



# Thatcham Town Council

## Members of the Town Centre Committee

Councillor Jeremy Cottam  
Councillor Owen Jeffery (Chairman)  
Councillor Jay Lunn  
Councillor Tom McCann  
Councillor Ben Schiffer-Harte  
Councillor Stephanie Steevenson (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Val Watts  
Vacancy

Town Clerk: Ms Mel Taylor

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13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the **Town Centre Committee** to be held on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 19:00hrs**, in the **Thatcham Town Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham** for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Mel Taylor  
Town Clerk

## A G E N D A

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
To receive apologies for absence.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
To receive from Members, in respect of any items included on the agenda for this meeting, declaration of any personal, disclosable pecuniary or other interests in line with the Town Council's Code of Conduct.
3. **MINUTES**
  - i. To take as read and confirm as accurate the Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Noting that meetings scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were cancelled due to there being no business to be conducted.
  - ii. For the Town Clerk to provide, and for Members to request, feedback on any matters arising from the previous meeting. Any matters discussed under this item are for noting only.

**4. INCOME / EXPENDITURE COSTS**

To receive and note income and expenditure for this Committee's budgets for the financial year to date.

**5. WEST BERKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW 2022-2039**

To consider a draft response to Matters 11.10 and 11.11 in the report: IN6 INSPECTOR'S MATTERS, ISSUES AND QUESTIONS AND WRITTEN STATEMENTS relating to the West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2022-2039.

At a meeting of Full Council on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 authority was delegated to the Planning & Highways Committee to respond to the Inspector's Report. The Town Council has already submitted responses to Matters 1 to 3, prior to that deadline of 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024. **The deadline for submission of responses to Matter 4 to 13 is 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024.**

At its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024, the Planning & Highways Committee approved responses to Matters 4 to 11, with the exception of paragraphs 11.10 & 11.11 of Matter 11, which will be completed in line with this Committee's decision.

**6. THATCHAM TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY**

To receive an update from the Chairman on the status of the Thatcham Town Centre Strategy.

**7. CENTRAL THATCHAM FLOOD DEFENCE**

To note that a planning application for construction of the Central Thatcham Flood Defence scheme, within the Memorial playing Field and Brownsfield Cricket Field, was approved at the Eastern Area Planning Committee meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

The Town Council has appointed an agent to negotiate matters such as compensation on behalf of the Town Council and Thatcham Town Cricket Club.

In accordance with the wishes of Sport England, the Town Council has offered an extension to Thatcham Town Cricket Club's lease of the site, the terms of which will be finalised in line with the agent's negotiations.

**8. PUBLIC TOILETS – THE BROADWAY**

**Changing Places**

Following previous updates regarding a proposal to install a Changing Places facility in the public toilets in The Broadway, on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023 the following communication was received from West Berkshire Council's Finance & Corporate Services Executive:

*"The Changing Places grant offered WBC a £40,000 contribution to creating two new Changing Places (CP) facilities, one in Thatcham and another in Hungerford. WBC committed to contributing £30,000 to the overall estimate needed to complete the two venues.*

*With more detailed development of the designs to deliver these two venues the updated estimate for the project is £180,000. The CP grant provider has confirmed that no additional grant is available to WBC and the current grant must be spent by 31 March 2024.*

*This has created an issue with affordability for the project and having considered this the Council has taken the difficult decision to withdraw the Thatcham site from the project, concentrating on a single venue in Hungerford. This was based around availability of CIL funds as well as future master planning considerations for Thatcham."*

Committee is recommended to note this information.

**9. CONSERVATION AREA EXTENSION**

At a meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (TC/2023/20) Committee requested that information on the process for requesting extension of the conservation area, to include Chapel Street, at least as far as The Moors, be obtained from West Berkshire Council. Response provided.

**10. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS**

To receive and consider approval of proposed payments due from the current account.