

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of
Thatcham Town Council
held on Monday 13th May 2024 at 19:00hrs
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

Present: Councillor Suzanne Adamantos (Mayor)
 Councillors Jeff Brooks, Mike Cole, Iain Cottingham, Owen Jeffery,
 Mark Lillycrop, Dave Lunn, Jay Lunn, Tom McCann, Petra Pemberton,
 Simon Pike, Ben Schiffer-Harte, Stephanie Steevenson and Val Watts

In attendance: Mel Taylor (Town Clerk) and Laura Carlin (Deputy Town Clerk)
 3 representatives of Newbury Building Society
 3 representatives of West Berkshire Therapy Centre
 Councillor Justin Pemberton (remotely)

FULL/2024/040 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joh Boyd, Jeremy Cottam and Justin Pemberton.

FULL/2024/041 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Cole and Jeffery declared non-pecuniary interests in agenda item number 3 (FULL/2024/42) as investors with Newbury Building Society.
 Councillor Cottingham declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item number 13 (FULL/2024/52) as Chairman of Thatcham Town Cricket Club.

FULL/2024/042 PRESENTATION FROM NEWBURY BUILDING SOCIETY

RESOLVED to allow members of public to speak.

Representatives of Newbury Building Society introduced the recent expansion of services at the Thatcham Branch, including the imminent introduction of a OneBanx facility, and answered Councillors' questions.

Councillors expressed their support for the branch's expansion and commitment to Thatcham.

Councillor Adamantos thanked the representatives for attending and they left the meeting

FULL/2024/043 WEST BERKSHIRE THERAPY CENTRE – EXPANSION PROPOSAL

Representatives of West Berkshire Therapy Centre introduced a proposal to construct a hydrotherapy pool on land adjacent to the Frank Hutchings Community Hall, and answered Councillors questions.
 Councillor Cole advised that Council should be mindful of potential costs should the asset default to the Town Council in the future.

RESOLVED unanimously, subject to legal agreements, to: (i) enter into a long-term agreement with West Berkshire Therapy Centre, at a peppercorn rent, to create a community hydrotherapy pool on land on the south side of Foxglove Way [north-west of the Frank Hutchings Community Hall]; (ii) support the principle that adapting the use of the land to the south side of Foxglove Way is for the benefit of Thatcham and district residents; [continued]

**Full Council
13th May 2024**

**FULL/2024/043 WEST BERKSHIRE THERAPY CENTRE – EXPANSION PROPOSAL
continued**

RESOLVED (iii) provide a joint press statement, and advance a land agreement, that would facilitate detailed design work and accelerate fundraising necessary to realise the benefits for residents, as soon as possible; (iv) work with West Berkshire Therapy Centre in helping to guide the work that will result in a detailed development proposal, to be put forward for Council approval at a future date.

The representatives were thanked for attending and they left the meeting

FULL/2024/044 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No public questions had been received.

FULL/2024/045 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th March 2024, having been previously circulated, be signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

FULL/2024/046 LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER 2024/25

(a) Appointment of Leader of Thatcham Town Council 2024/25

RESOLVED Councillor Cole proposed Councillor McCann as Leader of Thatcham Town Council for the municipal year 2024/25. This was seconded by Councillor Brooks. unanimously that Councillor Tom McCann be appointed Leader of Thatcham Town Council for the municipal year 2024/25.

(b) Appointment of Deputy Leader of Thatcham Town Council 2024/25

RESOLVED Councillor McCann proposed Councillor Jeffery as Deputy Leader of Thatcham Town Council for the municipal year 2024/25. This was seconded by Councillor Lunn. unanimously that Councillor Owen Jeffery be appointed Deputy Leader of Thatcham Town Council for the municipal year 2024/25.

FULL/2024/047 STANDING COMMITTEES / SUB-COMMITTEE / WORKING PARTY 2024/25

RESOLVED to agree (i) Standing Committees / Sub-Committees / Working Parties, (ii) Terms of Reference, (iii) appointment of Members, and (iv) election of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen, as set out in appendix I to these Minutes.

FULL/2024/048 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED to appoint Council representatives to outside bodies for the municipal year 2024/25, as set out in appendix II to these Minutes.

FULL/2024/049 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED to approve a calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2024/25, as set out in appendix III to these Minutes.

FULL/2024/050 COUNCIL SURGERY ROTA

RESOLVED to agree a rota of Council Surgeries for the municipal year 2024/25, as set out in appendix IV to these Minutes.

**Full Council
13th May 2024**

**FULL/2024/051 STANDING ORDERS, FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND RISK STRATEGY
2024/25**

It was noted that Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and the Risk Strategy 2024/25 would be presented to the June meeting for annual re-adoption, pending review.

FULL/2024/052 THATCHAM TOWN CRICKET CLUB LEASE

Council received feedback from the Town Council's Solicitor regarding proposed amendments to the draft Heads of Terms offered to Thatcham Town Cricket Club for lease of the Brownsfield site, in relation to amending the 15-year notice period to a 15-year break clause, as requested at the last meeting of Council (FULL/2024/027).

RESOLVED to defer this matter until after completion of construction of the flood works, but remain mindful of potential funding for the lease renegotiations as part of the flood work compensation.

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 20:29hrs.

Signed: _____ Date: _____