

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the
Recreation and Amenities Committee
held on Monday 16th September 2019 at 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

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

In attendance: Naomi Mildenhall (Services Manager)
 Dr David Peacock (Chairman of the Newbury Society)
 1 member of the press (Newbury Weekly News)

RA/2019/61 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Ardagh-Walter, Lourdes Cottam (Mike Cole appointed as substitute) and Simon Pike (David Lister appointed as substitute).

RA/2019/62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

RA/2019/63 MINUTES.

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th August 2019, having been previously circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

RA/2019/64 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no matters arising.

RA/2019/65 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17th JUNE 2019

The Minutes of a meeting of this Committee held on 17th June 2019 had been referred back to Committee by Full Council, unadopted, following presentation on 24th June 2019 (FULL/2019/61(a)). At that Full Council meeting Councillor Jeffery requested that Minute number RA/2019/41 include his request that the Living History Trail (previously planned but did not take place) be put on a future agenda of the Events Committee.

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the 17th June 2019 remain unchanged and request that the Events Committee consider this matter at a future meeting.

RA/2019/66 WEST BERKSHIRE CONSERVATION AREAS

Members received information from Dr Peacock regarding the protection of conservation areas in Thatcham and Newbury.

RESOLVED

to suspend Standing Orders to allow Dr Peacock to address the Committee.

Dr Peacock explained that appraisals should be completed for each conservation area, there were 53 in West Berkshire but only 2 appraisals had been completed so far. This was a process that could take 10 years to complete. Help offered by the Newbury Society had, so far, been turned down and no work had been completed since 2006. West Berkshire Council Officers had indicated that they were working on producing a methodology for the prioritisation of conservation area appraisals. The appraisal would set out certain conditions that needed to be met within that area. There were two conservation areas within Thatcham; The Broadway into Church Lane and at Hambridge Farm on the far west on the boundary with Newbury.

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RA/2019/66 WEST BERKSHIRE CONSERVATION AREAS Continued.

Dr Peacock requested that Thatcham Town Council lobby West Berkshire Council on this matter.

Councillor Brooks asked for clarification of the risk of not having an up to date appraisal. Dr Peacock explained that there was a risk of development that was not in-keeping with the character of the area.

Members thanked Dr Peacock for attending and for his presentation.

RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders

Dr Peacock left the meeting

RESOLVED to invite Officers from West Berkshire Council's Conservation Team to a future meeting of this Committee to discuss their plans.

RA/2019/67 MOORSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Members considered next steps regarding the proposed transfer of Moorside Community Centre from West Berkshire Council to Thatcham Town Council, following a site visit on 16th July 2019.

RESOLVED to write to West Berkshire Council advising that the Town Council would not consider acquisition of Moorside Community Centre further until in receipt of a full and comprehensive structural survey with further reports on investigations into defects.

RA/2019/68 HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND

Members considered a report from the Town Clerk regarding the management and operational structure of Henwick Worthy Sports Ground.

RESOLVED to defer this matter to a future meeting of this Committee and to request that the Henwick Worthy Joint Management Committee considers making its meetings public.

.RA/2019/69 COUNCIL BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Members considered a report from the Services Officer detailing quotes for the internal repainting of the Town Council Offices and Frank Hutchings Community Hall.

RESOLVED to defer this matter to a future meeting and request that further details be included in the report regarding specification and contractor recommendations.

RA/2019/70 INCIDENTS

Members considered a report on incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour logged by the Town Council during the period 13th August 2019 to 10th September 2019.

RESOLVED to note the report.

RA/2019/71 BUDGET / EXPENDITURE COSTS

a) Members considered income and expenditure figures for this Committee's budgets for the financial year to 31st August 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/2019/72 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 the Committee was looking in to changing the car park management company.

- **Kennet Leisure Centre Joint Advisory Committee**

Councillor Jeffery reported that the Committee still had not met and asked that the Clerk write to West Berkshire Council and request dates of meetings.

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

Councillor J Cottam reported that the Heritage Open Day on Sunday 15th September 2019, which included the Old Bluecoat School, went very well but attendance was low. It was requested that a leaflet produced by Dr Nick Young be given to the Town Clerk for possible inclusion in the Town Plan.

RA/2019/73 VICTORIA CROSS STONE LOCATION

Members considered setting up a Working Party to consider a new location for the VC Stones, currently in The Broadway, following the decision of this Committee on the 19th August 2019 to relocate them (RA/2019/56).

RESOLVED to establish a Working Party to gather information on possible locations for the VC stones and that Councillors Boyd, Field and Jeffery be appointed to serve on the Working Party.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____