

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the
Recreation and Amenities Committee
held on Monday 18th November at 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thattham

Present: Councillor Jeremy Cottam (Chairman)
 Councillors John Boyd, Jeff Brooks, Mike Cole (substituting for Mark Lillycrop),
 Paul Field, Owen Jeffery, Lourdes Cottam and Keith Woodhams

In attendance: Naomi Mildenhall (Services Manager)

RA/2019/74 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mark Lillycrop (Mike Cole appointed as substitute) and Simon Pike.

RA/2019/75 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Cole and Jeffery declared non-pecuniary interests in agenda item number 7 (RA/2019/80) as Trustees of the Thattham Memorial Hall & Playing Fields Foundation.

Councillor L Cottam declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item number 12 (RA/2019/85) as a member of St Mary's Church.

RA/2019/76 MINUTES

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 2019, having been previously circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

RA/2019/ 77 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no matters arising.

RA/2019/78 HERITAGE WORKING PARTY

Members considered the Minutes of the Heritage Working Party meeting held on 4th September 2019 and the recommendations contained therein.

RESOLVED

to adopt the Minutes and agree to the recommendations that (i) Heritage Working Party volunteers visually monitor the historical assets of the town and make recommendations to this Committee for any necessary maintenance required, and (ii) that ongoing maintenance of the new Interpretation Panels become part of the Town Council's routine maintenance of The Broadway.

RA/2019/79 ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING PARTY

Members considered the Minutes of the Environmental Working Party meeting held on 23rd October 2019 and the recommendations contained therein.

RESOLVED

to adopt the Minutes and agree to the recommendation that a Carbon Footprint Appraisal be conducted by Carbon Footprint Limited at a cost of £950.

RA/2019/80 VICTORIA CROSS WORKING PARTY

Members considered the Minutes of the Victoria Cross Working Party meetings held on 16th October and 11th November 2019.

RESOLVED

to adopt the Minutes.

RA/2019/81 HENLEYS ALLOTMENTS RENT 2020

Members considered a report from the Services Manager regarding allotment rents for the calendar year 2020.

RESOLVED

to agree rent for the calendar year 2020 of £62.00 for a full plot, proportioned accordingly for half, third and quarter sized plots.

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RA/2019/82 REPLACEMENT FIRE EXIT DOORS

Members considered a report from the Services Officer detailing a quotation for replacement fire exit doors at the Council Offices and Frank Hutchings Community Hall.

RESOLVED to defer this item to a future meeting of this Committee pending a revised quote to include all doors at the Council Offices and to seek a discount for bulk purchase.

RA/2019/83 BUS SHELTER REQUEST

Members received a request from Councillor Woodhams to consider installation of a bus shelter at the Garden Centre/Pound Lane east-bound bus stop on the A4, following several requests from residents.

RESOLVED to set up a Working Party to conduct a full audit of all bus shelter arrangements currently in place and to appoint Councillors Cottam, Field and Jeffery to the Working Party.

RA/2019/84 THATCHAM TOWN CRICKET CLUB

Members considered a request from Thatcham Town Cricket Club to consider granting permission to sub-let part of the grounds [Browns Field] for under 12's football coaching.

RESOLVED to invite a representative of Thatcham Town Cricket Club to attend the next meeting of this Committee to provide additional information.

RA/2019/85 COMMUNITY PROJECT FUND APPLICATION

Members considered an application from St Mary's Church, supported by Councillor Rice, for up to £1,000 from the Community Project Fund towards the purchase of a mobile noticeboard to advertise local information and events.

RESOLVED that the Town Council purchase a noticeboard to be located at St Mary's Church on permanent loan.

RA/2019/86 THATCHAM U3A COLLAGE

Members considered a request from Thatcham U3A Craft Group seeking permission to hang a collage illustrating the history of Thatcham from the stone-age to modern era, produced by Members of the U3A, in the Frank Hutchings Community Hall.

RESOLVED to grant permission for the collage to be hung in the Frank Hutchings Community Hall and that Officers liaise with the U3A to confirm insurance and liability arrangements.

RA/2019/87 INCIDENTS

Members considered a report on incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour logged by the Town Council during the period 13th September to 12th November 2019.

RESOLVED to note the report.

RA/2019/88 BUDGET / EXPENDITURE COSTS

a) Members considered income and expenditure costs for this Committee's budgets for the financial year to 31st October 2019 (appendix i to these Minutes).

RESOLVED to note the information.

b) Members considered proposed BACS and cheque payments from the Imprest account (appendix ii to these Minutes).

RESOLVED to approve the BACS and cheque payments and that Councillors Cole and Crumly be appointed to endorse the relevant documentation.

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RA/2019/89 REPORTS BY TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTEES

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

- **Thatcham Memorial Hall & Playing Fields Foundation**

Councillor Cole reported that work was well underway with reconfiguring the car park, with plans to install number plate recognition and the ability to pay by phone.

- **Kennet Leisure Centre Joint Advisory Committee**

Councillor Jeffery reported that the Committee still had not met and he expressed his grave disappointment with the situation.

- **The Thatcham (Old Bluecoat School) Charity**

Councillor J Cottam reported that some internal maintenance would soon be carried out and that the Trust would be seeking help from the Town Council with relocating their regular hirers whilst the works took place.

- **Thatcham Dementia Friendly Community Forum**

Councillor Jeffery reported that the group had organised a programme of activities through to next summer and that they were keen to have Councillors and Community Leaders attend awareness sessions.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.39pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____