

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the
Planning and Highways Committee
held on Tuesday 2nd July 2024 at 19:00hrs
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

Present: Councillor Simon Pike (Chairman)
 Councillors Dave Lunn, Tom McCann and Val Watts

In attendance: Laura Carlin (Deputy Town Clerk) and James Pye (Place Manager)

PH/2024/052 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jay Lunn and Justin Pemberton.

PH/2024/053 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Watts declared a non-pecuniary interest in a matter that she would be raising under agenda item number 4 (PH/2024/055), as a resident of Crookham Park.

PH/2024/054 MINUTES
RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2024, having been previously circulated, be taken as read, confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

Councillor McCann joined the meeting

PH/2024/055 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Committee considered the following planning applications:

24/01230/PACOU	Units 7-8, The Courtyard, Thatcham Boadway RG17 3HQ	Proposed development of current retail unit to 2 bedroom (3 person) flat. Mix of residential and commercial units present. Private Land. RESOLVED: Object - Refer to Highways regarding availability of parking. Refer to Town Centre Committee as loss of commercial unit in the town.
24/00827/FUL	Land opp. Crookham Park and south of White Lodge, Crookham Common Road, RG19 8BR	Proposed application for change of use of agricultural land to open storage (Class Use B8) To be occupied by J Pinnock Services Ltd, a small firm supplying heating fuel and associated products. RESOLVED: Object - Proximity to dwellings and impact on public footpath. Unsuitable in a rural area with no other similar businesses.

PH/2024/056 DECISION NOTICES

Committee noted Thatcham related planning decisions published since the last meeting of this Committee.

PH/2024/057 WEST BERKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW 2022-2039

Councillor Pike provided the following updates, following his attendance at the West Berkshire Local Plan Review hearings:

- a) The education provision was questioned and agreed that an independent study was required for the Secondary school provision.
- b) A draft report would be drawn up with modifications required, this would be sent to all Councils for their consideration and comments.

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PH/2024/058 PLANNING MATTERS

Committee noted the following information:

- a) The submitted Neighbourhood Area Designation Application, linked to the Thatcham Neighbourhood Development Plan, had now been confirmed as received by West Berkshire Council and further instruction was awaited.
- b) **Planning Matters arising since publication of the agenda:**
 - i. Councillors Jeffery and Watts to attend a site inspection on 3rd July 2024 at the former Travellers Friend site in Crookham Common, arranged to aide West Berkshire Council in reaching a decision on application 23/01699/FULMAJ.
 - ii. The obstructed Memorial Playing Field pedestrian access, previously discussed, had been reported as a nuisance. A 2nd stage notice had been issued. The Place Manager to inform Committee of the dates issued and to be actioned by.

PH/2024/059 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT / HIGHWAYS / ROAD SAFETY MATTERS

Committee noted the following information:

- a) **Thatcham Level Crossing Closure 9th July, 2024**
 Notification had been received from West Berkshire Council that Thatcham Level Crossing would be closed between 22.15hrs on 9th July and 05.05hrs on 10th July, between the junctions with Station Road and Rainsford Farm Mews, to enable Network Rail to carry out maintenance works.
- b) **Traffic Management / Highways / Road Safety matters arising since publication of the agenda:**
 - i. Councillor Pike reported complaints from multiple residents in the vicinity of Henwick Worthy Sports Ground, regarding 'inconsiderate, unlawful and dangerous' parking from traffic management vehicles. No logos were displayed on the vehicles to indicate which company they were associated with. It was agreed that Councillor Pike and Place Manager would monitor the situation.
 - ii. The Place Manager informed Committee that a proposal had been received from West Berkshire Council regarding funding new bus shelters within Thatcham. Committee were in favour of the scheme and would like clarification on whether suggestions could be made for which bus stops were to be included. The Place Manager to respond to the proposal by the deadline of 26th July 2024.

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

Signed: _____ Date: _____