

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the
Planning and Highways Committee
held on Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 19:00hrs
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

Present: Councillor Simon Pike (Chairman)
 Councillors Jay Lunn, Tom McCann, Justin Pemberton and
 Stephanie Steevenson (substituting for Val Watts)

In attendance: Mel Taylor (Town Clerk)
 Brian Cafferkey (Arden Consulting Engineers) (remotely via video link)
 Brian Woodham (Thatcham Surface Water Management Plan funding
 committee)

PH/2024/001 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Val Watts
 (Stephanie Steevenson appointed as substitute).

PH/2024/002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Pike declared that he had a non-pecuniary interest, as a
 resident of Henwick Lane, in a matter that he would be raising under
 agenda item number 11c (PH/2024/011c).

PH/2024/003 MINUTES

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2023, having been
 previously circulated, be taken as read, confirmed and signed as an
 accurate record.

PH/2024/004 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Committee considered the following planning application:

Plan No.	Ward	Application No.	Location:	Proposal:
1	Thatcham North-East	23/02187/FULMAJ	Thatcham Memorial Playing Fields, Brownsfield Road	ADDITIONAL DRAWINGS / AMENDED PLANS ⁱ RESOLVED: No objection to the amended plans but request that a condition be included requiring that the 'two large trees' that are to be felled to accommodate the practice nets, be replaced with two new trees planted elsewhere. This response relates only to the amended plans and does not alter the comments previously submitted in relation to the original plans.

Brian Cafferkey and Brian Woodham left the meeting

Planning and Highways Committee
16th January 2024

- PH/2024/005 DECISION NOTICES**
 Members noted planning decisions published since the last meeting of this Committee.
- PH/2024/006 WEST BERKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION**
- a)** At the last meeting on 12th December 2023 (PH/2023/177) it was reported that notification had been received of the proposal of West Berkshire Council to withdraw the Local Plan Review 2022-2039 due to “concerns about development on green spaces”.
 It was noted that on 19th December 2023, the Minister of State for Housing, Planning and Building Safety, Lee Rowley MP, wrote to West Berkshire Council issuing direction under section 27 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 “...not to take any steps to withdraw the plan from examination...”. West Berkshire Council’s response to the Minister was available to view on its website.
- b)** Correspondence had been received from Ian Kemp, Programme Officer for the Examination, advising that the Inspector had now submitted his Matters, Issues & Questions for the Examination. Further written comments were not compulsory but it was possible to add to the Council’s original consultation response on related matters. Deadlines had been set at Friday 16th February 2024 for Matters 1 to 3 and Friday 22nd March 2024 for Matters 4 to 13. Following receipt of written statements, the Inspector would consider the submissions before finalising dates and arrangements for the hearing discussions. There would be an opportunity to request to participate in the sessions should Council wish to do so. The Chairman tabled a draft response, that was still work-in-progress.
 Members of the Committee wished to record thanks to Councillor Pike and former Councillor David Lister for the time and effort put into the Local Plan Review.
- RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council, when it meets on 29th January 2024, to agree the key points of the Council’s response to the Inspector’s questions and delegate responsibility for developing the response, based on development of the table of responses considered at the meeting.
- PH/2024/007 WEST BERKSHIRE AIR QUALITY REVOCATION REPORT**
 Committee considered the Newbury and Thatcham Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) Proposal for Revocation Report which set out a proposal to revoke two AQMAs in the district, including Thatcham. The Chairman tabled a draft response.
- RESOLVED** to approve the draft response and to submit to West Berkshire Council, as presented.
- PH/2024/008 WEST BERKSHIRE STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**
 It was noted that West Berkshire Council agreed a new Statement of Licensing Policy effective from 1st December 2023.

Planning and Highways Committee
16th January 2024

PH/2024/009 PREMISES LICENCE APPLICATION
 As a consultee, Committee considered the following premises licence application:
Name: Alfa GSK Ltd T/A Caprinos Pizza
Address: 14a The Broadway, Thattham
Details of application: extension of premises opening hours from the current 23:00hrs to 00:00hrs Monday to Thursday, and from the current 23:00hrs to 01:00hrs Friday to Sunday. The premises opened at 11:00hrs each day and did not serve alcohol or age restricted products.

RESOLVED

no objections.

PH/2024/010 PLANNING MATTERS
 There were no planning matters arising since publication of the agenda.

PH/2024/011 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT / HIGHWAYS / ROAD SAFETY MATTERS

a) Improvements to cycle path on Lower Way

Details were received from West Berkshire Council of improvements to cycle paths at the eastern end of Lower Way, in response to concerns raised by a local resident.

Notwithstanding support for the proposals, Committee expressed that it was not acceptable that existing signage had deteriorated to the point of complaint.

RESOLVED

to welcome and support the proposals and request installation as soon as possible; and to recommend that a similar review be carried out on the cycle path at the western end of the A4, between Henwick Lane and Lower Way; and to remind West Berkshire Council Officers of the comments submitted in response to the Persimmon Homes development on Lower Way, regarding construction of a cycle path at the southern boundary of the site.

b) Outstanding Highways Matters

There were no updates to report.

c) To receive any Traffic Management / Highways / Road Safety matters arising since publication of the agenda.

Councillor Pike advised that he had received a complaint from a resident in the vicinity of Henwick Worthy Sports Ground, regarding 'inconsiderate, unlawful and dangerous' parking from users of the site. It was agreed that Councillor Pike would raise this matter with the Henwick Worthy Joint Management Committee.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19:52hrs.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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- ⁱ 1 The application is amended to include a new three lane non-turf cricket practice net and new non-turf pitch within Brown's Sports Field to mitigate the loss of cricket facilities. This includes an amended site area (enlarged red line), an amended description of development and plans which provide details of the cricket facilities.
- 2 A response to Sport England's email from 12.12.2023 and a plan indicating the dimensions of the tennis court to remain during construction (Drawing 2004241-023-P1).