

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of
Thatcham Town Council
held on Monday 11th May 2026 at 19:00hrs
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

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

In attendance: Laura Carlin (Town Clerk), Hayley Scard (Deputy Town Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

FULL/2026/037 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jeremy Cottam and Iain Cottingham,

FULL/2026/038 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were received.
 Councillor M Lillycrop reminded all Councillors to review their current declarations of interest and update if necessary.

FULL/2026/039 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No public questions had been received.

FULL/2026/040 MINUTES

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 30th March 2026 having been previously circulated, be signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

FULL/2026/041 REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

a) Retired Mayor's Report.

The retired mayor, Cllr Petra Pemberton, provided a comprehensive report of activities undertaken since the 1st of April 2026, including attending various community events, promoting the annual town meeting, and visiting local organisations such as Dingley's Promise and Berkshire Music Trust. They highlighted the success of a silent disco fundraising event that helped reach the £3,000 fundraising mark and mentioned attending the St. George's Day parade and celebrating the fifth birthday of the West Berkshire community larder. The council expressed gratitude to the outgoing mayor for their record-breaking number of visits and contributions to promoting the town and its community.

A vote of thanks was received from Cllr Steevenson to the retired Mayor.

Councillor McCann joined the meeting at 19:10

b) Retired Deputy Mayor's Report

Councillor Lillycrop, reported on various events from 1st April 2026 to date, including a successful silent disco, civic reception, and annual town meeting, while noting that the Cold Ash Brass concert at St Mary's had low attendance despite being excellent. He expressed interest in organising more silent discos but mentioned needing support from councillors to make them regular events. Cllr Lillycrop also attended the Thatcham 10K and Dying Matters event at the cemetery, which was organised by Thatcham Town Council's Cemetery Officer and focused on educating the community about funeral practices.

**Full Council
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FULL/2026/042 LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER 2026/27

a) Appointment of Leader of Thatcham Town Council 2026/27

Councillor Cole proposed Councillor Adamantos as Leader of Thatcham Town Council for the municipal year 2026/27. This was seconded by Councillor McCann.

RESOLVED unanimously, that Councillor Suzanne Adamantos can be appointed Leader of Thatcham Town Council for the municipal year 2026/27.

(b) Appointment of Deputy Leader of Thatcham Town Council 2026/27

Councillor Steevenson proposed Councillor Cole as Deputy Leader of Thatcham Town Council for the municipal year 2026/27. This was seconded by Councillor J Pemberton.

RESOLVED unanimously, that Councillor Mike Cole be appointed Deputy Leader of Thatcham Town Council for the municipal year 2026/27.

(c) Appointment of Deputy Mayor

Councillor Lillycrop proposed Cllr P Pemberton as Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2026/27. This was seconded by Councillor Jeffery.

RESOLVED unanimously, that Councillor Petra Pemberton be appointed Deputy Mayor of Thatcham Town Council for the municipal year 2026/27.

FULL/2026/043 STANDING COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES*

*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 with the Chair & Vice Chair being amended for the Events Working Party, reflecting the changes to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Jeff Brooks joined the meeting at 19:30

FULL/2026/044 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED to appoint Council representatives to outside bodies for the municipal year 2026/27, as set out in appendix II to these Minutes.

FULL/2026/045 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED to approve a calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2026/27, as set out in appendix III to these Minutes.

FULL/2026/046 COUNCIL SURGERY ROTA

RESOLVED to agree a rota of Council Surgeries for the municipal year 2026/27, as set out in appendix IV to these Minutes.

FULL/2026/047 STANDING ORDERS

Councillor Pike explained that following a review of the Standing Orders against the latest NALC model, a section on the 'Procurement Act 2023' would be better suited to be added to the Financial Regulations, which are currently under review.

RESOLVED to adopt Standing Orders for the municipal year 2026/27, as presented in appendix V to these minutes, and incorporate the Procurement Act into the Financial Regulations.

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FULL/2026/048 NE THATCHAM MASTERPLAN RESPONSE

Councillor Pike presented a recommendation from the Planning & Highways Committee for the presented comments on the Masterplan for NE Thatcham development be submitted to West Berkshire Council.

RESOLVED to submit Councillor Pike's comments to the company running the online engagement and also to West Berkshire Council's Planning Policy Department. Councillor Cole thanked Councillor Pike for his hard work. It was noted that the comments should be made available for members of public to view.

FULL/2026/049 APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

The following Committee Minutes were presented for adoption:

- RESOLVED** a) Planning and Highways Committee Minutes dated 7th April 2026 and 5th May 2026.
to adopt the minutes.
- RESOLVED** b) Town Centre Regeneration Committee dated 13th April 2026
to adopt the minutes.
- RESOLVED** c) Finance and General Purposes Committee Minutes dated 27th April 2026.
to adopt the minutes.

FULL/2026/050 REPORTS

- (a) Reports from Thatcham Town Councillors and West Berkshire District Councillors on Council Surgeries**
Council noted reports from:
- I. Councillors Petra Pemberton and Stephanie Steevenson who were present at Council Surgery in The Broadway on Saturday 4th April 2026, and
 - II. Councillors Val Watts and Justin Pemberton who were present at Council Surgery in The Broadway on Saturday 2nd May 2026.
- (b) Reports from West Berkshire District Councillors**
Council noted reports from West Berkshire District Councillors Owen Jeffery and Jeff Brooks.
- (c) Outside Body Reports**
Reports from a number of appointees to outside bodies were noted.

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed. The meeting ended at 20:07.

Signed: _____ Date: _____