

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the
Heritage Working Party
held on Wednesday 4th September 2019, at 7pm
in the Council Offices, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

Present: Councillors Lourdes Cottam, Mark Lillycrop, Owen Jeffery and Christine Rice
Mrs Sue Ellis, Mr Nathan Gregory, Mr Roy Tubb and Dr. Nick Young.

In attendance: Georgina Curtis-Read (Civic & Events Officer)

HT/2019/31 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mike Cole and Mrs Sue Ellis.

HT/2019/32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**HT/2019/33 MINUTES
AGREED**

That the Minutes of the Heritage Working Party meeting held on 5th April 2019, having been previously circulated, be signed as a true record of the proceedings.

HT/2019/34 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

a) CLERK'S REPORT

There were no matters arising.

b) OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters.

HT/2019/35 BLUE PLAQUE PROPOSALS

Members received an update on plans for the Blue Plaque unveiling event which would be held on Saturday 19th October 2019:

- a) The High Sherriff's attendance had been confirmed.
- b) Steve Masters was confirmed, and Dr Nick Young would assist with his Audio/Visual requirements.
- c) Georgina would ask Friends of Thatcham Parish Hall if they would like to run refreshments for charitable donations.
- d) Georgina would order 2 suffragette sashes for the Edwardian ladies.
- e) Georgina would update leaflet and hand out at the event.
- f) Georgina to email timeline to members.
- g) Mrs Sue Ellis to erect the unveiling curtain at the Parish Hall.

HT/2019/36 D-DAY "THANK YOU" EVENT

Members evaluated the D-Day "Thank You" event that was held on Sunday 9th June 2019 and were pleased with the event and coverage it received.

HT/2019/37 HERITAGE INTERPRETATION PANELS

Members evaluated the Heritage Interpretation Panels unveiling event that was held on Wednesday 17th July 2019 and were pleased with the event and coverage it received.

HT/2019/38 HERITAGE OPEN DAY

Members received an update on plans for Heritage Open Day which would be held on Sunday 15th September 2019 and tasks were assigned:

- a) Dr David Peacock was confirmed and Dr Nick Young would set up the Audio/Visual equipment for him.
- b) Mr Nathan Gregory to inform the Trustees of the Old Bluecoat School of the plans and ask them to organise refreshments.

HT/2019/38 HERITAGE OPEN DAY continued

- c) Dr Nick Young confirmed that Thatcham Historical Society would be manning Thatcham Parish Hall from 2pm on the day.
- d) Councillors Lillycrop, Rice and Jeffery volunteered their availability and Georgina would send them a rota for the day.

Mr Nathan Gregory proposed a vote of thanks to Dr Nick Young for his undertaking of the research and design of the Heritage Open Day leaflet. This was seconded by Councillor Lillycrop.

AGREED Unanimously that a vote of thanks be recorded to Dr Nick Young.

HT/2019/39 MAINTENANCE & MONITORING

The development of a volunteer maintenance & monitoring plan for heritage assets was discussed. Georgina would draw up a list of assets and assign up to 2 per member who would visually inspect the asset twice per year, as per Historic England guidelines.

HT/2019/40 ACTION PLAN

Progress on the recent action plan was discussed and tasks allocated:

- i) Public consultation for future Blue Plaques.
Completed for 2019.
- ii) Creation of a Thatcham Historical Trail and website.
Mr Gregory still to research website costs.
- iii) The collation of all Heritage Open Day activities occurring in Thatcham.
As discussed in item HT/2019/38
- iv) Marking significant anniversaries, such as 75th anniversary of D-Day.
Completed for 2019.
- v) Setting the topic for Thatcham Festival's historical events.
Dr Young explained that the topic of his talk during Thatcham Festival had changed since the last meeting but he had a talk on Thatcham in 1939 available for a 2020 event.
- vi) Make suggestions to West Berkshire Heritage Forum for inclusion on the Local Listings.
Members were reminded to take note of assets in the Parish that were not nationally listed and to inform the West Berkshire Heritage Forum.
- vii) Commission a play/production about Thatcham's History.
Item deferred in Councillor Cole's absence.
- viii) Georgina proposed that the Heritage Working Party could take a stand at Thatcham Family Fun Day 2020, possibly in conjunction with Thatcham Historical Society.
- ix) Councillor Jeffery requested that the previously cancelled Untold Stories of the Great War event be reinstated in a future events programme. Georgina would find out which Committee this now sat with.

**Heritage Working Party
4th September 2019**

HT/2019/41 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates of future meetings of the Working Party were noted as follows:

- Wednesday 11th December 2019
- Wednesday 4th March 2020

HT/2019/42 RECOMMENDATIONS

AGREED To recommend to the Recreation and Amenities Committee that Heritage Working Party volunteers visually monitor the historical assets of the town and then make recommendations to Committee for any necessary maintenance required.

AGREED To recommend that the Recreation and Amenities Committee undertake ongoing maintenance of the new Interpretation Panels.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____