

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the
Planning and Highways Committee
held on Tuesday 22nd December 2020 at 7pm
remotely via video conferencing¹

Present: Councillor John Boyd (Chairman)
 Councillors Lourdes Cottam, Richard Crumly (substituting for Ellen Crumly),
 Paul Field, Richard Foster, Mark Lillycrop, David Lister and Simon Pike

In attendance: Mel Taylor (Town Clerk) and Trudy Blackney (Deputy Town Clerk)
 Catherine Bull (Parsons Down Partnership, Headteacher)
 Marilyn Cornwell (Parsons Down Partnership, Chair of Governors)
 Josh Kerry (West Berkshire Council, ITS and Sustainable Travel)
 Mark Lewis (West Berkshire Council, Education Place Planning and
 Development Manager)
 Ian Pearson (West Berkshire Council, Head of Education Service)
 1 member of the press (Newbury Weekly News)

PH/2020/140 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ellen Crumly
 (Councillor Richard Crumly appointed as substitute).

PH/2020/141 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

PH/2020/142 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2020, having been
 previously circulated, be taken as read, confirmed and signed as an accurate
 record.

PH/2020/143 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

PH/2020/144 PARSONS DOWN SCHOOL

RESOLVED to permit members of the public to speak (Standing Order 6.5.3)

Representatives of Parsons Down School had been invited to attend the
 meeting to discuss plans for the School, following several recent planning
 applications, including demolition of the Infant School.

Mr Pearson advised that a reduced birth rate had resulted in a decline in
 demand for primary school places and the school site was no longer effective
 in its current design and layout, with two sites significantly more expensive to
 run than a single site. Both Mrs Bull and Mrs Cornwell concurred and were
 fully supportive of the proposals and the advantages of a single site.

Mr Pearson assured Committee that there was no concern regarding the
 school's performance, with both the Infant and Junior Schools having
 OFSTED ratings of Good.

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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PH/2020/144 PARSONS DOWN SCHOOL continued

Mr Lewis confirmed that there was sufficient capacity within Thatcham primary schools to facilitate current known development.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Bull, Mrs Cornwell, Mr Lewis and Mr Pearson for attending and explaining the situation and they left the meeting

PH/2020/145 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING REALIGNMENT – CROWN MEAD

Josh Kerry (WBC, ITS and Sustainable Travel) presented designs for proposed improvements to cycling infrastructure in the High Street and along the A4 through the centre of Thatcham, which included realignment of the pedestrian crossing at Crown Mead. The proposals were expected to open for public consultation in February 2021.

PH/2020/146 LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN (LCWIP)

Members considered a response from WSP, the consultants preparing the draft LCWIP, following submission of observations agreed at a meeting of this Committee on 10th November 2020 (PH/2020/135). The consultants sought clarification on the suggested alternative route off Park Lane.

RESOLVED to confirm that the alternative route suggested, off Park Lane, could include Sagecroft Road, Shakespeare Road and Masefield Road.

PH/2020/147 ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECT – LAWRENCES LANE

Members received correspondence from Josh Kerry (WBC, ITS and Sustainable Travel) advising that Bucklebury Parish Council, Cold Ash Parish Council and Landowners had been advised of the proposed introduction of vehicle access restrictions on Lawrences Lane, to deter through traffic, and confirmed that affected residents, businesses and stakeholders would be consulted in February 2021.

Councillor Lister reported recent bank erosion had washed debris onto the highway. Mr Kerry would report this maintenance to highways colleagues and confirmed that active travel routes were subject to higher frequency maintenance inspections.

The Chairman thanked Mr Kerry for attending and for his input in the above three items and he left the meeting

PH/2020/148 FORMER CROWN YARD DEVELOPMENT – ROAD NAMING

West Berkshire Council invited the Town Council to submit suggestions for a potential road name for the new development at the former Crown Yard, Station Road.

RESOLVED to submit the following suggested road names for the new development at Crown Yard, with no particular preference to the suffix road, close etc:

1st choice – Langford – in recognition of well-respected local historian, Malcolm Langford, who had passed away a few weeks prior. Malcolm lived close to the development and Committee deemed this a fitting tribute in recognition of his years of service to the local community.

