

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the
Recreation and Amenities Committee
held on Monday 26th February 2024 at 19:00hrs
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thattham

- Present:** Councillor Tom McCann (Chairman)
 Councillors Suzanne Adamantos, Jeremy Cottam, Owen Jeffery,
 Simon Pike, Ben Schiffer-Harte and Stephanie Steevenson (substituting
 for Mike Cole)
- In attendance:** Mel Taylor (Town Clerk)
- RA/2024/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mike Cole
 (Stephanie Steevenson appointed as substitute).
- RA/2024/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
 There were no declarations of interest.
- RA/2024/03 MINUTES**
RESOLVED to take as read and confirm as accurate, the Minutes of the meeting held
 on 11th December 2023.
- Councillor Jeffery advised that “park and walk” signage had been erected
 at the Old Bluecoat School car park.
- Councillor Steevenson highlighted Newbury & Thattham Repair Café’s
 request for Thattham representation on their committee.
- RA/2024/04 INCOME / EXPENDITURE COSTS**
 Committee reviewed and noted income and expenditure for this
 Committee’s budgets for the financial year to date.
- RA/2024/05 POUND LANE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE**
 In accordance with Financial Regulations, that require Committee
 approval for expenditure over £1,500, Committee considered expenditure
 of £3,148 for works to address erosion at an informal pedestrian access
 point to Pound Lane public open space. Work to be undertaken; creation
 of tiered steps using sleepers and compacted aggregate. Councillor
 Brooks was supportive of improvement works to this area, following a site
 visit last year.
- RESOLVED** to approve expenditure of £3,148 for work at Pound Lane public open
 space, as detailed above, funded from the 2023/24 revenue budget.
- RESOLVED** that, due to commercial sensitivity, to move agenda item number 6 – St
 Mary’s Churchyard Wall to a closed discussion at the end of the meeting.

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- RA/2024/06** **PICNIC TABLES**
 Committee considered a recommendation from the Town Clerk to continue the Council's aim of installing picnic tables in all public open spaces. Kennet Heath and Turnfields were areas currently without picnic tables and there were no benches in St Mary's Churchyard. Pound Lane and Siegecross were areas that would benefit from additional picnic tables.
- RESOLVED** to approve expenditure of up to £10,000 to install picnic tables and benches in public spaces, funded from the 2023/24 revenue budget.
- RA/2024/07** **BROADWAY HEDGING**
 Committee considered a quote to remove and dispose of the box hedging around the Broadway Green, which was diseased with box-blight, to include treating the border in preparation for planting new hedging, of a different species, in the autumn.
- RESOLVED** to approve expenditure of £552.99 to remove the existing hedging around the Broadway Green and to treat the border in preparation for planting new hedging in the autumn.
- RA/2024/08** **APPROVED WORKS PROGRESS REPORT**
 Committee noted a progress report on previously approved works.
- RA/2024/09** **APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS**
RESOLVED to approve BACS payments due from the Imprest account (appendix I).
- RA/2024/10** **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**
RESOLVED that, in view of the commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they be instructed to withdraw.
- RA/2024/11** **ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD WALL**
 At the last meeting (RA/2023/60), Committee deferred consideration of commissioning Bennington Green to undertake project work relating to the boundary wall of St. Mary's Churchyard to the following financial year. Committee reconsidered the deferment, as it was proposed to fund the appointment from Reserves, and therefore not constrained by the financial year.
- RESOLVED** to commission Bennington Green to appoint an Intermediate Surveyor to undertake project work relating to the boundary wall of St Mary's Churchyard, in accordance with the findings of Bennington Green's initial assessment report and the proposed works as set out in their consequential proposal.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19:43hrs.

Signed: _____

Date: _____