

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the
Recreation and Amenities Committee
held on Monday 11th December 2023 at 19:00hrs
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

Present: Councillor Tom McCann (Chairman)
 Councillors Suzanne Adamantos, Owen Jeffery, Simon Pike,
 Ben Schiffer-Harte and Val Watts (substituting for Mike Cole)

In attendance: Mel Taylor (Town Clerk)

RA/2023/52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Cole (Val Watts appointed as substitute) and Jeremy Cottam.

RA/2023/53 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
 There were no declarations of interest.

RA/2023/54 MINUTES
RESOLVED to take as read and confirm as accurate, the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st August 2023, noting that the meeting scheduled for 23rd October 2023 had been cancelled due to there being no business to conduct.

RA/2023/55 INCOME / EXPENDITURE COSTS
a) Committee reviewed and noted income and expenditure for this Committee's budgets for the financial year to date.
b) A report on vandalism costs across all cost centres was noted.

RA/2023/56 PLAY AREA REPAIRS
 In accordance with Financial Regulations, that require Committee approval for expenditure over £1,500, Committee considered the following expenditures for play area repairs:
i. Lamb Close Play Area
 Replacement bearings on multi-play unit at £2,746.40
ii. Dunston Park Play Area
 Mulch top up (safety surfacing) at £1,635
 Both repairs had been identified as 'medium-high risk' in the annual play area safety inspection.

RESOLVED to approve the expenditure for both repairs, funded from the reactive maintenance budget.

RA/2023/57 ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING PARTY
RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of the Environmental Working Party meetings held on 11th September 2023 and 13th November 2023.

RESOLVED to support presentation of a draft Town Council Plastic Free Charter to Full Council for adoption.

It was noted that Newbury & Thatcham Repair Café were appealing for Thatcham representation on their advisory group, and it was agreed to circulate details of the opportunity to all Members of Council.

Recreation and Amenities Committee
11th December 2023

- RA/2023/58** **YOUTH WORKING PARTY**
RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of the Youth Working Party meeting held on 1st November 2023.
- RA/2023/59** **BURDWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE EXTERNAL DRAIN AND PAVING**
 Committee considered a report from the Facilities Manager regarding an issue with water pooling from a suspected collapsed drain beneath the paved area in front of Burdwood Community Centre.
RESOLVED to approve expenditure of up to £5,000 to address the issue detailed in the Facilities Manager's report, with authority delegated to Councillors Cole and McCann, as Chairmen of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Recreation and Amenities Committee respectively, to approve any additional expenditure in excess of £5,000.
- RA/2023/60** **ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD**
 Committee received a preliminary visual examination report from Bennington Green relating to the boundary wall of St Mary's Churchyard and considered a quotation from Bennington Green to manage the project.
 It was agreed to identify whether the wall formed part of the churches Listing status.
RESOLVED that as the preliminary visual examination did not identify an immediate risk, to defer this matter to the following financial year, 2024/25.
- RA/2023/61** **DUNSTAN GREEN CAR PARK – PARK AND STRIDE SCHEME**
 Following initial consideration in December 2021, Committee further considered a request from West Berkshire Council that the car park at Dunstan Green open space be utilised as part of the park and stride scheme for Francis Baily Primary School.
 The spaces would be available for 10 - 12 vehicles being authorised to park term time only, 08:30hrs to 09:15hrs and 14:45hrs to 15:30hrs.
RESOLVED to agree to the use of Dunstan Green car park for a park and stride scheme for Francis Baily Primary School, subject to confirmation that the school had been consulted and were content to administer the scheme, and to review in one year.
- RA/2023/62** **APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS**
RESOLVED to approve BACS payments due from the Imprest account (appendix I).

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19:56hrs.

Signed: _____

Date: _____