2nd choice – Port – in recognition of former Town and District Councillor, Terry Port, who had passed away earlier this year. Terry served the [former] South & Crookham Ward, in which this development sat, for many years.

3rd choice – Wootton – in recognition of former Mayor of Thatcham, David Wootton, who passed away a few years prior.

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PH/2020/149 SPEED LIMIT REVIEW – A4

Councillor Pike provided a verbal update on the West Berkshire Council Speed Limit Review meeting held on 9th December 2020, at which a proposal to reduce the speed limit on the A4, west from Henwick Lane, from 40mph to 30mph, was considered and advised that the meeting had recommended the reduction from 40mph to 30mph from Henwick Lane to Lower Way, via Benham Hill, to encourage cyclists to use the route as part of the wider active travel route. The proposal would now be subject to public consultation.

PH/2020/150 CALL FOR REPORTS OF ROADS IN NEED OF REPAIR

Following agreement at the last meeting of this Committee to submit various road defects to West Berkshire Council to be considered for inclusion in future maintenance programmes, the following responses had been received:

Road	Defect	West Berkshire Council response
Pound Lane	Needs resurfacing	This road has funds allocated to it for resurfacing this financial year, but due to major Thames Water sewer repairs on Lower Way it has been delayed. We are hopeful resurfacing will take place early in 2021
Station Road	Needs resurfacing in its entirety	This road forms part of our new 3-year Highway Improvement Programme and is currently programmed for maintenance in 2022/23 (depending on future budget allocation)
Corner of Rudland Close and Ilkley Way	Subsidence	Order sent to maintenance contractor for repair to be carried out by end of financial year
Fromont Drive	Roadway collapsing opposite No. 6	West Berkshire Council to ask Thames Water to investigate that there is no damage to pipes below prior to repair
Green Lane near junction with Crown Mead	Road floods every time it rains	Awaiting a response from Council's Drainage Team to advise whether Green Lane/Crown Mead flooding is on their list of pending works

Councillor Cottam reported that Masefield Road needed resurfacing, between Sagecroft Road and Whitelands.

RESOLVED to note this information with thanks to West Berkshire Council for prompt and positive responses.

PH/2020/151 PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters that had arisen since publication of the agenda.

PH/2020/152 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT / HIGHWAYS / ROAD SAFETY MATTERS

There were no matters that had arisen since publication of the agenda.

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PH/2020/153 DECISION NOTICES

Members noted details of planning decisions published since the last meeting of this Committee.

PH/2020/154 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members considered the following planning applications:

Plan No.	Ward	Application No.	Location:	Proposal:
1	Thatcham North East	20/02730/FULD	17 Eliot Close	Proposed two storey side extension to create a new dwelling house with parking provisions and associated alterations RESOLVED: No Objections
2	Thatcham North East	20/02747/HOUSE	1 The Waverleys	The erection of a single storey rear extension and a two-storey side and front extension RESOLVED: No Objections
3	Thatcham North East	20/02863/FULD	Land at Former Police Station Chapel Street	Section 73A: Variation of Condition 2 - Approved Plans, of planning permission RESOLVED: No Objections
4	Thatcham West	20/027958/HOUSE	91 Northfield Road	To create a new safer access which will lower the kerb further along and reinstate the dropped kerb in front of the current drive access. The wall adjacent to the path/road will be removed. The existing path in front of our property which is in poor condition will be re-laid with new tarmac. Install brick wall RESOLVED: No Objections
5	Thatcham Colthrop & Crookham	20/02824/HOUSE	Woodlands Crookham Common Road	Revised Proposals for extension and alterations to dwelling following removal of utility room RESOLVED: No Objections
6	Thatcham Colthrop & Crookham	20/02866/FUL	Thornford Park Hospital	Temporary planning permission (until April 2022) for the erection of a two-storey cabin on the existing car park and the provision of alternative car parking within the site RESOLVED: No Objections

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.42pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____