

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the
Heritage Working Party
held on Wednesday 5th June 2019, at 7pm
in the Council Offices, Brownsfield Road, Thattham

Present: Councillors Mike Cole, Lourdes Cottam, Mark Lillycrop 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/2019/18 ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

Members considered to elect a Chairman of the Working Party for the municipal year 2019/20.

AGREED Mr Nathan Gregory was elected as Chairman.

HT/2019/19 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received by Cllr Owen Jeffery.

HT/2019/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

HT/2019/21 TERMS OF REFERENCE, MEMBERSHIP AND QUORUM

The terms of reference, membership and quorum for the municipal year 2019/20 were noted.

HT/2019/22 CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS

It was noted that at it's meeting on 20th May (RA/2019/26) the Recreation and Amenities Committee approved the co-option of Mrs Sue Ellis, Mr Nathan Gregory, Mr Roy Tubb and Dr Nick Young to the Working Party for the municipal year 2019/20. The Chairman expressed that Mrs Sue Ellis be referred to as a Community Partner which is a non-voting member of the working party.

HT/2019/23 MINUTES

AGREED

The Minutes of the Heritage Working Party meeting held on 24th April 2019, having been previously circulated, be signed as a true record of the proceedings.

HT/2019/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

a) CLERKS REPORT

There were no matters arising.

b) OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters.

Cllr Lourdes Cottam entered the meeting at 7.20pm

HT/2019/25 BLUE PLAQUE PROPOSALS

a) The results of the public consultation on the 2019 blue plaque were discussed. Thattham Elects First Women to Parish Council was declared as the winning submission and the detail and wording of the plaque was agreed.

AGREED

That the design of the 2019 blue plaque should resemble in style the 2018 blue plaque which is a 40cm diameter blue round plaque with the following wording: "7th April 1919 villagers elect first women to Thattham Parish Council Mrs AM Ashman & Mrs IS Pike Thattham Town Council 2019."

The choice of graphic was discussed and a desire to make it as eye catching as the graphic used on the 2018 Kings Head plaque was expressed.

AGREED

That the graphic should portray 2 women dressed in white Edwardian clothing and hats, wearing sashes in the distinctive green, white & purple suffragette colours.

HT/2019/25 BLUE PLAQUE PROPOSALS Continued

AGREED

That the plaque should be fixed to the front entrance of Thatcham Parish Hall in line with the working parties document "Commemorative Plaque Objectives & Criteria" Section 1:5 "Proposed location of plaques must be clearly visible and easily read from the public highway." It was also noted that Thatcham Town Council reserves the right of recovery should the plaque be removed or supporting structure demolished.

b) The details of the unveiling ceremony proposed for during Thatcham Festival in October 2019 were discussed.

AGREED

That the unveiling event should occur on the 2nd Saturday of Thatcham Festival- Saturday 19th October 2019 and consist of the unveiling then inside the Parish Hall for a talk and refreshments.

Dr Nick Young will speak to Steve Masters about a joint historical talk. Georgina will invite the High Sherriff of Berkshire to jointly unveil the plaque with Mr Mayor. It was explained that historically the High Sherriff is the returning officer within most counties which fits with the theme of the 2019 blue plaque and with the High Sherriff a lady this year this also fits with the theme. Cllr Mike Cole will ask KATS for 2 ladies to attend dressed in Edwardian clothing and wearing sashes.

HT/2019/26 D-DAY "THANK YOU" EVENT

Members received a progress report and discussed plans for the D-Day "thank you" event scheduled for Sunday 9th June 2019.

HT/2019/27 HERITAGE INTERPRETATION PANELS

a) The Working party noted that the Heritage Interpretation Panels had been delivered and installed (covered in black plastic.)

b) Plans for the unveiling were discussed. It was suggested that the event be open to the public and commence at the North panel for the unveiling then walking to the South Panel for the further unveiling and historical talk. The idea of inviting history students from Kennet School to attend was discussed and supplying them with basic refreshments on the Broadway Green was mentioned. Georgina will discuss with Kennet School and the date of the unveiling will be generated based on their availability.

HT/2019/28 ACTION PLAN

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

- i) Public consultation for future Blue Plaques.
Started.
- ii) Creation of a Thatcham Historical Trail and website.
Mr Gregory to research website costs. Dr Nick Young declared a pecuniary interest as he owns a web design company.
- iii) The collation of all Heritage Open Day activities occurring in Thatcham.
Dr Young and Mrs Ellis announced that Thatcham Historical Society will have an exhibition running in Thatcham Parish Hall during the Heritage Open weekend. Mr Gregory suggested that if the Chapel in London Road Cemetery was open and that if the trustees of the Old Bluecoat School were approached that it could make an interesting 3 stop walk. Georgina to approach Dr David Peacock who is an expert on James H Money, the architect of the Chapel.
- iv) Marking significant anniversaries, such as 75th anniversary of D-Day.
The D-Day event had been previously discussed. Cllr Cole mentioned that the theme for 2020 Thatcham Family Fun Day will be VE Day.

- v) Setting the topic for Thatcham Festival's historical events.
Dr Young announced his historical talks will be on Thatcham in 1939 during Thatcham Festival. A previous suggestion of a Church Service during Thatcham Festival commemorating the start of WWII was discussed. It was found to be inappropriate and it was suggested that a song or a reading during the Finale would be more appropriate. Georgina to discuss that with the Events Manager.
- vi) Make suggestions to West Berkshire Heritage Forum for inclusion on the Local Listings.
Mrs Ellis explained to the new members that any asset that is not nationally listed can be submitted to panel for inclusion on the local listings and she requested that they keep a note of things whilst out in the community.
- vii) Commission a play/production about Thatcham's History.
The idea was discussed further and a suggestion that a play could be used as the Mayor's Fundraiser. Cllr Cole to speak to KATS and Kennet School to see if there is interest in writing the play.

HT/2019/29 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

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

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

HT/2019/30 RECOMMENDATIONS

AGREED

To recommend to the Recreation and Amenities Committee that following public consultation, subject to West Berkshire Council's planning permission, a commemorative plaque be purchased and installed on Thatcham Parish Hall to commemorate "*7th April 1919 villagers elect first women to Thatcham Parish Council Mrs AM Ashman & Mrs IS Pike, Thatcham Town Council 2019*" in accordance with the Commemorative Plaque Scheme Project Outline document previously agreed at a meeting of this committee RA/2018/57,

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____