/or grilles on the exterior of the Old Bluecoat School, having sought advice from the local Police team following incidents of vandalism. The Trust had not yet decided whether to proceed with one or both options and would address the Committee again in the future to seek permission from the Town Council to proceed, as Landlord.

**RESOLVED**

to reinstate Standing Orders

**RESOLVED**

that the Town Council supports the proposals.

**RA/2018/95 FRENCH MARKET**

Committee received a report from the Community and Civic Administrative Officer on the inaugural Thatcham French Market, organised jointly with France at Home, which took place in The Broadway on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018. It was noted that, following discussions with the organiser, the market would return in September 2019 and not Easter 2019 as stated in the report.

**RESOLVED**

to note this information.

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**RA/2018/96 WEST BERKSHIRE HERITAGE FORUM**

Committee considered a request from the West Berkshire Heritage Forum for a voluntary contribution of £50 per member organisation.

**RESOLVED** to agree payment of £50 to West Berkshire Heritage Forum and encourage the Forum to host one of its future public events in Thatcham.

**RA/2018/97 THE PRIORY – DAMAGED BOUNDARY WALL**

At the last meeting of this Committee Members requested that the Town Council's insurer be urged to cover the cost to repair the damaged boundary wall at The Priory (RA/2018/84). Committee was advised that the insurer had obtained a second opinion which echoed the original Loss Adjuster's report that the wall had fallen due to wear and tear which was not an insured risk. The Committee was advised that a request had subsequently been submitted to Response Organisation [tenant] seeking a commitment to fund the repair but, at the time of the meeting, a response had not been received.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Council arrange for the damaged wall to be repaired at an estimated cost of £4,750 and that any future damage to the wall be the responsibility of Response Organisation who should be instructed to implement a maintenance programme.

**RA/2018/98 BROADWAY PUBLIC TOILETS**

Following previous discussions on the proposed refurbishment of the public conveniences in The Broadway, Committee considered various options.

**RESOLVED** to obtain quotations for option "C" to provide two unisex toilets and one Changing Places toilet and that consideration be given to alternative public toilet provision whilst the works are carried out.

**RA/2018/99 HENLEYS ALLOTMENTS**

a) Committee received a draft revised Allotment Policy, introducing a new Concessionary Discount, as requested at a previous meeting of this Committee.

**RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Allotment Policy, subject to amendment of the wording in paragraph 4 from "Concessions that qualify for 50%/20% reductions are as follows" to "Those in receipt of the following shall qualify for 50%/20% reduction".

b) Committee considered allotment rents for the year 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

**RESOLVED** that allotment rents for the calendar year 2019 be as follows: Full plot £60, Half plot £30, Third Plot £20 and Quarter plot £15 and that details of allotment rents in neighbouring parishes be presented with future rent proposals.

**RA/2018/100 INCIDENTS**

Committee received a report on incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour logged by the Town Council during the period 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

**RA/2018/101 BUDGET / EXPENDITURE COSTS**

a) Committee received details of proposed BACS and cheque payments from the Imprest account (appendix i to these Minutes).

**RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments and that Councillors E Crumly and Ellison be appointed to sign the cheques and endorse the relevant documentation.

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**RA/2018/101 BUDGET / EXPENDITURE COSTS continued**

- b) Committee received details of income and expenditure costs against this Committee's budget for the year to date (appendix ii to these Minutes).

**RESOLVED** to note the information.

**RA/2018/102 REPORTS BY TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTEES**

Members noted the following verbal reports from Town Council appointees:

- **Thattham Dementia Friendly Community Forum**  
Councillor Ellison reported that the Forum was celebrating having 3,000 Dementia Friends in West Berkshire and that representatives were being educated in order to encourage change within their communities.
- **Thattham Memorial Hall & Playing Fields Foundation**  
Councillor Denton-Powell reported that the recently unveiling of additional names on the War Memorial had been very successful and the Foundation would be fundraising for landscaping of the Memorial garden.
- **Thattham Parish Hall Management Committee**  
Councillor Collis reported that the Committee was conducting a review following the loss of its main tenant.
- **Thattham Town Cricket Club**  
Councillor Denton-Powell reported that the Club had recently held its AGM where sub's and membership fees were increased and that the Club was very grateful to the Town Council for a recent grant award.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.04pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_