



THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk: Laura Carlin

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All Members of Council

20th January 2026

Notice is hereby given of a **meeting of Thatcham Town Council**, to be held on **Monday 26th January 2026 at 19:00hrs** in the **Thatcham Town Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham, RG18 3HF** for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Carlin
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. **WEST BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL**
To receive a presentation from James Wilcox of Fairclose Centre on the plans for a Dementia Unit in the grounds of the West Berkshire Community Hospital
4. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
Members of public are invited to submit questions to the Town Council. All public questions must be submitted in writing by 10am on the day of the meeting, or in a case of urgency, not later than 4pm on the day of the meeting.
5. **MINUTES**
 - i. To take as read and confirm as accurate the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2025.
 - ii. For the Town Clerk to provide, and for Members to request, feedback on any matters from the previous meeting. Any matters discussed under this item are for noting only.

6. REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

- a) To receive the Mayor's report for the period 25th November 2025 to date.
- b) To receive the Deputy Mayor's report for the period 25th November 2025 to date.

7. BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2026/27

- i. At its meeting on 19th January 2026, the Finance and General Purposes Committee reviewed the draft budget 2026/27 noting the decrease to the Tax Base and resolved to recommend in principle to Full Council for adoption with the shortfall being covered by Reserves.
- ii. The Finance & General Purposes Committee requested a meeting between its Chair and the Clerk to make a final review of the draft budget and present their findings to Full Council.
- iii. Council is asked to consider adoption of the Budget 2026/27 and to agree a precept in accordance with the requirements of Section 150 (4) of the Local Government Act of 1974 to meet the expenditure as set out in the draft budget.

8. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

To receive and consider adoption of the following Committee Minutes:

- a) Recreation and Amenities Committee Minutes dated 8th December 2025.
- b) Planning and Highways Committee Minutes dated 16th December 2025 and 13th January 2026.

9. CONCLUSION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT 2024/25

To note that the External Auditor's Report for the year ended 31st March 2025 states that 'on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.'

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP 25th September 2025

10. FREEDOM OF THE TOWN

Members considered a report on conferring the Freedom of the Town to 67 MI Coy of Denison Barracks on Thursday 4th June 2026.

11. COMMUNITY AWARDS PANEL

To appoint Members to join the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on the Community Awards Panel, which will meet week commencing 23rd March 2026 to agree the Community Awards 2026, which will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting on 23rd April 2026.

Categories are: Community Contributor, Environmental Champion, Volunteer Champion, Inspiring Young Person and Lifetime Achievement.

12. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON PIKE

To consider a draft Motion from Councillor Simon Pike subject to a proposer and seconder being found at the meeting:

"That the proposal of the Council to the Joint Management for its financial contribution for the year 2026-27 for the net running expenses of Henwick Worthy Sports Ground shall be 25% of those costs, capped at £70,000."

13. REPORTS

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

To receive and note reports from:

- i. Councillor Adamantos who was present at Council Surgery in The Broadway on Saturday 6th December 2025
- ii. No surgery conducted in January 2026

(b) Reports from West Berkshire District Councillors

To receive reports from West Berkshire District Councillors.

(c) Outside Body Reports

- i. To receive nominations to fill vacant Representative positions.
- ii. To consider a request to become a recognised Outside Body in 2026/27 from Berkshire Music Trust based at Kennet School.
- iii. To receive reports from Town Council representatives to the following outside bodies:

Organisation	Representative	Organisation	Representative
Berkshire Association of Local Councils	Cllr Simon Pike	Thatcham Memorial Foundation	Vacancy (Cllr Mike Cole)
Berkshire Music Trust	Requested	Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre	Cllr Mark Lillycrop
Dementia Friendly West Berkshire	Cllr Owen Jeffery Cllr Dave Lunn Cllr Petra Pemberton	Thatcham Parish Hall	Cllr Jeff Brooks Cllr Jeremy Cottam Cllr Simon Pike Vacancy
Eco Friends (West Berkshire)	Cllr Mark Lillycrop Cllr Tom McCann	Thatcham Relief in Need Charity and Thatcham Parochial Charities	Cllr Mike Cole Mr Chris Druce
Friends of Thatcham Library	Cllr Ben Schiffer-Harte	Thatcham Support and Welfare Society	Cllr Dave Lunn
Greenham and Crookham Commons Commission	Cllr Simon Pike	Thatcham Town Cricket Club Committee	Cllr John Boyd
Henwick Worthy Sports Field JMC	Cllr Jeff Brooks Cllr Simon Pike Cllr Ben Schiffer-Harte	Thatcham Volunteer Bureau	Cllr Val Watts
Home-Start West Berkshire	Cllr Petra Pemberton	Thatcham Youth	Cllr Suzanne Adamantos Cllr Ben Schiffer-Harte
Kennet Leisure Centre JAC	Cllr Jay Lunn Cllr Tom McCann Cllr Ben Schiffer-Harte	The Thatcham (Old Bluecoat School) Charity	Cllr Jeremy Cottam Cllr Owen Jeffery
Lady Frances Winchcombe's Thatcham Foundation	Vacancy (Cllr Owen Jeffery) Cllr Ben Schiffer-Harte	West Berkshire Heritage Forum	Cllr Owen Jeffery
Swings & Smiles	Cllr Suzanne Adamantos	West Berkshire Suicide Prevention Action Group	Cllr Suzanne Adamantos
Thatcham Allotment Gardening Club	Cllr Petra Pemberton	West Berkshire Therapy Centre	Cllr Jeff Brooks Cllr Owen Jeffery Cllr Stephanie Steevenson
Thatcham Flood Forum & Thatcham SWMP Funding Committee	Cllr Owen Jeffery Cllr Mark Lillycrop		

14. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To resolve that, in view of the commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they be instructed to withdraw.

15. PROPOSED HYDROTHERAPY POOL

To receive a report from the Town Clerk for charges incurred and decisions to be made for the proposed Hydrotherapy Pool