

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the
Recreation and Amenities Committee
held on Monday 11th January 2021 at 7.00pm
remotely via video conferencing¹

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

In attendance: Mike Aslin (Services Manager)
 Councillor David Lister
 1 member of the press (Newbury Weekly News)

RA/2021/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mark Lillycrop (Councillor Mike Cole appointed as substitute).

RA/2021/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J Cottam declared non-pecuniary interests in agenda item numbers 13 and 14 (RA/2021/13 and RA/2021/14) as Town Council representative on the Old Bluecoat School Charity and the Henwick Worthy Joint Management Committee. Councillors Pike and Jeffrey declared non-pecuniary interests in agenda item number 14 (RA/2021/14) as Town Council representatives on the Henwick Worthy Joint Management Committee.

RA/2021/03 MINUTES

RESOLVED to take as read and confirm as accurate the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2020 and the extraordinary meeting held on 30th November 2020.

RA/2021/04 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Councillor Jeffery requested an update on RA/2020/89 / EN/2020/51 to determine the date of the meeting with Network Rail and GWR as he would like to attend. The Services Manager agreed to provide an update.
 [post meeting note: the meeting was held on 13th October 2020, attended by Councillors Foster, Lister & Pike and reported to the Planning & Highways Committee on 20th October 2020]

RA/2021/05 NEW FIRE ALARM FOR THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

Members considered quotations for installation of a fire alarm system at the Council Offices, as recommended following a recent fire risk assessment.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that expenditure of £5,024 be approved for the installation of a fire alarm system at the Council Offices, funded from the Rolling Capital Fund.

RA/2021/06 ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING PARTY

a) Members received the Minutes of the Environmental Working Party meeting held on 26th November 2020.

RESOLVED to approve and adopt the Minutes of the Environmental Working Party meeting held on 26th November 2020.

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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RA/2021/06 ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING PARTY continued

b) Members reviewed the Environmental Action Plan for Thatcham Town Council.

RESOLVED to adopt the Environmental Action Plan, subject to the following amendments to the blue box text on page 14:

- i.** As West Berkshire Council made tree preservation orders, replace "Place" with "Apply for" in Line 4;
- ii.** Similarly, line 5 be amended to "Ensure that the right of use is established for all regularly walked paths".

c) Members considered the appointment of Councillor Field to the role of Environmental Champion to communicate and promote Thatcham Town Council's aims and ambitions to the wider community.

RESOLVED to approve the appointment of Councillor Field as Environmental Champion, in line with the role description as outlined above.

d) Members considered the Working Party's recommendation that funding of £18,833.21 be approved for the upgrade of lighting at Town Council buildings to LED lights, funded from the Climate Emergency Fund.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that expenditure of £18,833.21 be approved for the upgrade of lighting at Town Council buildings to LED lights, funded from the Climate Emergency Fund.

RA/2021/07 SIEGECROSS OUTDOOR GYM INSTALLATION COST CAPITAL PURCHASE

It was reported at the last meeting of this Committee that, due to the significant financial benefit, the outdoor gym at Siegecross had been upgraded when reinstalled following [almost] completion of the flood alleviation works (Total cost for new equipment £8,282, less West Berkshire Council contribution of £4,794, leaving balance of £3,488.00 compared to servicing cost of £1,690, for equipment close to end of useful life).

RESOLVED to approve the upgrade and that this be funded from Community Infrastructure Levy receipts held.

RA/2021/08 REPLACEMENT GATES AT SIEGECROSS

Members considered a report from the Services Officer proposing replacement gates at Siegecross Play Area.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that expenditure of £2,717.42 be approved for the installation of replacement gates at Siegecross Play Area, funded from Community Infrastructure Levy receipts.

RA/2021/09 SERVICE CHARGES 2021/22

Members considered service charges for the financial year 2021/22.

RESOLVED to approve service charges for the financial year 2021/22 as set out in appendix I to these Minutes.

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- RA/2021/10 WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY FUND OPEN FOR BIDS**
 Members received details from West Berkshire Council (WBC) of an opportunity to bid for Community Infrastructure Levy grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 for use towards local infrastructure projects to be implemented by 31st March 2022. It was noted that the response deadline was 10th January 2021, however, an extension to Tuesday 12th January 2021 had been agreed by WBC.
- RESOLVED** to request a further extension to the response deadline to facilitate submission of an application for funds for refurbishment of the Broadway Green and the installation of lighting at the skate park as a secondary application.
- RA/2021/11 WEST BERKSHIRE THERAPY CENTRE**
 Members considered a request from West Berkshire Therapy Centre to suspend payment of their licence fee for exclusive use of Hall 2 at the Frank Hutchings Community Hall, for the previous and current lockdown enforced closure, due to the Coronavirus pandemic.
- RESOLVED** to approve suspension of West Berkshire Therapy Centre's licence fee for exclusive use of Hall 2 at the Frank Hutchings Community Hall, for the previous and current lockdown enforced closure, due to the Coronavirus pandemic and to continue to present any future requests to Committee for consideration.
- RA/2021/12 EXTENSION OF PERMITTED USER AGREEMENT FOR CCTV COLUMNS**
 Members considered an extension to the existing [albeit expired] permitted user agreement between Thatcham Town Council and West Berkshire Council for use of three CCTV columns in The Broadway for the Town Council's CCTV system, to 9th July 2022.
- RESOLVED** to approve extension of the agreement and that Councillors J Cottam and Woodhams be authorised to endorse the extension documentation.
- RA/2021/13 OLD BLUECOAT SCHOOL**
 Members received details of an application from Thatcham [Old Bluecoat School] Charity to West Berkshire Council for Listed Building Consent for proposed future works to the Old Bluecoat School. Members were advised that a presentation would be made to the Town Council in the future, for Landlord's permission to carry out the works, pending receipt of Listed Building Consent.
- RESOLVED** to note the information, whilst highlighting the Planning Officer's comments within the proposal regarding the character of the building and breathability of the walls.
- RA/2021/14 HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND**
 Following reconciliation by West Berkshire Council of the accounts for Henwick Worthy Sports Ground for the financial year 2019/20, Members considered approval of an additional contribution of £2,337.85 for the Town Council's share of the total budget deficit, in accordance with the joint management agreement. Total contributions for the year would be: Thatcham Town Council £42,337.85, West Berkshire Council £139,118.
- RESOLVED** to defer this matter, pending review of the accounts at a meeting of the Henwick Worthy Joint Management Committee, due to be held 4th February 2021.
- RA/2021/15 INCIDENTS**
 Members considered a report on incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour logged by the Town Council between 10th November 2020 to 5th January 2021.
- RESOLVED** to note the information.

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RA/2021/16 INCOME / EXPENDITURE COSTS

a) Members received details of income and expenditure for this Committee's budgets for the financial year to date (appendix II to these Minutes).

RESOLVED to note the information.

b) Members considered proposed BACS payments due from the Imprest account.

RESOLVED to approve the BACS payments (appendix III to these Minutes).

RA/2021/17 REPORTS BY TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTEES

There were no new updates to report.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____