

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the
Events Committee
held on Monday 2nd February 2026 at 19:00hrs
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thattham

Present: Councillor Petra Pemberton (Mayor)
 Councillors Suzanne Adamantos, John Boyd, Mark Lillycrop, Dave Lunn,
 Jay Lunn

In attendance: Sarah Newman (Events Manager), Karen Beal (Events Officer)

EV/2026/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Cole, Ben Schiffer-Harte and Stephanie Steevenson

EV/2026/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Dave Lunn and Jay Lunn declared non-pecuniary interests in town centre activities as owners of Picture It Framed.

EV/2026/03 MINUTES PREVIOUS EVENTS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2025, having been previously circulated, be taken as read, confirmed, and signed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

EV/2026/04 HERITAGE WORKING PARTY

RESOLVED

- i) To adopt the Minutes of the Heritage Working Party meeting held on 20th January 2026.
- ii) Committee supported the recommendation of the installation of a community memorial bench along the canal in memory of Peter Allen.

EV/2026/05 BUDGET REVIEW 2025/26

Committee reviewed the Budgets for the financial year 2025/26 to date and Budget for the financial year 2026/27.

EV/2026/06 TOWN CENTRE EVENTS MEETING

RESOLVED

Committee supported the proposal for an early evening meeting with town centre businesses to promote 2026 events. Councillor Lillycrop enquired if this meeting would include the Community Engagement Officer. Councillor Pemberton offered to assist with business engagement.

EV/2026/07 FREEDOM OF THE TOWN 2026

RESOLVED

The Events Manager confirmed the plans for the Freedom of the Town as agreed at the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 26th January 2026. Committee agreed with the proposal that light refreshments would be provided at the Council Offices/Jubilee Gardens for invited guests and parade participants. This will include the formal signing and presentation of the Scroll to 67 MI Company.

EV/2026/08 FAMILY FUN DAY 2026

Committee reviewed the overview of plans provided by the events manager.

- i) It was agreed by the Committee that Super Pirates could be booked to replace the more expensive walkabouts we normally have.
- ii) Events Manager proposed an idea of having festival style lettering (#FUN DAY) and inviting local groups / schools to each decorate a letter. Councillor John Boyd suggested the top of the hill as a position.

**Events Committee
2nd February 2026**

EV/2026/08 FAMILY FUN DAY 2026 (cont)

- iii) The Committee discussed the Newbury Pride parade within Family Fun Day. It was felt that the parade did not attract as many people as the previous year. Councillor Adamantos to reach out to Newbury Pride and arrange a meeting to discuss ideas.
- iv) Events Manager presented correspondence received from plastic free Thatcham. Following the success of the water refills in 2025, it has been requested that there are further water refill points, the water tap is changed to a push tap and a water flag is purchased. The events manager to explore these suggestions further.

EV/2026/09 KIDSFEST 2026

- i) The Events Manager confirmed the 2026 theme will be 'Under-the-Sea'
- ii) Committee requested that that more activities are provided for the 9-14 age group, including the bouncy castle area catering for older children as well as the under 5's. Councillor Jay Lunn suggested a climbing wall would be a good addition but unfortunately is not within budget. Councillor Dave Lunn suggested a 'Gaming Van' the events team to investigate and obtain quotes.

EV/2026/10 THATCHAM FESTIVAL

- i) Committee noted a report on Thatcham Festival 2025.
- ii) After the success of 2025 events the committee would like to see more 'give it a go' activity/craft events added to the programme. This will be explored by the Events Team who will report back at a future Events Working Party.

EV/2026/11 CHRISTMAS

- i) Committee noted a report on Warming up for Christmas 2025.
- ii) Committee asked the Events Team to check the dates of neighbouring Christmas events for 2026 to avoid clashes.
- iii) The Events Manager provided an overview of the day and proposed entertainment. The Committee discussed the timing of the lights being switched on to be earlier than 6pm, to be discussed further.
- iv) Councillor John Boyd suggested that school choirs perform after the lights are switched on to encourage the public to stay longer. He also proposed a mass choir of multiple schools performing a single carol following the switch-on.

EV/2026/12 DATE FOR EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING

Events Working party proposed date is Monday 9th March at 7pm.

Events Committee Meeting proposed date is Monday 1st June at 7pm.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19:47hrs

Signed: _____ Date: _____