

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the
Recreation and Amenities Committee
held on Monday 20th March 2023 at 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

- Present:** Councillor Mark Lillycrop (Chairman)
Councillors Mike Cole, Paul Field, Owen Jeffery and Keith Woodhams
- In attendance:** Mel Taylor (Town Clerk)
1 member of the press (Newbury Weekly News)
- RA/2023/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Ardagh-Walter, Jeremy Cottam, Lourdes Cottam and Simon Pike.
- RA/2023/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
There were no declarations of interest.
- RA/2023/17 MINUTES**
RESOLVED to take as read and confirm as accurate, the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2023.
- RA/2023/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**
The Town Clerk advised that, following a request at the last meeting to enquire with West Berkshire Council about the lack of meetings of the Kennet Leisure Centre Joint Advisory Committee, a response had been received that the current Sport & Leisure Manager had resigned and it would be a priority of the replacement Officer to re-establish these meetings.
- RA/2023/19 INCOME / EXPENDITURE COSTS**
Councillors reviewed and noted income and expenditure for this Committee's budgets for the financial year to date.
- RA/2023/20 HENWICK WORTHY JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**
Councillors noted the Minutes of the Henwick Worthy Joint Management Committee meeting held on 8th November 2022.
- RA/2023/21 ESSENTIAL TOOLS FOR THE NEW MAINTENANCE OFFICER POSITION**
Councillors were advised that expenditure of £602.86 had been undertaken for the purchase of essential tools required for the new Maintenance Officer post. For speed, the expenditure was approved by Councillors Cole and Lillycrop outside of the meeting, in accordance with Standing Orders.
- RESOLVED** to ratify expenditure of £602.86 for the purchase of essential tools for the new Maintenance Officer post.
- RA/2023/22 HERITAGE WORKING PARTY**
RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of the Heritage Working Party held on 8th March 2023.
- RA/2023/23 COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUND APPLICATION**
Councillors considered an application from Dementia Friendly West Berkshire for funding of £250 from the Community Projects Fund (CPF) to support a garden party to coincide with Dementia Action Week in May 2023.
- RESOLVED** to award a grant of £250 from the Community Project Fund to Dementia Friendly West Berkshire to support a garden party to coincide with Dementia Action Week 2023.

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- RA/2023/24 FRANK HUTCHINGS COMMUNITY HALL**
 Councillors considered a recommendation emerging from an extraordinary meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 9th March 2023 (FGP/2023/018) that Hall 1 at the Frank Hutchings Community Hall be renamed 'Jubilee Hall', in recognition of installation of the Mayor's Legacy Tableau, due to be unveiled in May 2023. It was considered that Jubilee Hall may cause confusion, as the Hall would remain as the Frank Hutchings Community Hall and Jubilee Room was suggested as an alternative.
- RESOLVED** that Hall 1 at the Frank Hutchings Community Hall shall be known as the 'Jubilee Room' following installation of the Mayor's Legacy Tableau.
- RA/2023/25 WILDFLOWERS – LONDON ROAD CEMETERY**
 It was noted that an application to the Veolia Sustainability Fund to create a wildflower meadow on currently unused land in London Road Cemetery was successful with an award of £1,000. The ground had been prepared and seeded and it was hoped that the area would bloom this year.
- RA/2023/26 INCIDENTS**
 There were no reports of incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour logged by the Town Council since the last meeting.
- RA/2023/27 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS**
 Members received proposed BACS payments due from the Imprest account (appendix I).
- RESOLVED** to approve the BACS payments.
- RA/2023/28 REPORTS BY TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTEES**
 Councillors noted the following reports from Town Council Appointees on outside bodies:
- Thatcham Allotment Gardening Club**
 Councillor Field reported that there were no issues or concerns, as expected the site had been quieter over the winter.
- Thatcham Memorial Foundation**
 Councillor Cole reported that there had been some issues with the newly installed play area; i.e. drainage and the equipment provided, but these were being resolved and it was planned to have an official opening in May 2023.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.26pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____