

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the
Planning and Highways Committee
held on Tuesday 20th October 2020 at 7pm
remotely via video conferencing¹

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

In attendance: Mel Taylor (Town Clerk)
 Councillor Mike Cole
 Bryan Lyttle (West Berkshire Council Planning Policy Manager) (part meeting)
 2 members of public
 1 member of the press (Newbury Weekly News)

**In the absence of the Chairman the meeting was opened and initially chaired by
 Vice-Chairman, Councillor Simon Pike**

PH/2020/116 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

PH/2020/117 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

PH/2020/118 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2020, having been previously circulated, be taken as read, confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

PH/2020/119 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

PH/2020/110 - PARKING ISSUES – MAYNARD CLOSE

Councillor R Crumly advised that he had referred the parking issues at Maynard Close to Laura Farris MP.

Councillor Cole joined the meeting

PH/2020/120 WHITE PAPER: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

RESOLVED to defer this item to later in the meeting, pending the arrival of Bryan Lyttle, West Berkshire Council Planning Policy Manager.

PH/2020/121 CALL FOR REPORTS OF ROADS IN NEED OF REPAIR

Members considered a request from Councillor Dillon, raised at a meeting of Full Council on 28th September 2020 (FULL/2020/79(A)), that this Committee calls for details of roads in the town in need of repair, for submission to West Berkshire Council's funding programme.

RESOLVED that Officers publicise a call for residents to suggest roads in need of repair and that this information be fed to Ward Members ahead of presentation and consideration at the meeting of this Committee on 1st December 2020.

Councillor Boyd joined the meeting and took the Chair

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/2020/122 LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Members considered correspondence from West Berkshire Council in response to the Town Council's feedback regarding the draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), discussed at a meeting of this Committee on 11th August 2020 (PH/2020/91).

RESOLVED to note the information and to request feedback from West Berkshire Council on the outcome of the speed limit review scheduled to be carried out in October 2020.

PH/2020/123 WINTER SERVICE PLAN 2020/21

Committee received a response from West Berkshire Council to the Town Council's consultation feedback regarding the draft Winter Service Plan 2020/21, discussed at a meeting of this Committee on 30th June 2020 (PH/2020/68). A summary of gritting categories was provided and advised that Thatcham was currently covered in accordance with the adopted criteria and that without specific reference to individual roads, no additional roads in Thatcham would be included in the 2020/21 Plan.

RESOLVED to note the information and to provide specific road names during the consultation for the 2021/22 Winter Service Plan.

PH/2020/124 WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL DRAFT HOUSING STRATEGY

Committee considered West Berkshire Council's draft Housing Strategy 2020 - 2036.

RESOLVED to submit the following feedback to the consultation: (i) Net Carbon Zero must be fundamental and is seldom mentioned in the draft strategy, in particular not listed under "Our Priorities" and "Delivering Our Priorities"; (ii) lack of reference to, and prominence for, Affordable Housing; (iii) lack of reference to existing issues with Thatcham infrastructure or the key priorities for Thatcham, being Flood Alleviation, Medical and Education provision; (iv) no consideration for West Berkshire Council to provide its own social housing, rather than through partnerships; and (v) request reference to the Government's policy on build number requirements be included.

PH/2020/125 THATCHAM STATION – MEETING WITH GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY AND NETWORK RAIL

Committee received the Notes of a meeting held on 13th October 2020 with representatives of Great Western Railway and Network Rail, along with Councillors Foster, Lister and Pike, to discuss the Town Council's submission for improvements at Thatcham Train Station, following the Committee's consideration of the Department For Transport's consultation on "Create a plan to decarbonise transport" at a meeting of this Committee on 11th August 2020 (PH/2020/92).

RESOLVED to adopt the Notes of the meeting.

PH/2020/126 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT / HIGHWAYS / ROAD SAFETY MATTERS

Councillor Pike reported that Councillors Brooks and Jeffery had highlighted to West Berkshire Council issues caused by confusing traffic diversion signage the preceding weekend, relating to closures of Lower Way and the M4, that had resulted in vehicle congestion on Lower Way. West Berkshire Council had advised that a review would be conducted.

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PH/2020/127 PLANNING MATTERS

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

PH/2020/128 DECISION NOTICES

Members received and noted details of Planning decisions from West Berkshire Council.

Bryan Lyttle joined the meeting

PH/2020/129 WHITE PAPER: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Committee received a presentation from Bryan Lyttle, West Berkshire Council Planning Policy Manager, on the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's White Paper Consultation "Planning For The Future" that sought views on a package of proposals to reform the planning system in England; to streamline and modernise the planning process, improve outcomes on design and sustainability, reform developer contributions and ensure more land was available for development where it was needed. Mr Lyttle agreed to provide a copy of West Berkshire Council's response, that had received cross-party support, for use as a template for the Town Council.

Members thanked Mr Lyttle for his informative presentation, and he left the meeting.

RESOLVED to circulate a copy of West Berkshire Council's response to all Councillors and to request feedback for compilation into a draft Town Council response and to delegate authority to Councillors Boyd and Pike to approve submission of the response to the consultation.

PH/2020/130 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members received and considered the planning applications listed below:

Plan No.	Ward	Application No.	Location:	Proposal:
1	Thatcham West	18/00964/FULEXT	Land South Of, Lower Way	The erection of 91 residential dwellings together with associated infrastructure and landscaping. ADDITIONAL DRAWINGS / AMENDED PLANS RESOLVED: to submit the feedback detailed below ⁱ
2	Thatcham West	20/02185/REG3	Parsons Down Junior School	Installation of a new freestanding external curved canopy over an existing area of hardstanding on the site. The proposed canopy is 27.8m x 4.35m in footprint and 3.59m high. Creation of the new external doors with door hoops and brick infilling the existing door RESOLVED: No Objections

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PH/2020/130 PLANNING APPLICATIONS continued

Plan No.	Ward	Application No.	Location:	Proposal:
3	Thatcham North East	20/01728/HOUSE	1A Lamb Close	Two storey side extension, garage conversion and outbuilding ADDITIONAL DRAWINGS / AMENDED PLANS RESOLVED: Object due to loss of the grass verge separating the public footpath and the dwelling
4	Thatcham North East	20/02188/HOUSE	11 Sagecroft Road	Two storey extension to side and rear with porch RESOLVED: No Objections
5	Thatcham Central	20/02159/HOUSE	23 Goose Green Way	Proposed first floor side extension to form new master bedroom, single storey side extension to form new annexe with internal alterations. New horizontal boarding to replace tile hung cladding RESOLVED: No Objections

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.28pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

ⁱ Disappointment that the originally proposed pedestrian crossing on Lower Way, as submitted in the original plans, had not been reinstated as part of the latest plan amendments, as requested by Thatcham Town Council on 4th September 2020 as part of a previous consultation and reiterate request that this be reinstated to provide a designated crossing point on this busy road.

Welcomes and appreciates the inclusion of multiple electric vehicle charging points, on both individual plots and communal parking areas.

Welcomes the provision of bat boxes, bird boxes, log piles and a hedgehog highway.

In support of the emerging Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), commissioned by West Berkshire Council, request that the public footpath on the southern edge of the site be upgraded to a cycle path and/or constructed of such material in order to provide a surface suitable for potential inclusion in a cycling network, and subsequent linking up with cycle paths/opportunities on neighbouring land.

Observation, the revised elevation of plot 28 appears only to have been updated on the site plan and not on associated documentation. Seek confirmation that the site plan is correct and that other documentation should be updated.