

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the
Finance and General Purposes Committee
held on Monday 20th January 2020 at 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

Present: Councillor David Lister (Chairman)
 Councillors John Boyd, Mike Cole, Jeremy Cottam, Ellen Crumly,
 Richard Foster and Jennifer Walker

In attendance: Mel Alexander (Town Clerk)
 Councillor Richard Crumly
 1 member of the press (Newbury Weekly News)

FGP/2020/04 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Lee Dillon.

FGP/2020/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cole declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 10b (FGP/2020/13), application reference 17465, as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of Kennet Academy Trust.

FGP/2020/06 MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meetings held on 21st October 2019 and 6th January 2020, having been previously circulated, be taken as read, confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

FGP/2020/07 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

FGP/2020/08 THATCHAM LIBRARY

i. Members received responses from Paul James, West Berkshire Council Culture and Libraries Manager, to questions raised by Members at the previous meeting.

RESOLVED That this information be noted and that thanks be conveyed to Mr James.

ii. Members gave further consideration to a request from West Berkshire Council for a contribution of £24,480 towards Thatcham Library for the financial year 2019/20.

RESOLVED To approve a financial contribution of £24,480 towards Thatcham Library for the financial year 2019/20.

FGP/2020/09 DRAFT ESTIMATES 2020/21

Members considered revised draft estimates for the financial year 2020/21, that had taken into consideration discussions at the previous meeting on 6th January 2020.

RESOLVED To recommend to Full Council, at its meeting on 27th January 2020, that the draft estimates 2020/21 be adopted.

FGP/2020/10 GRANT APPLICATION – BERKSHIRE TALENT ACADEMY CIC

Following consideration of Berkshire Talent Academy CIC's application for grant funding on The Good Exchange (application reference 15999), and Committee's request to invite representatives to attend this meeting, Members were advised that this application had subsequently received full funding through The Good Exchange.

RESOLVED That this information be noted.

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FGP/2020/11 BUDGET / EXPENDITURE COSTS

a) Members received proposed BACS and cheque payments due, from the Imprest account.

RESOLVED To approve the payments and agree that Councillors Mike Cole and Ellen Crumly be authorised to endorse the relevant documentation and that Councillor Cole would check with NatWest on the status of additional signatories.

b) Members received details of pre-authorised payments made from the Imprest Account, Soldo pre-paid debit card and Clerk's Account during the period October 2019 to December 2019.

RESOLVED That this information be noted.

c) Members received details of bank reconciliations.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

d) Members received a report on Earmarked Reserves and CIL/s 106 funds held.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

FGP/2020/12 REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTEES

Members noted the following verbal reports from Town Council appointees to outside bodies:

Greenham and Crookham Commons Commission

Councillor Foster reported that he had attended a meeting on 9th January 2020 and had found it interesting to understand more about the organisation. A new Chairman had recently been elected, Rebecca Hart from Natural England. The Commission hoped to secure a 3-year funding agreement with the Town Council and this request would be presented to Council in due course.

Home-Start West Berkshire

Councillor Foster reported that he had attended a Trustee's meeting on 16th January 2020. More volunteers and funding was required and new families requiring support could not be accepted until more volunteers had been recruited and trained.

Thatcham Volunteer Bureau

Councillor E Crumly had attended a meeting on 15th January 2020. A legacy of £11,000 had been received from a local resident who was unknown to the Bureau. The annual barbecue at the Christmas Lights' switch-on had been a great success again. More volunteer drivers and an office administrator was needed.

FGP/2020/13 REVENUE GRANT APPLICATIONS 2019/20 – 2nd TRANCHE

a) Members noted that the total remaining funding in the Revenue Grant budget 2019/20 was £10,401.15.

b) Members reviewed a report of applications on The Good Exchange that highlighted a connection to Thatcham.

RESOLVED To award grants, as detailed in the following table, which would be subject to matched funding from Greenham Trust:

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FGP/2020/13 REVENUE GRANT APPLICATIONS 2019/20 – 2nd TRANCHE continued

Application Ref	Applicant	Project	Grant Award
17649	Young People and Children First	More Than A Roof	£700.00
17584	Thames Valley Air Ambulance	Delivering emergency medical care in West Berkshire	£300.00
17524	Newbury Soup Kitchen	Running costs 2020	£300.00
17341	Parkinson's UK, Newbury	Weekly Chair Exercises and Chair based yoga sessions	£150.00
17338	Parkinson's UK, Newbury	West Berkshire Bespoke Exercise Therapy	£150.00
17518	Dingley's Promise	Improving the Dental Health of Young Children with special educational needs 2020	£300.00
17467	JustDifferent	Disability Workshops in Berkshire	£300.00
17442	West Berks Foodbank	Appointment of a Foodbank/Project Manager (2020-21)	£700.00
17465	Kennet School	Exercise Bicycle for Pupil Disability Resource	£700.00
17446	Newbury College	Community Fitness Centre	£300.00
17416	Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley	"Harold and the Life Bus" West Berkshire and Reading Schools 2019/20	£700.00
17289	West Berkshire Therapy Centre	Hardship Fund 2020	£700.00
17323	Volunteer Centre West Berkshire	New Newbury and Thatcham Handybuses	£700.00
17196	Volunteer Centre West Berkshire	West Berkshire Suicide Prevention Action Group 2019/20	£700.00
16059	Volunteer Centre West Berkshire	Volunteer Recruitment Service for West Berkshire 2019/20	£700.00
16102	Berkshire MS Therapy Centre	Providing emotional support and reducing loneliness for people with Multiple Sclerosis in West Berkshire and North Hampshire 2019/20	£300.00
17110	Newbury and Thatcham Archers	New Archery equipment for teaching archery to pupils of Mary Hare School	£300.00
12578	The Corn Exchange (Newbury) Trust	Reach Out	£300.00
14796	Daisy's Dream	Daisy's Dream in West Berkshire: Step Up For Good	£700.00
14736	West Berkshire Community Hospital League of Friends	Portable Liver Scanner	£700.00
12498	West Berkshire Spokes	Kennet & Avon Towpath	£700.00
TOTAL			£10,400.00

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FGP/2020/13 REVENUE GRANT APPLICATIONS 2019/20 – 2nd TRANCHE continued
RESOLVED That the meeting scheduled for 10th February 2020 was no longer required and could be duly cancelled.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed _____ Date _____