

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the
Finance and General Purposes Committee
held on Monday 27th October 2025 at 19:00hrs
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

Present: Councillor Suzanne Adamantos (Vice Chairman)
 Councillors Jeff Brooks (substituting for Mike Cole), Jeremy Cottam, Iain Cottingham, Mark Lillycrop and Jay Lunn.

In attendance: Laura Carlin (Town Clerk)

FGP/2025/48 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillors Mike Cole and Owen Jeffery.

FGP/2025/49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Tom McCann declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item number 8c as Chair of Thatcham Memorial Foundation

**FGP/2025/50
RESOLVED MINUTES**

that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2025, having been previously circulated, be taken as read, confirmed, and signed as an accurate record.

Councillor Cottingham provided an update on the grant awarded to Thatcham Town Cricket Club and the upcoming official opening of the upgraded indoor practice nets.

FGP/2025/51 BUDGET REVIEW 2025/26

a) Committee reviewed an income and expenditure report for all Council budgets for Q2; 1st July 2025 to 30th September 2025

b) Committee noted a report on Reserves and CIL funds held.

Councillor McCann joined the meeting

c) Committee noted a report on external grants and sponsorship received.

d) Committee noted a report on vandalism costs.

Councillor Brooks joined the meeting

e) Committee agreed no movements were required to be made to Reserves

FGP/2025/52 PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT FRIDGE FREEZER FOR THE COUNCIL OFFICES

Committee received a report from the Place Manager to replace the fridge freezer in the council offices as it no longer maintains the required temperature.

RESOLVED to approve a budget of up to £850 to purchase a new fridge freezer. Option 2 was the preferred option, with no additional care plan to be purchased. To be funded from Rolling Capital.

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- FGP/2025/53 PROPOSED SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING PROVISION**
 Committee considered a proposal from the Community Engagement Manager to provide suicide prevention training for 10 volunteers who would be present at Thatcham Town train station.
- RESOLVED** to approve funds of up to £250 for volunteer suicide prevention training.
- FGP/2025/54 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKING PARTY**
 Councillor Lillycrop, Chairman of the Community Engagement Working Party, presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th October 2025 for adoption with a recommendation to all Councillors to review the minutes of such an informative meeting.
- RESOLVED** to adopt the Minutes of the Community Engagement Working Party meeting held on 7th October 2025.
- FGP/2025/55 FINANCIALS**
- a)** Committee noted BACS payments made from the current account in the previous quarter, which had been audited by Councillors in advance of the meeting (appendix I).
- b)** Committee noted details of preauthorised payments made from the current account and Clerk's account during the period 1st July 2025 to 30th September 2025 (appendix II).
- RESOLVED** **c)** Committee noted a bank reconciliation report.
 that Councillor Cottingham will review the bank reconciliation report against the bank statements held at the Council Offices.
- d)** Committee noted an Aged Creditor report.
- e)** Committee noted an Aged Debtor report.
- FGP/2025/56 GRANT APPLICATIONS**
- a)** Committee considered the following Community Project Fund grant applications:
- i.** From 1st Thatcham Scout Group, for £249.80, for the project 'Wood Burning Kettle Stoves'
RESOLVED to award a grant of £249.80.
- ii.** From Thatcham Town FC, for £500, for the projects 'Football Equipment for Youth Team'
RESOLVED that this grant application is above the limit of £250 for a Community Project Fund grant and an application must be submitted via The Good Exchange for a Community Grant.
- iii.** From Kennet School, for £250, for the project 'Food Department's Garnish Garden'
RESOLVED to award a grant of £250.
- b)** Committee considered the following Community Grant applications on The Good Exchange:

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FGP/2025/56 GRANT APPLICATIONS Continued

RESOLVED i. Application reference 20895 – Volunteer Centre West Berkshire. Requesting £500 towards the total remaining funding required of £44,069, for the project: 'Community Transport Services 2025-2026' to award a grant of £500 (matched funded to £1,000).

RESOLVED ii. Application reference 20749 – Home-Start West Berkshire. Requesting funding to provide essential resources (clothing, nappies, equipment). Remaining funding required £12,984. to award a grant of £800 (matched funded to £1,600).

RESOLVED iii. Application reference 21007 – Newbury Weekly News, collecting for the Over 80's Christmas Parcel Fund. Remaining funding required £21,484. to award a grant of £800 (matched funded to £1,600).

RESOLVED Committee noted that full allocation of the £10,000 budget for Community Grants has now been completed for the 2025/26 financial year. that the scheduled Grants Sub Committee Meetings in February and March 2026 will be cancelled.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:04hrs

Signed: _____ Date: _____