

**THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of**  
**Thatcham Town Council**  
**held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 at 7pm**  
**in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham**

Present: Councillor Mike Cole (Town Mayor)  
 Councillors John Boyd, Ellen Crumly, Lee Dillon, Richard Foster,  
 Owen Jeffery, Mark Lillycrop, David Lister, Simon Pike, Christine Rice,  
 Jennifer Walker and Keith Woodhams

In attendance: Mel Alexander (Town Clerk)  
 Stuart Clark (Principal Engineer, West Berkshire Council)  
 1 member of the press (Newbury Weekly News)

**FULL/2019/66 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jeff Brooks,  
 Jeremy Cottam, Lourdes Cottam, Paul Field and Nassar Kessell.

**FULL/2019/67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest from Members.

**FULL/2019/68 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

**FULL/2019/69 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019, having been  
 previously circulated, be signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

**FULL/2019/70 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**RESOLVED**

to move to agenda item number 7, pending the arrival of Stuart Clark.

**FULL/2019/71 REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY TOWN  
 MAYOR**

**(a) Town Mayor's Report**

Details of Councillor Cole's engagements since the last meeting of  
 Council were circulated. These included the Newbury College  
 Engineering Apprentices Awards, judging the 5<sup>th</sup> Thatcham Brownies  
 geranium competition, the opening of the new ice centre in Berkshire  
 Drive, Thatcham Family Fun Day, the Sunset Ceremony at Dennison  
 Barracks, the unveiling of the Historical Interpretation Panels in  
 Thatcham Broadway, Fun on the Broadway and the unveiling of the  
 relocated memorials to US servicemen at the Greenham Common  
 Control Tower.

**(b) Deputy Town Mayor's Report**

Councillor Boyd gave a verbal report on engagements he had attended  
 since the last meeting of Council, which included the United Service of  
 Remembrance, a youth event at Moorside Community Centre,  
 Girlguiding events, events at Trinity School and the Thatcham Heritage  
 Walk.

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**REOLVED** to resume the agenda at item number 6.

**FULL/2019/72 THAMES WATER SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS**

Council invited representatives of West Berkshire Council and Thames Water to attend the meeting following a sewage leak from Thames Water Sewage Treatment Works on Lower Way on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Thames Water had requested that their attendance be deferred, pending further investigation about the incident. Mr Stuart Clark, Principal Engineer, was in attendance representing West Berkshire Council.

**RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow Stuart Clark to address Council.

Mr Clark advised that, upon learning of the sewage leak, he had contacted Thames Water to obtain details and had been in communication with the Pollution Control Team at the Environment Agency. Mr Clark answered Members' questions and highlighted the importance of knowing who key contacts were in such situations.

**RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

*Mr Clark left the meeting*

**RESOLVED** to write to John Ashworth, Corporate Director at West Berkshire Council, requesting implementation of a process of notifying partner agencies at times of emergency incidents such as this and to invite a representative of the Environment Agency to attend the next meeting of Full Council in November 2019.

**FULL/2019/73 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS**

Council was requested to conduct an annual review of Standing Orders.

**RESOLVED** to establish a Working Party to review Standing Orders and report back to Council and that Councillors Cole, Jeffery and Pike be appointed to serve on the Working Party.

**FULL/2019/74 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

Council was requested to conduct an annual review of Financial Regulations.

**RESOLVED** that Financial Regulations also be reviewed by the Working Party established in Minute number FULL/2019/73 above.

**FULL/2019/75 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members considered a response from Greenham Trust to the Town Council's disappointment at the loss of local knowledge and expertise following the removal of Town Council representation from the grant distribution board. Whilst Members accepted the ability of the appointees, it was felt that there was no genuine Thatcham background amongst them.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Cole would discuss this matter further with Chris Boulton, CEO of Greenham Trust.

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- FULL/2019/76 APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
The following Committee Minutes were presented for adoption:
- (a)** Recreation and Amenities Committee Minutes dated 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019, 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- RESOLVED** that the Minutes be adopted, subject to amendment of Minute reference RA/2019/47 in the Minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019 from “Midland West Berkshire Access Forum” to “Mid and West Berkshire Local Access Forum”.
- (b)** Finance and General Purposes Committee Minutes dated 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- RESOLVED** that the Minutes be adopted.
- (c)** Planning and Highways Committee Minutes dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019.
- RESOLVED** that the Minutes be adopted.
- (d)** Staff Committee Minutes dated 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- RESOLVED** that the Minutes be adopted.
- (e)** Events Committee Minutes dated 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- RESOLVED** that the Minutes be adopted.
- FULL/2019/77 ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN**  
**RESOLVED** To approve distribution of the Environmental Plan Working Document, prepared by the Environmental Working Party, to West Berkshire Council’s Climate Conference, taking place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at Newbury College.
- FULL/2019/78 CLERK’S REPORT**  
**District Parish Conference**  
**When:** Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019  
**Where:** West Berkshire Council, Market Street, Newbury, RG14 5LD  
**Session Overview:** agenda previously circulated  
**Cost:** Nil  
Members were asked to advise the Town Clerk if they wished to attend.
- FULL/2019/79 REPORTS**  
**(a) Reports from Thatcham Town Councillors and West Berkshire District Councillors on Council Surgeries**  
Members considered reports from Councillors Brooks and Cole from Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019; Councillors Ardagh-Walter and Lister from Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2019; and Councillors Jeffery and Walker from Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- RESOLVED** to note the reports and to request that the Recreation and Amenities Committee reviews the current bus shelter contract.

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**FULL/2019/79 REPORTS continued**

**(b) Reports from West Berkshire District Councillors**

Councillor Dillon reported that West Berkshire Council had unanimously voted to declare a climate emergency and would be discussing the proposed expansion of Heathrow airport at its next meeting, along with parental leave for Councillors.

Councillor Jeffery expressed disappointment at delays in action from West Berkshire Council following its declaration of a climate emergency in July 2019 and expressed concern at potential issues around social care following Brexit<sup>1</sup>.

**(c) Reports by Town Council Appointees to Outside Bodies**

**Lady Frances Winchcombe's Thatcham Foundation**

Councillor Walker reported her concern at a lack of information about the charity available online.

Councillor Cole offered to discuss procedures that the Thatcham Relief in Need Charity uses with Councillor Walker that may assist the Lady Frances Winchcombe's Thatcham Foundation.

**Thatcham Relief in Need Charity and Thatcham Parochial Charities**

Councillor Cole reported that roof work at Thatcham Parochial Charities' Almshouses was complete and all properties were occupied.

There being no further business the Town Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.34pm.

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

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<sup>1</sup> Brexit = withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union