

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the
Planning and Highways Committee
held on Tuesday 25th July 2023 at 7pm
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

Present: Councillor Val Watts (Vice Chairman)
 Councillors Jeff Brooks, Tom McCann, Justin Pemberton and Stephanie Steevenson (substituting for Councillor Jay Lunn)

In attendance: Trudy Blackney (Deputy Town Clerk)
 10 Members of the public

PH/2023/113 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Simon Pike and Jay Lunn (Councillor Stephanie Steevenson appointed as substitute).

PH/2023/114 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
 There were no declarations of interest.

PH/2023/115 MINUTES
RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th July 2023, having been previously circulated, be taken as read, confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

PH/2023/116 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING
 Whilst reviewing the West Berkshire Council Winter Service Plan 2023/24 (PH/2023/105), Members had requested feedback on the status/condition of the Thatcham Town Council grit bins. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the condition of the bins was part of routine Officer maintenance checks.

PH/2023/117 WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL ON-STREET ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGE POINT INSTALLATION, MALHAM ROAD & STROLLER CLOSE
 Members were advised that notification had been received from West Berkshire Council of its intention to install 2 Electric Vehicle charging points in Malham Road and Stroller Close, in conjunction with Ubertricity, as its first batch of new on-street charge points. Members were advised that the installations had been requested by residents of these roads who did not have access to off-street parking and the sites were not a destination for non-residents of the road. Members raised concerns as to how the roads had been selected and if there had been any community engagement.

RESOLVED to write to West Berkshire Council and request clarification on how roads were selected, what consultation with residents was carried out and how responses were reported to inform the decision of placement of EV charge points.

Standing Orders were suspended, and members of the public invited to speak.

PH/2023/118 WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL SCHOOL STREETS SCHEME FRANCIS BAILY SCHOOL
 Members considered a letter and newsletter sent by West Berkshire Council to the residents of Skillman Drive, Jedburgh Close and Edwin

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- PH/2023/118 WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL SCHOOL STREETS SCHEME FRANCIS BAILY SCHOOL continued**
 Close regarding the 'School Streets Scheme' at Francis Baily School, scheduled to commence 5th September 2023. Residents had attended the meeting to either support the scheme or raise concerns regarding the lack of consultation with residents about implementation of the scheme. Councillors listened to residents' concerns and acknowledged that there should have been better engagement by West Berkshire Council with the residents before implementing the scheme. Residents were advised they would receive a more detailed letter about the scheme in the coming weeks.
- Standing orders were reinstated.*
- RESOLVED** to write to West Berkshire Council raising the concerns highlighted by the residents and to arrange an informal meeting with residents in the next couple of weeks to discuss the scheme, arrangements, and concerns.
- PH/2023/119 GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY CONSULTATION – CHANGES TO TICKET RETAILING AT GWR STATIONS.**
 Members considered a proposed response to Great Western Railway's consultation on proposals to move ticket office staff into other areas of the station, and on changes to how tickets would be sold at Stations.
- RESOLVED** to endorse the response and submit to Great Western Railway.
- PH/2023/120 WEST BERKSHIRE BUS SURVEY 2023**
 Members were advised that for West Berkshire Council to continue to receive Government funding, it must update its Bus Service Improvement Plan each year and had opened a consultation to residents. The survey aimed to understand the needs of passengers and potential passengers. Members agreed to note the survey and circulate it to all members of the Council who may wish to respond in a personal capacity rather than a response from the Council itself.
- PH/2023/121 NEW LATE EVENING BUS SERVICE TO OPERATE BETWEEN NEWBURY AND THATCHAM**
 Members noted with thanks that a new Friday and Saturday late evening bus service would begin to operate from Friday 8th September 2023. The service would be the E1 service and would follow the same route as Reading Buses Jet Black 1 service between Newbury Wharf Bus Station and Thatcham Broadway, continuing as far as Falmouth Way. The service would be hourly with the first departure from The Wharf at 21:20, the last at 00:20. All would be round journeys (starting from The Wharf and returning there), apart from the last departure. Members noted that Thatcham Town Council had previously highlighted to West Berkshire Council the need for this service.
- PH/2023/122 DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION RESPONSE TO MEETING BUILDING RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT METHOD (BREEAM) EXCELLENT RATINGS IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS.**
 Members considered a Ministerial response from the Department for Education to Laura Farris MP regarding concerns raised by Thatcham Town Council regarding the invidious position the Council found itself in when considering new school buildings that did not meet

