

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of
Thatcham Town Council
held on Monday 12th May 2025 at 19:00hrs
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

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

In attendance: Laura Carlin (Deputy Town Clerk)
 1 Member of the Press (Newbury Weekly News)

FULL/2025/34 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Jay Lunn.

FULL/2025/35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.
 Councillor P Pemberton reminded all Councillors to review their current declarations of interest and to update as necessary.

FULL/2025/36 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No public questions had been received.

FULL/2025/37 MINUTES
RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2025, having been previously circulated, be signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

FULL/2025/38 REPORTS FROM THE RETIRED MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

a) Retired Mayor's Report

Councillor Adamantos reported that from 1st April 2025 to date, she had attended a variety of events including: tree planting at Memorial Park VE Day 80 celebration, opening of House of Cards new premises, attended Joan Miro Art Exhibition at The Base, visit to Parsons Down School, attended Hungerford Mayor's Civic Reception, supported GreenFest and Thatcham 10K, opening of Daisy's café, Greenham Common 25th Anniversary, hosted her own Civic Reception at Thatcham Football Club, unveiled the Baby Memorial Garden at London Road Cemetery and the new communications board at Turnfield's playground, met with the newly appointed Grounds Maintenance company Scofell Commercial Landscapes, presented numerous Community Awards and attended many Thatcham VE Day 80 Celebrations.

Councillor Adamantos thanked fellow Councillors and her Deputy Mayor Councillor P Pemberton for their support throughout her Mayoral year.

b) Retired Deputy Mayor's Report

Councillor P Pemberton reported that from 1st April 2025 to date, she had attended a variety of events including: Thatcham 10K, Best of British Market, Volunteering for Dementia Friends West Berkshire, VE Day Celebrations at the Memorial Hall, VE Day Roses planting in Thatcham Broadway and Mock Trial finals at Reading Crown Court.

Full Council
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- FULL/2025/39 LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER 2025/26**
(a) Appointment of Leader of Thattham Town Council 2025/26
 Councillor Brooks proposed Councillor Adamantos as Leader of Thattham Town Council for the municipal year 2025/26. This was seconded by Councillor Cole. **RESOLVED** unanimously, that Councillor Suzanne Adamantos can be appointed Leader of Thattham Town Council for the municipal year 2025/26.
- (b) Appointment of Deputy Leader of Thattham Town Council 2025/26**
 Councillor Adamantos proposed Councillor Cole as Deputy Leader of Thattham Town Council for the municipal year 2025/26. This was seconded by Councillor Jeffery. **RESOLVED** unanimously, that Councillor Mike Cole be appointed Deputy Leader of Thattham Town Council for the municipal year 2025/26.
- FULL/2025/40 STANDING COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES 2025/26***
***that report to Full Council**
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/2025/41 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**
RESOLVED to appoint Council representatives to outside bodies for the municipal year 2025/26, as set out in appendix II to these Minutes.
- FULL/2025/42 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**
RESOLVED to approve a calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2025/26, as set out in appendix III to these Minutes.
- FULL/2025/43 COUNCIL SURGERY ROTA**
RESOLVED to agree a rota of Council Surgeries for the municipal year 2025/26, as set out in appendix IV to these Minutes.
- FULL/2025/44 STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**
 Following a review of Financial Regulations by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, a draft was presented to Council, along with advise from the Town Clerk that there were no updates required to Standing Orders. **RESOLVED** to adopt Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for the municipal year 2025/26, as presented.
- FULL/2025/45 APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**
 The following Committee Minutes were presented for adoption:
a) Planning and Highways Committee Minutes dated 8th April 2025 and 6th May 2025. **RESOLVED** to adopt the Minutes dated 8th April 2025 and refer the Minutes dated 6th May 2025 back to the Planning and Highways Committee for review by the Chairman Councillor Pike.
- b)** Finance and General Purposes Committee Minutes dated 28th April 2025. **RESOLVED** to adopt the Minutes.

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FULL/2025/46

TREASURY MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025/26

Following a review of the Treasury Management Plan 2025/26 by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, at its meeting on 28th April 2025 (FGP/2025/23i), a draft was presented to Council.

RESOLVED

to adopt the Treasury Management Plan 2025/26, as presented.

**FULL/2025/47
RESOLVED**

MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR TOM McCANN

to accept a Motion from Councillor Tom McCann, with an amendment proposed by Councillor J Pemberton, to read:

That Thatcham Town Council seeks the advice of a legal advisor (to be appointed), on the following matters relating to the West Berkshire Local Plan Review:

- Are there any legal points that Thatcham Town Council could challenge the decision to increase the housing numbers from 1,500 to 2,500 made by the Inspector?
- Did the Planning Inspector follow the legal process fully while deciding to increase the housing numbers in Thatcham?
- Can Thatcham Town Council legally challenge the decision of either the Inspector or West Berkshire District Council to increase the housing allocation within Thatcham town?

FULL/2025/48

REPORTS

(a) Reports from Thatcham Town Councillors and West Berkshire District Councillors on Council Surgeries

Council noted reports from:

- i. Councillors Jay Lunn and Justin Pemberton who were present at Council Surgery in The Broadway on Saturday 5th April 2025, and
- ii. Councillors Justin Pemberton, Stephanie Steevenson and Val Watts who were present at Council Surgery in The Broadway on Saturday 3rd May 2025.

(b) Reports from West Berkshire District Councillors

Council noted reports from West Berkshire District Councillors Jeff Brooks, Owen Jeffery and Jeremy Cottam.

(c) Outside Body Reports

Reports from a number of appointees to outside bodies were noted. Request received from Councillor McCann to discuss possible funding to Kennet Leisure Centre JAC at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting at its meeting on 21st July 2025, potentially utilising funds returned by Thatcham Town Football Club.

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 20:48hrs.

Signed: _____ Date: _____