

Annual Town Meeting
Thursday 8th May 2025 at 18:30hrs
in the Council Chamber, Thattham Town Council Offices,
Brownsfield Road, Thattham, RG18 3HF

Present: Councillor Suzanne Adamantos (Mayor)
Thattham Town Councillors: Mike Cole, Owen Jeffery, Mark Lillycrop, Justin Pemberton, Petra Pemberton, Simon Pike, Ben Schiffer-Harte, Stephanie Steevenson, Mark Thomas and Val Watts
Sergeant Jo Willoughby (Thattham Neighbourhood Policing Team)
12 members of public

In attendance: Mel Taylor (Town Clerk) & Laura Carlin (Deputy Town Clerk)

Councillor Suzanne Adamantos welcomed everyone to the meeting, explained the purpose of the meeting and how it would be conducted.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Thattham Town Councillors Dave Lunn and Jay Lunn, and Town & District Councillors Jeremy Cottam & Iain Cottingham.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 25th April 2024 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. PRESENTATION OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Mayor presented the following community awards:

Environmental Champion Award - Charmaine's Hair and Beauty

"Charmaine's is a small local business trying to make a difference with salon recycling, a member of Green Salon Collective. Zero to landfill salon. Just joined in plastic free communities to reduce single use plastics.

Charmaine's Hair and Beauty has made at least 50 people aware of salon recycling and what happens with used hair."

Community Contributor Award - Helen Randall

"Helen has worked tirelessly over the last 10 years to build up the work Pals does to support children and families in the local area. She has built strong relationships with local businesses, schools and other charities to ensure that Pals is able to successfully fundraise to maintain and increase the opportunities it can provide. Throughout Covid she managed to maintain activities for all our members by running sessions on zoom. This included activities such as chair yoga, quizzes, magic shows and even a session with a man and his guinea pigs! She is always positive and inspirational to the children and young adults she works with. Her "can do" attitude and good humour has meant even when things don't go to plan she remains positive and finds a solution. The feedback received from families shows the huge difference she makes to their lives and yet she is always humble and so modest. Her commitment to Pals and local families deserves to be recognised. She is also District Commissioner for the Girl Guides and gives up a huge amount of time to support this organisation as well."

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Community Contributor Award - The Therapy Gardening Group

“This fabulous group of volunteers work in our hospitals main therapy garden, our Rainbow Garden, the balcony planters, the mini orchards, the tiny forest, and they are about to commence our new Butterfly Garden and Newbury Cancer Care's planters, based at the Rosemary Centre for cancer & life limiting illness services. The group come in, in all weathers, they water in the evenings and weekends when it's hot, to make sure the gardens are beautiful for our patients, families and staff. They grow organic fruit and vegetables for the patients meals and are continually finding ways to improve the garden. They grow from seeds collected, take cuttings, make their own compost, and even grow from home to bring plants in, as well as holding plant sales to raise funds. I'm continually humbled by their dedication and kindness and we are so lucky to have such an amazing team.”

The following Community Awards were presented within the Community:

Volunteer Champion - Mo Rice

Lifetime Achievement - Sue Dobinson

Inspiring Young Person Award - Georgia Tully

The following Mayor's Awards were presented at the Mayor's Civic Reception:

- Sonia Brown
- Andy Pocock
- Pat Runacres
- Ellen Hicks (presented 2024)
- Lin and Peter Congerton (presented 2024)

4. PRESENTATION FROM THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Sgt Jo Willoughby provided the following report and answered questions from the public:

The Team

There have been a few changes to the set up of the team, which currently consists of Inspector Alan Hawke, Sgt Jo Willoughby, 3 PCs (Peter Duffy, Sally Meineke, Shannon Mackley) and 3 PCSOs (Jon Coffman, Sherrie Cranstone & Beth Needham). Sgt Willoughby explained that PC Peter Duffy is also an Anti-Social Behaviour specialist.

Strategic Plan

The strategic plan for 2025-26 sets out the Force's priorities for the year ahead. This is a public document available to everyone. The 4 pillars of that strategic plan are; serving victims, fighting crime, building trust and valuing our people.

Engagement

TVP regularly attend engagement events in the community, these can include coffee mornings, school visits, 'have your say' events/door knocks and other community events. A list of engagement events can be viewed on the Thames Valley Police website via the 'Your Area' page. TVP can be invited to engagement events by contacting the team through the website.

The public are encouraged to sign up to 'TV Alerts' to receive regular updates on our area, this service also sends out a survey every 3 months to gauge priorities for the community. A recent success by the team was shared, they reached out to the community using TV alerts to identify a group of youths on moped/off road bikes causing issues. They had an excellent response from the public and were able to identify and visit those individuals who were causing issues.

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Crime Report

Priorities in the area – Antisocial behaviour remains a demand for the team and is regarded as a priority when consulting with the community. They monitor antisocial behaviour as a team, ensuring they are aware of hotspots, repeat issues and areas of high demand. These identified locations are added to the team's patrol plan. Early intervention, targeted patrols and problem solving is key to reducing ASB and preventing people being repeat victims.

A Public Spaces Protection Order is in place in Thatcham Broadway to disperse and remove those acting in an antisocial manner, as regular spikes in antisocial behaviour occur in this location.

Good work over the last year with perpetrators of ASB includes:

1. Visiting parents to explain the severity of the issue and concerns, utilising ASB legislation
2. Referring young people for intervention through the Youth Justice Support Team
3. Dealing with any offences
4. Problem solving, looking at ways to prevent further incidents
5. Use of Public Spaces Protection Order powers

A number of e-scooter/e-bike operations have run over the past year and are looking to be repeated over the coming months. 8 E-scooters have been seized in recent months, some from repeated perpetrators. Warning letters have been issued, parent visits have been conducted and owners/riders of e-scooter/e-bikes are at risk of having them crushed.

Several closure orders have been completed in Thatcham over the past year; these have been targeting antisocial behaviour at properties often including drug dealing and drug use at these locations. These closure orders have successfully protected the community, giving residents much needed respite from the issues.

A number of questions, seeking clarification on the above report, were asked by the public.

5. THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

The Mayor presented Thatcham Town Council's Annual Report 2024/25 and invited questions. There were no questions.

6. OPEN FORUM

The Mayor invited questions from those present in an open forum.
No questions were received.

7. CLOSING REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.

There being no further business the Mayor declared the Annual Town Meeting 2024/25 closed.

Signed: _____

Date: _____