

**THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a meeting of**  
**Thatcham Town Council**  
**held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 19:00hrs**  
**in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham**

Present: Councillor Petra Pemberton (Mayor)  
 Councillors Suzanne Adamantos, Mike Cole, Iain Cottingham, Owen Jeffery,  
 Mark Lillycrop, Tom McCann, Justin Pemberton, Simon Pike, Ben Schiffer-Harte,  
 Mark Thomas, and Val Watts

In attendance: Laura Carlin (Town Clerk) and Hayley Scard (Deputy Town Clerk)

**FULL/2025/073 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Boyd, Jeff Brooks,  
 Jeremy Cottam, Dave Lunn, Jay Lunn, and Stephanie Steevenson.

**FULL/2025/074 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Mark Thomas declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda item 7 as a  
 Thatcham Town Council allotment tenant.  
 Councillor Iain Cottingham declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda item 11 as  
 Executive Portfolio Holder: Finance and Resources for West Berkshire Council.

**FULL/2025/075 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No public questions had been received.

**FULL/2025/076 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meetings held on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and 27<sup>th</sup>  
 October 2025 and, having been previously circulated, be signed as a correct  
 record of the proceedings.

**FULL/2025/077 REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR**

**a) Mayor's Report.** The Mayor, Councillor Petra Pemberton, provided a detailed  
 account of their public engagements since October, including attending numerous  
 community events and charity functions. The Mayor mentioned the opening of  
 new facilities such as the Thatcham Wellbeing Hub and the teenage den launch  
 at Swings and Smiles, plus, the unveiling of Thatcham's new blue plaque. The  
 Mayor talked about highlights from the Thatcham Festival, across which she  
 attended a number of different events, including a Handbell ringing workshop and  
 the Thatcham Thrives Dance Gala. Civic duties for the Mayor included leading  
 the Remembrance Parade in Thatcham and attending the Judicial Review led by  
 the High Sheriff of Berkshire at Reading Minster.

**b) Deputy Mayor's Report** Councillor Lillycrop reported that from October to  
 date, he had attended a variety of events including: the annual meeting of the  
 Memorial Foundation, the Eco Friends mass plastic unwrap in Waitrose, the  
 Thatcham Photography Club open evening, and the WI Christmas Bazaar.

*Councillor Cottingham joined the meeting*

**FULL/2025/078 APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The following Committee Minutes were presented for adoption:

**RESOLVED** a) Recreation and Amenities Committee Minutes dated 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025.  
 to adopt the Minutes and note Councillor Cottingham's thanks on behalf of the  
 Memorial Foundation for the resurfacing of the Beverley Close footpath and  
 record thanks to Councillor Cottingham for his support of the project.

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**FULL/2025/078 APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES continued**

b) Planning and Highways Committee Minutes dated 23<sup>rd</sup> September and 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

**RESOLVED** to adopt the Minutes.

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee Minutes dates 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025. to adopt the Minutes and note Councillor Cottingham's thanks on behalf of Thatcham Town Cricket Club for the grant to upgrade the indoor cricket and extending an invitation to those in attendance to the grand opening.

**RESOLVED**

d) Events Committee Minutes dated 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025. to adopt the Minutes.

**RESOLVED**

**FULL/2025/079 ALLOTMENT RENT 2026**

**RESOLVED** to agree allotment rents for the calendar year 2026 as follows:

	<b>Rent 2026</b>
Full Plots	£97.00
Half Plots	£48.00
Third Plots	£32.00
Quarter Plots	£24.00

**FULL/2025/080 THATCHAM MEMORIAL FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE**

In light of Councillor Cole's resignation as a Thatcham Town Council representative at the Thatcham Memorial Foundation, there is now a vacancy for the position.

**FULL 2025/081 REPORTS**

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

Council noted reports from those present:

- i. Councillors Boyd and Steevenson who were present at Council Surgery in The Broadway on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025 were not in attendance to give a report.
- ii. Councillors Schiffer-Harte and Steevenson who were present at Council Surgery in The Broadway on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025.

*Councillor McCann joined the meeting*

**b) Reports from West Berkshire District Councillors**

The following reports from West Berkshire District Councillors were noted: Councillor Cottingham delivered a report on the Ridgeway Council proposal which has now been submitted to central Government. A decision will be made by next summer at the latest.

**c) Outside Body Reports**

Reports from a number of appointees to outside bodies were noted.

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**FULL/2025/082 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC  
RESOLVED** that, in view of the commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted (FULL/2025/083), it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they be instructed to withdraw.

**FULL/2025/083 HENWICK CONTRIBUTION Q4 INVOICE APPROVAL  
RESOLVED** To approve payment of the Q4 2024/25 invoice from West Berkshire Council in respect of Thatcham Town Councils Henwick contribution.

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 20:37.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_