

**THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a meeting of the**  
**Town Centre Committee**  
**held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 19:00hrs**  
**in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham**

Present: Councillor Owen Jeffery (Chairman)  
 Councillors, Jay Lunn, Val Watts, Simon Pike, Stephanie Steevenson,  
 Iain Cottingham and Ben Schiffer-Harte

In attendance: James Pye (Place Manager)  
 Mayor Petra Pemberton  
 Councillor Justin Pemberton  
 Two members of the public

**TC/2025/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was not received from Councillors Tom McCann and Jeremy Cottam.

**TC/2025/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were declarations of interest from Councillor Jay Lunn, who owns a business within Thatcham Town Centre and Councillor Iain Cottingham who is chairman of the Thatcham Cricket Club. Councillor Justin Pemberton, who is not a committee member, however, is executive member of the Town Centre Regeneration at West Berkshire Council.

**TC/2025/03 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

to take as read and confirm as accurate the Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024.

The Chairman then asked if the two members of public present would like to speak as they were in attendance. Points raised were in relation to the pedestrianisation of the Broadway and how it would 'kill the town'. Overhanging vegetation in and around Thatcham and how this can be reported to West Berkshire Council via their 'report a problem' page.

Chairman Jeffery then asked the two members of the public if they could leave the meeting chamber as the Committee are due to discuss the Feasibility Study in more depth with confidentiality required at this stage of the study.

**TC/2025/04 FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THATCHAM COMMUNITY HUB**

Committee discussed the recent Feasibility Study Consultancy Report and its findings, with some Councillors expressing concern they had not seen the recently produced report and that the report was inadequate. Councillor Justin Pemberton reiterated that he had a copy of the final report and that he would send onto the Place Manager. Committee then agreed to a further meeting, with West Berkshire Council Officers present, would be beneficial for all stakeholders, ideally within the next 4-6 weeks. Cllr Pemberton to inform Place Manager when it is suitable for all WBC officers to meet. Place Manager to then arrange accordingly with Committee members.

**TC/2025/05 HIGH STREET/THE BROADWAY/KINGSLAND CENTRE**

Committee discussed potential ways to enhance the Town Centre. Pedestrianisation of the High Street, Broadway were discussed, some Councillors for this and some against. Councillor Justin Pemberton then informed Committee, evidence suggests that pedestrianisation increases footfall in Town Centre, which in turn, enhances the Town Centre and its businesses. Cllr Cottingham and Cllr Lunn expressed differing views on the effect it would have on businesses. Committee agreed to discuss this further at the next scheduled Committee meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:25hrs.

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

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