

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the
Events Committee
held on Monday 1st June 2026 at 19:00hrs
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

Present: Councillor Mark Lillycrop (Mayor)
 Councillors Dave Lunn, Jay Lunn, Petra Pemberton, Ben Schiffer-Harte,
 Stephanie Steevenson, Val Watts

In attendance: Sarah Newman (Events Manager), Karen Beal (Events Officer)

EV/2026/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Suzanne Adamantos, John Boyd, Mike Cole

EV/2026/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

EV/2026/15 MINUTES PREVIOUS EVENTS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2026 having been previously circulated, be taken as read, confirmed, and signed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

EV/2026/16 HERITAGE WORKING PARTY

RESOLVED

- i) To adopt the Minutes of the Heritage Working Party meeting held on 28th April 2026.
- ii) The Committee approved the wording and graphics for the final Blue Plaque shortlist.
- iii) The Committee approved Section 5 of the Commemorative Plaque Objectives and Criteria.
- iv) The Events Manager provided an update regarding a proposed Conservation Area Appraisal. It was agreed that consideration of this item be deferred until further information is received from the Heritage Working Party, including likely costs, mapping information and any future financial implications.
- v) The Events Manager reported that approximately 30 children and their families attended Children's Heritage Day. The Committee recognised the contribution made by Dr Nick Young and the success of the event.
- vi) An update was received on Twinning. Councillors discussed engaging local schools and exploring exchange and pen-pal opportunities. It was suggested that the Mayor contact Nideggen's Bürgermeister directly to help re-establish relationships.

EV/2026/17 EVENTS WORKING PARTY

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2026 having been previously circulated, be taken as read, confirmed, and signed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

EV/2026/18 BUDGET REVIEW

The Committee reviewed the Events budget for 2026/27 to date. The Events Manager explained the increase in the overtime budget reflected the reduced contracted hours of the two Events Officers and had been agreed that this could be used as overtime budget for any additional hours incurred.

Events Committee**1st June 2026****EV/2026/19 FREEDOM OF THE TOWN 2026**

The Events Manager confirmed final plans for the Freedom of the Town Parade on 4th June 2026. Members noted the dress code of lounge suit/day dress and the parking arrangements

EV/2026/20 FAMILY FUN DAY 2026

- i) The Committee reviewed the overview of final plans provided by the Events Manager, including volunteer recruitment for the day.
- ii) The Committee discussed concerns regarding the use of the outside water tap at Henwick being used as drinking water.
- iii) Members supported the proposal to introduce a dedicated SEND area at the event, in partnership with Swings and Smiles.

RESOLVED

- Allocation of up to £500 to be allocated from the entertainment budget towards the hire of a Changing Places Unit if one can be booked.
- iv) Newbury Pride in Thatcham: The Events Manager reported that planning was progressing well. Due to the absence of the Pride bus this year the Pride area would be smaller.
- v) Members noted arrangements to promote vegetarian and vegan catering options to include signage and being added to the 'On the Day' programme.

EV/2026/21 KIDSFEST 2026

- i) Councillors Jay Lunn and Dave Lunn declared non-pecuniary interest as local business owners and event sponsors.
- ii) The Committee noted that greater emphasis would be placed on charity stalls this year.
- iii) With 3 sponsors secured, Members supported additional entertainment provision.

RESOLVED

An additional £300 be allocated for entertainment from the additional sponsorship money.

Councillor Mike Cole joined the meeting at 19:51pm

EV/2026/22 THATCHAM FESTIVAL

- i) The Events Manager provided an update on plans for the Festival, including activities and workshops already confirmed. The Festival is beginning to take shape, although there are gaps to fill over the coming weeks.
- ii) Members discussed the possibility of introducing a lantern procession. The Events Manager has met with 101 Outdoor Events and is awaiting costs. It was discussed whether this should be a standalone event form part of the Festival programme or be included in Christmas festivities. It was agreed that once costs and more information were received proposals would be brought to the next Events Working Party on 13th July 2026 for consideration.

EV/2026/23 DATE FOR EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING

Events Working party proposed date is Monday 13th July 2026

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:21pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____