

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the
Recreation and Amenities Committee
held on Monday 19th August 2019 at 7pm
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

Present: Councillor Jeremy Cottam (Chairman)
 Councillors Steve Ardagh-Walter, John Boyd, Paul Field, Mark Lillycrop, Simon Pike and Keith Woodhams.

In attendance: Naomi Mildenhall (Services Manager)
 Councillors David Lister
 1 member of the press (Newbury Weekly News)

RA/2019/46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillor Lourdes Cottam.

RA/2019/47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Pike declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10 Public Rights of Way (RA/2019/55) as a member of the Midland West Berkshire Access Forum.

RA/2019/48 MINUTES.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2019, having been previously circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

RA/2019/49 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no matters arising.

RA/2019/50 THATCHAM FLOOD ALLEVIATION UPDATE

Committee received a presentation from Stuart Clark Principal Engineer for West Berkshire Council detailing the Flood Alleviation Scheme and the continuing work at Dunstan Green and Seigecross open spaces.

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow Stuart Clark to address the Committee.

A video was shown showing the extent of the flooding in Thatcham in 2007 with computer generated overview detailing where the water ingress had come from. Plans for Dunstan green and Siegeross where explained along with the update that work had started and would continue till the end of 2019.

RESOLVED to reinstate standing orders

Mr Clark was thanked for attending and left the meeting

RA/2019/51 TOWPATH IMPROVEMENT WORK

Committee noted that the Canal and River Trust would be undertaking small scale bankside and towpath improvements along the Kennet and Avon canal towpath between Thatcham Road Bridge and Widmead Lock from the 30th September 2019 for approximately 4 weeks.

RESOLVED to note the information.

RA/2019/52 ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING PARTY

a) Committee considered the adoption of the Minutes of the Environmental Working Party meetings held on 27th June 2019, 9th July 2019 and 12th August 2019.

RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes

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RA/2019/52 ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING PARTY Continued

b) Committee considered the following recommendations

i - to agree the Terms of Reference as set out in item EN/2019/04 and to recommend to the Recreation and Amenities Committee to increase the membership to 7 Members and invite Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter and Jennifer Walker.

ii - that the Environmental Working Party endorse the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with City to Sea for the Water Refill scheme.

iii – that Thatcham Town Council appoint a representative to Edible Thatcham subject to Edible Thatcham's agreement for ongoing support.

iv - that an article be written for the next Quarterly Newsletter on what Thatcham want to achieve with going Carbon Neutral and that it includes the recycling information provided by West Berkshire Council.

RESOLVED to adopt all recommendations as above.

RA/2019/53 BROADWAY PUBLIC TOILETS WORKING PARTY

a) Committee received the minutes of the Broadway Public Toilets Working Party Meeting held on 24th June 2019.

RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

b) Committee considered the recommendation - that refurbishment of the Broadway public conveniences remain on hold whilst further exploratory work is carried out and that the Working Party explore the feasibility of relocating the toilets to the Kingsland Centre or Co-Op car park, whilst also assessing potential uses for the currently proposed unallocated area and the configuration of toilet provision.

RESOLVED to adopt the recommendation as above.

RA/2019/54 CEMETERY REPAIRS

Committee received a report from the Services Manager detailing options for garage roof repairs at London Road Cemetery.

RESOLVED to encapsulate the existing roofs with a system involving overlaying of the corrugate with made for purpose materials by a trained professional at a cost of £5000.

RA/2019/55 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Committee received and considered a report from the Services Manager, as requested by Councillor Jeffery, on Public Rights of Way and the unrecorded rights of way registration cut-off date 1st January 2026 (enclosed).

RESOLVED to set up a Working Party consisting of Councillors Pike, Lillycrop and Jeffery and invite outside bodies with a quorum of no less than three to research currently unrecorded Rights of Way.

RA/2019/56 THATCHAM BROADWAY VC STONES

Committee received to consider a report from the Services Manager regarding possible relocation of the VC Stones from their current location in Thatcham Broadway, as requested by Councillor Cole.

RESOLVED to remove the VC Stones and information board from there current location in Thatcham Broadway into storage while further consideration be made to their final location.

RA/2019/57 COMMUNITY SOLAR SCHEME

Committee received and considered a report from the Services Manager regarding supporting a Solar Streets Scheme in Thattham run by IDDEA Ltd which could enable residents to purchase solar panels at a discounted price due to bulk ordering.

RESOLVED to offer free use of a Community hall for the purpose of public consultation to support the Community Solar Scheme and advertise the event without endorsement.

RA/2019/58 INCIDENTS

Committee received a report on incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour logged by the Town Council during the period of 12th June 2019 and 13th August 2019.

RESOLVED to note the report.

RA/2019/59 BUDGET / EXPENDITURE COSTS

a) Committee received note budget figures for this Committee for the financial year to 30th June 2019 (appendix i to these Minutes).

RESOLVED to note the information.

b) Committee received proposed BACS and cheque payments from the Imprest account and agree two signatories from Councillors Cole, Crumly and Dillon (appendix ii to these Minutes).

RESOLVED to approve and appoint Councillors Cole and Crumly as signatories.

RA/2019/60 REPORTS BY TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTEES

Committee received the following reports from Town Council appointees to the outside bodies.

- **Friends of Thattham Library**

Councillor Lillycrop reported that the Friends of Thattham Library were looking in to providing public toilets on site.

- **Thattham Parish Hall Management Committee**

Councillor Pike informed Committee that the Trustees were now in discussion with the Charity Commission regarding next steps.

- **Thattham Allotment Gardening club**

Councillor Fields reported that the Allotments were going well and that they were very happy with the support received from the Town Council.

- **Thattham Dementia Friendly Community Forum**

Councillor Lourdes Cottam sent an update that the group were actively trying to get wider involvement from the Community and looking into a Sensory Garden

- **The Thattham (Old Bluecoats School) Charity**

Councillor Jeremy Cottam informed Committee that Simon Wickman is retiring as treasurer.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____