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PH/2023/122	DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION RESPONSE TO MEETING BUILDING RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT METHOD (BREEAM) EXCELLENT RATINGS IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS continued BREEAM excellent rating having committed to support efforts to become carbon net zero by 2030.			
RESOLVED	to ask the Chairman of the Planning & Highways Committee to provide a view on the response received to be reported at the next meeting and to highlight the information to the school and governing body informing them that the Chairman's view would be considered at a future meeting.			
PH/2023/123	WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL DRAFT LICENSING POLICY 2023 – 2028 CONSULTATION Members considered West Berkshire Council's consultation on its Draft Licensing Policy. Under the Licensing Act 2003, West Berkshire Council, along with all licensing authorities, must prepare, adopt and publish a Statement of Licensing Policy (SOLP), every five years. West Berkshire Council's policy was due to expire December 2024.			
RESOLVED	to note the Draft Licensing Policy 2023-2028 consultation and should Councillors have any questions then to advise the Officers to put it on the next agenda for the meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee.			
PH/2023/124	SPEED HUMPS STATION ROAD - WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL RESPONSE Members noted a response from West Berkshire Council regarding aggressive speed humps on Station Road previously raised at the Planning & Highways on 4 th July 2023 (PH/2023/106) by numerous residents, which advised that in spite of the perception of the replacement cushions, they were prefabricated off site and complied with current Department for Transport specifications for size, width and height and could not be adjusted. West Berkshire Council had undertaken a number of site inspections following the installation of the cushions to ensure all the cushions had been installed correctly. There were currently no plans to make any changes to the existing speed cushions.			
PH/2023/125	PLANNING APPLICATIONS Members considered the following planning applications:			
Plan No.	Ward	Application No.	Location:	Proposal:
1	Colthrop & Crookham	23/01407/HOUSE	6 Sargood Close	Proposed rear dormer loft conversion with raised ridge line. RESOLVED: NO OBJECTIONS

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PH/2023/125 PLANNING APPLICATIONS continued

Plan No.	Ward	Application No.	Location:	Proposal:
2	Thatcham West	23/01632/HOUSE	218 Benham Hill	Change of roof pitch of existing rear addition from flat to lean-to; addition of rooflights; replacement of rear bi-fold doors; replacement of 1st floor windows facing rear garden with amended dimensions. Change of existing outbuilding roof geometry, cladding and windows. RESOLVED: NO OBJECTIONS
3.	Thatcham Central	23/01653/FUL	54-55 The Broadway	New shopfront on existing retail unit RESOLVED: NO OBJECTIONS
4.	Thatcham Central	23/01654/ADV	54-55 The Broadway	Application for Consent to Display an advertisement(s); 2 no Fascia signs S2, 1no Projecting Sign S12no other Vinyl S5 reversed applied Vinyl graphics to shop front as indicated. Graphics to be reverse applied to inside face of glazing. Colours: BLUE Pantone 3125C, RED Pantone 485c, WHITE Standard white print. 4no other Posters 5No Rigid PVC fade resistant, waterproof posters Colours: BLUE Pantone 3125C, RED Pantone 485c, WHITE Standard whiteprint. S4 GLAZING MANIFESTATIONS: 50mm Ø vinyl frosted dots positioned with 100mm between each dot. First row 900mm above pavement to centre of dot. Second row 1500mm above pavement to centre of dot. Reverse applied to internal face of glazing. Reference: Metamark M&-DE dusted

etch vinyl. All to be in accordance with guidance given under clause 4.8.2

**RESOLVED: NO
OBJECTIONS**

- PH/2023/126 PLANNING MATTERS**
There were no planning matters arising since the publication of the agenda.
- PH/2023/127 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT / HIGHWAYS / ROAD SAFETY MATTERS**
- a. Outstanding Highways Matters**
Members noted the report 'Outstanding Highways Matters with West Berkshire Council'. It was requested that this report be sent out monthly to all Councillors to keep them informed, in addition to being reported at the Planning & Highways Committee.
 - b. Other highways matters**
There were no highways matters arising since publication of the agenda.
- PH/2023/128 DECISION NOTICES**
Members noted planning decisions published since the last meeting of this Committee.
- PH/2023/129 REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTEES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**
- Thatcham Surface Water Management Plan Funding Committee & Thatcham Flood Forum**
The Deputy Town clerk updated members that the North and East Thatcham Flood Alleviation Schemes were progressing well and were due to be completed end of November 2023.
- Members were advised that the Memorial Playing Field Flood Alleviation Scheme would be discussed at Full Council on 31st July 2023.
- PH/2023/130 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**
RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they were instructed to withdraw.
- PH/2023/131 PARKING ENFORCEMENT CHURCH GATE**
Members noted a response from West Berkshire Council regarding parking enforcement on Church Gate, raised at the meeting on 4th July 2023 (PH/2023/107).

There being no further business the Vice Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.42pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____