

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of
Thatcham Town Council
held on Monday 29th September at 19:00hrs
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

Present: Councillor Petra Pemberton (Mayor)
 John Boyd, Mike Cole, Jeremy Cottam, Mark Lillycrop, Simon Pike, Ben Schiffer-Harte, Stephanie Steevenson, and Val Watts

In attendance: Laura Carlin (Acting Town Clerk)

FULL/2025/060 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Suzanne Adamantos, Jeff Brooks, Iain Cottingham, Mark Thomas, Owen Jeffery, Dave Lunn, Jay Lunn and Justin Pemberton.

FULL/2025/061 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

FULL/2025/062 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No public questions had been received.

FULL/2025/063 MINUTES

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2025, having been previously circulated, be signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

FULL/2025/064 REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

a) Mayor's Report

The Mayor, Councillor Petra Pemberton, provided a detailed account of their public engagements since May, including attending numerous community events, charity functions, and school activities. They highlighted their involvement with fostering initiatives, local businesses, and various charitable organisations. The Mayor mentioned the opening of new facilities and events such as the digital notice board and the United Service of Remembrance, a blue plaque filming, a barbecue with the Thatcham Photographic Society, a VJ Day service, Kids' Fest, and a community race day. The mayor highlighted significant events such as the opening of a new board game store for neurodiverse children, a repair cafe, and a Bollywood party.

b) Deputy Mayor's Report

Councillor Lillycrop reported that from June 2025 to date, he had attended a variety of events including: SERFCA (Army Reserves and Cadets briefing at Sandhurst), Trinity School summer concert, Thatcham Family Fun Day, University College (UCN) EXPO, Kennet School summer concert, KATS performances, Kids Fest, a Macmillan coffee morning and the opening of the new tennis and netball courts at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground.

FULL/2025/065 APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

The following Committee Minutes were presented for adoption:

- a)** Finance and General Purposes Committee Minutes dated 21st July 2025.
- c)** Planning and Highways Committee Minutes dated 1st July 2025, 29th July 2025 and 26th August 2025
- d)** Town Centre Committee Minutes dated 14th July 2025.

**Full Council
29th September 2025**

FULL/2025/065 APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES, Continued

RESOLVED To defer the adoption of the following minutes, due to the short timeline since the meetings took place, to the next Full Council meeting.

- b) Recreation and Amenities Committee Minutes dated 22nd September 2025.
- c) Planning and Highways Committee Minutes dated 23rd September 2025
- e) Staff Committee Minutes dated 18th July 2025 and 19th September 2025

FULL/2025/066 FLOOD ALLEVIATION WORKS – BROWNS FIELD

The Acting Town Clerk presented a progress report on the transfer of land.

FULL/2025/067 THATCHAM TOWN CRICKET CLUB LEASE

The Acting Town Clerk presented a progress report on the draft Thatcham Town Cricket Club lease.

FULL/2025/068 ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD WALL

The Acting Town Clerk presented a progress report on the planning application status.

FULL/2025/069 REPORTS

a) Reports from Thatcham Town Councillors and West Berkshire District Councillors on Council Surgeries

Council noted reports from:

- i. Councillors John Boyd and Jeremy Cottam who were present at Council Surgery in The Broadway on Saturday 5th July 2025,
- ii. Councillors Iain Cottingham and Dave Lunn who were present at Council Surgery in The Broadway on Saturday 2nd August 2025, and
- iii. Councillors John Boyd and Justin Pemberton who were present at Council Surgery in The Broadway on Saturday 6th September 2025.

b) Reports from West Berkshire District Councillors

The following reports from West Berkshire District Councillors were noted: Councillor Cottam provided an update on the repainting of white lines on local roads.

Councillor Steevenson provided an update on Councillor Brooks meetings with residents in the East of West Berkshire regarding the potential amalgamation of West Berkshire Council becoming part of the Ridgeway Council. Councillor Steevenson also explained that the 3 weekly black bin emptying is primarily to encourage recycling in West Berkshire and that if a family has a genuine need for a larger bin they can apply for one.

Councillor Lillycrop expressed the need for greater communication to residents regarding what can be recycled to make this clearer for residents as it varies greatly across the country.

c) Outside Body Reports

Reports from a number of appointees to outside bodies were noted.

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 20:19hrs.

Signed: _____ Date: _____