

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the
Town Centre Committee
held on Monday 23rd September 2024 at 19:00hrs
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thattham

Present: Councillor Owen Jeffery (Chairman)
 Councillors Jeremy Cottam, Dave Lunn, Tom McCann, Simon Pike
 and Ben Schiffer-Harte

In attendance: James Pye (Place Manager)
 Councillor Jay Lunn (remotely, via Zoom)

TC/2024/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Val Watts.

TC/2024/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

TC/2024/13 MINUTES

RESOLVED

to take as read and confirm as accurate the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2024.

TC/2024/14 THATCHAM TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY

The Place Manager informed the Committee that over the last couple of months information and ideas had been compiled from the Turley and Hemingway reports, to create a list of potential Town Centre projects, such as improving the aesthetics of Thattham with some short-term objectives..

Committee discussed and noted the following update:

Councillor Jeffery stated that he would be in favour of some artworks/mural to be displayed on a wall along the A4 between Chapel St/High St. Councillor Pike raised some concerns regarding ownership and that perhaps the suggested location(s) were within a Conservation area. **The Place Manager to ascertain and report back to Committee.**

Councillor D Lunn expressed a declaration of interest if the mural was to be introduced as he had a business advertisement present on the wall.

Councillor Cottam suggested a potential artwork or statue, such as the one currently at Robin Hood Roundabout, to be placed in Thattham High Street/Beach area. **Place Manager to investigate this further.** Councillor Cottam was against any mural or artwork to be displayed on walls.

Councillor Schiffer-Harte was very much in favour of lamp post banners to be introduced within the Town Centre. All councillors agreed this was certainly beneficial and a short-term win to improve the Town Centre image.

Councillor Pike raised a point to include maintenance costs as well as the initial cost. **Place Manager to investigate and present at next Committee meeting.**

Town Centre Committee
23rd September 2024

TC/2024/14

THATCHAM TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY continued

Councillor Schiffer-Harte also discussed information boards, such as ones in Eton Wick, that display history, current information and your location within the Town Centre. Digital noticeboards were also mentioned and Councillors were in agreement that this could be a one-off purchase that would serve a good purpose with its functionality and help improve the image of the Town Centre. **Place Manger to investigate costs and suitability.**

Councillors also raised concerns about the Kingsland Centre and the missing glass panels and the look of Waitrose. The Chairman then informed the Committee of initial contact made with the Kingsland Centre management company, Evolve, and that there were plans to reinstall the glass panels in the future and improve the aesthetics of the Kingsland Centre. **Councillor Jeffery and Place Manager to pursue this further.**

Councillor D Lunn suggested using local schools to create a 'model' or artwork that could be placed in and around the Town Centre and could potentially be auctioned at a later date, to help improve the image of Town Centre whilst involving the local community. **Place Manager to investigate further.**

Councillor Jeffery asked the Place Manager to investigate and clarify the budget for the Town Centre improvements and relay to committee at the next meeting. **Place Manger to report back to committee.**

TC/2024/15

TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC BEHAVIOUR

The Chairman opened discussion regarding Town Centre behaviour and the recent burglaries in the district and if Thatcham needed to look at deterrents in the town centre and discuss any other issues.

Councillors Cottam and McCann advised that Thames Valley Police were patrolling Thatcham and the Town Centre quite regularly and had been since a previous request from Thatcham Town Council. Councillors agreed that currently there did not appear to be many public disorders within the Town Centre.

Introduction of a concrete bollard outside Co-Op shop would not be a decision made by Thatcham Town Council.

Councillor Cottam suggested improving lighting/visibility in the Town Centre, again, this would be a decision for West Berkshire Council.

Councillor D Lunn enquired whether Thatcham Town Council receive reports from Thames Valley Police regarding crime reports in Thatcham. **Place Manager to investigate and report back to committee.**

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19:54hrs.

Signed: _____

Date: _____