

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the
Grants Sub Committee
held on Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 7pm
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

Present: Councillor Jeremy Cottam (Vice Chairman) and Mike Cole (Chairman)
 Councillors Jeff Brooks, Richard Crumly and Owen Jeffery

In attendance: Trudy Blackney (Deputy Town Clerk)
 5 Members of the public

In the absence of the Chairman at the start of the meeting, the Vice Chairman chaired the meeting and stepped aside for the Chairman to take over upon his arrival at 7:29pm

G/2023/001 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for lateness was received from Councillor Mike Cole.

G/2023/002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Crumly declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8 (G/2023/008) as a Trustee of the applicant, Thatcham Memorial Foundation.

G/2023/003 MINUTES

RESOLVED

to take as read, and confirm as accurate, the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2022.

G/2023/004 GRANTS RECIPIENT 'THANKS'

A 'thank you' was received from Time to Talk West Berkshire for the award of £2,000 towards the Thatcham Outreach project from the Grants Sub Committee meeting 5th July 2022. They advised they were extremely grateful for the Town Council's support.

G/2023/005 RECORDING OF GRANTS SUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Sub Committee considered a proposal to upload recordings of the Grants Sub Committee meetings to the Town Council's YouTube channel. Following concerns raised by Members regarding information of a sensitive nature being discussed at the meetings, the following proposal was considered by the Sub Committee regarding how this could be addressed:

Grant awards are considered twice during the financial year, by the means of two tranches Jan/Feb and June/July, at two meetings held 3 weeks apart for each tranche.

- i) The 1st meeting would be held as a Working Party where Members can discuss the applications and decide draft amounts to be awarded. This would not be a public meeting.
- ii) The 2nd meeting would be held as a Sub Committee, where applicants were invited to present. The draft amount suggested at the 1st meeting could be confirmed at the 2nd meeting, following the presentation, with the justification for why the applicant was receiving the amount awarded. This meeting would be recorded for publication on the YouTube channel.

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G/2023/005 RECORDING OF GRANTS SUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS continued
 Members of the Sub Committee still had concerns following the discussion and requested that the item be deferred for further thought.
RESOLVED to defer the item and reconsider the terms of reference of the Working Party and the Sub Committee.

G/2023/006 GREENHAM TRUST FUNDING ALLIANCE TO SUPPORT THE WATERMILL THEATRE
 Members discussed a request from Greenham Trust regarding supporting the Watermill Theatre through a funding alliance, after its loss of annual funding from Arts Council England. Members discussed the request and felt more information was required.
RESOLVED to defer the item and request a presentation from Greenham Trust.

G/2023/007 WEST BERKSHIRE DRAUGHTBUSTERS GRANT AWARD
 Members noted that a grant of £250 had been awarded to West Berkshire Draughtbusters for the project '19803 Draft proofing 2022/23' listed on The Good Exchange. For speed, the award had been granted outside of the usual grant funding round at the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee on 21st November 2022 (RA/2022/68) and had been match funded by Greenham Trust.
RESOLVED to note this information.

Councillor Cole joined the meeting and took the Chair

Councillor Cole declared an interest in agenda item 8 (G/2023/008) as a Trustee of Thatcham Memorial Foundation, however, was appointed as a Town Council representative on the Board.

Having declared an interest in agenda item 8 (G/2023/008), Councillor Crumly left the meeting

G/2023/008 APPLICATION FROM THATCHAM MEMORIAL FOUNDATION
 Members noted that a request had been received from Thatcham Memorial Foundation for an award of £2,000 towards Jubilee Play Area, project to be consider under item 10b.

Councillor Crumly rejoined the meeting

G/2023/009 THATCHAM TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
 Members noted that a request had been received from Thatcham Town Football Club that a further grant award be considered towards its application on The Good Exchange for an Artificial Turf Multi-User Sports Area to be considered under item 10b. £5,000 was previously awarded for the project in 2019 (F&GP/2019/06). It was agreed to consider further under agenda item 10b (G/20230010b).

G/2023/010 REVENUE GRANT APPLICATIONS 2022/23
 a. It was noted that the remaining budget for grant aid in 2022/23 was £7,456.50 and that it was eligible for matched funding from Greenham Trust.

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G/2023/010 REVENUE GRANT APPLICATIONS 2022/23 continued

- b. Members considered an initial report of 8 applications on The Good Exchange from applicants that provided services to Thatcham. Members expressed their support for Thatcham Football Club, however, had concerns over the length of time it had taken the club to raise the funding. Members were content to support a pledge of £2,000, to be held in an Earmarked Reserve until completion of the The Good Exchange application funding target.

Having declared an interest, Councillor Crumly left the meeting whilst Members considered application number 19596 from Thatcham Memorial Foundation and rejoined the meeting thereafter

RESOLVED (i) to pledge £2,000.00 to Thatcham Town Football Club's application 12259 (Thatcham Town FC Artificial Turf Multi-User Sports Area) on The Good Exchange, to be held in an Earmarked Reserve.

(ii) to award grants as follows:

The Good Exchange Application Reference	Applicant	Project	Award
19452	West Berkshire Therapy Centre	Hardship Fund 2022/23	£1,000.00
19814	Home-Start West Berkshire	Home-Start WB Baby Bank 22/23	£500.00
19384	Glendale Church	Youth Cafe	£500.00
19731	TUXchange CIC	Increasing storage capacity to allow for more donations of pre-loved school uniform to be accepted and delivered.	£288.75
19596	Thatcham Memorial Foundation	Jubilee Play Area [Thatcham]	£1,000.00

(iii) to recommend to Full Council that the remaining balance of £2,167.75 be transferred to the Community Project Fund Earmarked Reserve.

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G/2022/011 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members discussed the requirement for a follow up meeting. Grants had been awarded, therefore, there was no requirement for applicants to attend to present at the next timetabled meeting on the 7th February 2023. However, agenda items 5 & 6 had been deferred and Members deemed the items did not require immediate consideration and they could be deferred until the new council after May 2023¹.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:48pm.

Signed _____ Date _____

¹ Local elections 4th May 2023