

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the
Finance and General Purposes Committee
held on Monday 20th April 2020 at 8pm
remotely via video conferencing¹

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

In attendance: Mel Alexander (Town Clerk) and Steve Tickle (Responsible Financial
 Officer)
 Councillors Lourdes Cottam and Mark Lillycrop
 1 member of the press (Newbury Weekly News)

FGP/2020/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

FGP/2020/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors E & R Crumly declared non-pecuniary interests in agenda item number 7 (FGP/2020/20) as recipients of hospitality from Thatcham Town Football Club during their participation in the FA Vase final in May 2018.

FGP/2020/16 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2020, having been previously circulated, be taken as read, confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

FGP/2020/17 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

FGP/2020/18 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Letters of thanks had been received, and circulated, from the following organisations that had received funding from the Town Council at the last meeting:

Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley	£700
MS Therapy Centre	£300
Newbury Soup Kitchen	£300
Parkinson UK Newbury & District	£150 x 2
Thames Valley Air Ambulance	£300
West Berkshire Spokes	£700

RESOLVED to note this information.

FGP/2020/19 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

Members received a year-end report from Citizens Advice West Berkshire, who have a service level agreement with the Town Council to provide a Thatcham Outreach advice service. The report detailed the activities of the Outreach service during the year 2019/20.

RESOLVED to note the report.

¹ The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

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FGP/2020/20 FUNDING REQUEST FROM THATCHAM TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Members considered a request from Thatcham Town Football Club for an additional grant towards the purchase and installation of a 3G Training Pitch - Artificial Turf Multi-User Sports Area at Waterside Park. The Town Council awarded £5,000 to the project in January 2019 (FGP/2019/06). It was noted that, since the original application, cost savings had been made by reducing the size of the pitch from 60mx40m to 40mx30m. The revised total project cost now being £119,107, with £31,670 raised to date and £87,437 remaining.

Members were concerned at the pitch size reduction and wished to discuss this with the Club in more detail, along with other possible funding opportunities and the potential impact of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) on the Club's revenue. Members also wished to discuss how the project fits with the West Berkshire Council's Playing Pitch Strategy.

RESOLVED to invite representatives of the Club to attend the next meeting of Full Council on 4th May 2020 to discuss the amended application.

FGP/2020/21 GREENHAM TRUST MATCHED FUNDING AGREEMENT 2020/21

Members received a proposed matched funding agreement 2020/21 from Greenham Trust.

RESOLVED to approve endorsement of the agreement.

FGP/2020/22 BUDGET / EXPENDITURE COSTS

a) Members received proposed BACS and cheque payments due, from the Imprest account (appendix I to these Minutes).

RESOLVED to approve the payments, subject to confirmation from West Berkshire Council that the Election Expenses invoice for the Local Elections in May 2019 was accurate as it was higher than anticipated.

b) Members received details of pre-authorized payments made from the Imprest Account, Soldo pre-paid debit card and Clerk's Account during the period January 2020 to March 2020 (appendix II to these Minutes).

RESOLVED to note the information.

c) Members reviewed the whole Council budget for the financial year 2019/20, noting that the report was subject to year-end reconciliations and review by the Accountant (appendix III to these Minutes). Councillor E Crumly sought clarification on expenditure of £4,604 under nominal code 4060 (Professional Fees) / 261 (Open Spaces).

RESOLVED to note the budget report and request that clarification of the above expenditure be circulated to all Members.

d) Members received details of bank reconciliations (appendix iv to these Minutes).

RESOLVED to note the information.

e) Members received a report on Earmarked Reserves and CIL/s 106 funds held (appendix v to these Minutes).

RESOLVED to note the information.

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FGP/2020/23 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 the March meeting was delayed, and the April meeting cancelled until June.

HomeStart West Berkshire

Councillor Foster reported that a Trustees meeting was held on 17th April. They were no longer able to visit families, but volunteers were calling families each week. Funding was available for families in financial hardship.

Thatcham Nursing Society

Councillor L Cottam reported that the year-end accounts and reports had been presented. There had been an increase in applications for funding, believed to be due to an increase in awareness of the organisation. They were now working with other organisations.

Thatcham Volunteer Bureau

Councillor E Crumly reported that the Bureau had suspended operation during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) crisis.

Thatcham Youth

Councillor Walker reported that their youth clubs and roller disco were currently closed, and their annual meeting had been deferred. They were participating in Joining Together outside Moorside Community Centre.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.01pm.

Signed _____ Date _____