

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the
Planning and Highways Committee
held on Tuesday 21st February, 2023 at 7pm
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

Present: Councillor Simon Pike (Chairman)
 Councillors John Boyd, Richard Crumly, Mark Lillycrop, David Lister and Keith Woodhams

In attendance: Trudy Blackney (Deputy Town Clerk)
 1 member of the press

PH/2023/026 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Lee Dillon.

PH/2023/027 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
 There were no declarations of interest.

PH/2023/028 MINUTES
RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 31st January 2023, having been previously circulated, be taken as read, confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

PH/2023/029 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING
 There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

PH/2023/030 CONSULTATION ON THE WEST BERKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW
2022-2039 PROPOSED SUBMISSION (REGULATION 19)
 Members considered Thatcham Town Council's draft response to the Regulation 19 consultation prepared by the Chairman of the Committee in consultation with Thatcham Town Councillors. The Chairman gave an overview of the process, the responses given, and the documents considered. The Chairman advised there were three fields to be completed and these would go out the following day with the Full Council agenda. The Committee was asked to consider the document as it stood for recommendation to Full Council for adoption at its meeting on the 28th February 2023, subject to the final additional fields.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the draft response to the Regulation 19 consultation be adopted.

Councillor Lister expressed, on behalf of the Council, thanks to the Chairman for the incredible effort and for the amount of work involved in the preparation of the draft response and to other Members for their contribution and the unanimous Council response.

PH/2023/031 INQUIRY APP/W0340/W/22/3292211 - 21/02112/FUL – LAND AT
LAWRENCES LANE, THATCHAM
 The Chairman provided Members with an update on the Inquiry following its adjournment at the end of January due to lack of information on drainage and at the request of the appellant. The Chairman advised the Inquiry would resume 8th -10th March 2023.

PH/2023/032 PLANNING APPLICATIONS
 Members were advised that no relevant planning applications had been received requiring consideration.

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PLANNING MATTERS

a) Appeal Ref: APP/W0340/W/22/3297302 Foxhold Farm, Unnamed Road From Crookham Common Road

Members noted that an appeal against the decision of West Berkshire Council to refuse planning permission for the above application had been dismissed on the following grounds:

- Whether the site is a suitable location for the proposed development having regard to the development strategy for the area and accessibility to services and facilities.
- The effect of the proposed development on the character and appearance of the area; and
- The effect of the proposed development on biodiversity.

b) There were no planning matters arising since the publication of the agenda.

PH/2023/034

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT / HIGHWAYS – ROAD CLOSURE

a) CA17 (Highways Statement) Notice - Land at Waterside Farm

Members noted that West Berkshire Council had received an application to deposit a statement under section 31(6) of the Highways Act 1980, made in relation to the land at Waterside Farm. This would not affect existing public rights of way that were already recorded on the West Berkshire Council Definitive Map and Statement or any unrecorded public rights of way which could be shown to exist already.

b) Closure of Henwick Lane

Members noted that Henwick Lane would be closed 28th February 2023 to 1st March 2023 between its junctions with Bowling Green Road and Gordon Road. An alternative route was via Bowling Green Road, Gordon Road and vice versa. The purpose of the closure was for Thames Water to carry out repairs to a defective reinstatement of the road surface. Residential access would be maintained throughout, and the diversion would be signed on site. Blue light access would be via a diversion route.

c) Highway Improvement Programme - 2023/24 to 2025/26

Members noted West Berkshire Council's Highway Improvement Programme for Thatcham for the next three financial years.

d) Outstanding Highways Matters

Members reviewed outstanding Highways Matters reported to West Berkshire Council and the responses received. It was suggested the report be maintained and added to the Council surgery box to enable Councillors to provide residents with updates at the surgery. Councillor Woodhams advised, as a representative on West Berkshire Council, he would arrange a meeting with a West Berkshire Council Officer to progress communication between the Councils.

e) Loose fitting manhole cover on the A4

Councillor Boyd highlighted a loose-fitting manhole cover on the A4 outside the Doctor's surgery, where every time a vehicle went over it created a loud noise that would irritate residents. Members were notified that this had already been brought to West Berkshire Council's attention.

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DECISION NOTICES

Members noted planning decisions published since the last meeting of this Committee.

PH/2023/036

REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTEES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Thatcham Surface Water Management Plan Funding Committee & Thatcham Flood Forum

Councillor Lillycrop summarised that the North Thatcham flood alleviation scheme clearance work was underway in preparation for work to start shortly. For the east Thatcham scheme, no clearance work had started yet. Schemes were moving ahead and the Memorial Field scheme was expected to go to consultation before going to planning.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.23pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____