

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of
Thatcham Town Council
held on Monday 22nd June 2026 at 19:00hrs
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

Present: Councillor Mark Lillycrop (Mayor)
 Councillors Suzanne Adamantos, John Boyd, Mike Cole, Jeremy Cottam, Iain Cottingham, Owen Jeffery, Tom McCann, Justin Pemberton, Petra Pemberton, Simon Pike, Stephanie Steevenson, Mark Thomas and Val Watts.

In attendance: Laura Carlin (Town Clerk) and Karen Tangney (Finance Manager)

FULL/2026/051 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jeff Brooks, Dave Lunn, Jay Lunn and Ben Schiffer-Harte.

FULL/2026/052 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Iain Cottingham declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda item 11 as Chairman of Thatcham Town Cricket Club.
 Councillor Justin Pemberton declared an interest in Agenda item 12 as Chair of the Youth Working Party and co-creator of the strategy to be adopted.

FULL/2026/053 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No public questions had been received.

FULL/2026/054 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meetings held on the 10th and 11th May 2026 having been previously circulated, be signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

FULL/2026/055 ACCOUNTS 2025/26

(a) Internal Auditor's Report

Council reviewed the Internal Auditor's Report 2025/26, for the year ended 31st March 2026, following an internal audit carried out on 9th June 2026.

RESOLVED to adopt the Internal Auditors Report 2025/26 (appendix I)

Councillor McCann joined the meeting at 7.08pm and declared an interest in agenda item 13iii as Chair of the Memorial Foundation

(b) Town Council Accounts 2025/26

Members reviewed the following financial papers for the year ended 31st March 2026:

1 Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2026:

- Statutory Balance Sheet
- Fixed Asset Register including addition & disposal schedules
- Income and Expenditure Account
- General and Earmarked Reserves
- Review of Internal Controls

Full Council
22nd June 2026

FULL/2026/055 ACCOUNTS 2025/26 CONTINUED

(b) Town Council Accounts 2025/26

RESOLVED **1 Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2026,**
 that the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2026 be approved and signed by the Mayor and Responsible Financial Officer (appendix II) and that asset values on the Fixed Asset Register be reviewed during 2026/27 in line with the Auditors Report.

2 Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2026:

i. Annual Governance Statement, including a review of internal controls - Section 1 of the Annual Return

RESOLVED Members considered statements 1 – 9 of the Annual Governance Statement, supplemented by the 'review of internal controls' document, and gave a positive response to each question. Question 10 received a negative response due to the lack of current IT Policy, which will be reviewed and adopted during 2026/27.

that the Annual Governance Statement, as set out in the Annual Return, be approved and signed by the Mayor and Town Clerk (Appendix iii)

ii. Accounting Statements - Section 2 of the Annual Return

RESOLVED Members considered the Accounting Statements as set out in Section 2 of the Annual Return.

to approve the Accounting Statements for submission to the External Auditor and that the mayor be authorised to sign the document (appendix iii)

(c) Confirmation of period of publication of public rights

Members confirmed that the period for Exercise of Public Rights shall be 29th June 2026 to 7th August 2026 and that notice shall be published on the Town Council's website and on noticeboards at the Council Offices and in The Broadway.

FULL/2026/056 APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

The following Committee Minutes were presented for adoption:

RESOLVED **a) Events Committee Minutes dated 1st June 2026.**
 to adopt the minutes and requested thanks and congratulations be passed to the Events Team for a successful Freedom of the Town Parade in June 2026.

b) Planning and Highways Committee Minutes dated 2nd June 2026
 This meeting was cancelled. No minutes to review

c) Recreation & Amenities Committee dated 15th June 2026
 Minutes of this meeting will be presented at the next Full Council meeting.

FULL/2026/057 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that agenda items 8 & 12 be heard before the exclusion of press and public.

FULL/2026/058 DEVOLUTION – WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL BINS

Council received an update from the Town Clerk confirming a potential start date of 1st August 2026 for taking over emptying of West Berkshire Council bins in Thatcham.

**Full Council
22nd June 2026**

FULL/2026/059 BROWNSFIELD ROAD WORKING PARTY

Council received a recommendation to create a Working Party to consider the future of the Brownsfield Road site, community and sports provision in Thatcham.

RESOLVED to create the Sports & Recreation Facilities Working Party and approve the associated Terms of Reference. Members of the working party: Councillors Simon Pike, Jeremy Cottam, Mark Thomas, John Boyd, Owen Jeffery, Justin Pemberton and Iain Cottingham. The working party will report to Full Council.

FULL/2026/060 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Council received an introduction to the strategy document from Councillor Justin Pemberton and considered a recommendation from the Recreation & Amenities Committee.

RESOLVED to adopt the Youth Development Strategy with slight amendments to wording as suggested by Councillor Adamantos.

FULL/2026/061 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, in view of the sensitive nature of the business to be transacted, it is in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they be instructed to withdraw.

FULL/2026/062 HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS FIELD CONTRIBUTION

Council discussed contributions to be made to the Joint Management Committee of Henwick Worthy Sports Field for the 2026/27 financial year and

RESOLVED to approve payment of the Q4 2025/26 invoice and that the Town Clerk and Chair of F&GP Committee meet with West Berkshire Council to negotiate Thatcham Town Council's 2026/27 financial contribution and report back to Full Council.

FULL/2026/063 THATCHAM TOWN CRICKET CLUB LEASE

Council considered recommendations from the Thatcham Town Cricket Club Working Party to finalise the Thatcham Town Cricket Club lease.

RESOLVED to approve the recommendations of the Working Party and that the Town Clerk review the history of the deposit held by Thatcham Town Council and the water rates allocation and report back to Full Council.

FULL/2026/064 The Chair requested a vote to continue the meeting beyond 2 hours to hear the remaining item of business.

RESOLVED to extend the meeting by majority vote.

FULL/2026/065 LAND TRANSFERS

i. Land at Dunstan Park, Crowfield Drive and Artillery Drive

Council considered recommendations from R&A Committee and a report from the Town Clerk regarding completion of the land transfer from West Berkshire Council and

RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Town Clerk for the purpose of submitting land registry applications and completing relevant identification requirements on behalf of Thatcham Town Council in order to proceed with the completion of the land transfers, with a maximum budget of £200 costs per transfer.

Full Council
22nd June 2026

FULL/2026/065 LAND TRANSFERS CONTINUED

RESOLVED **ii.** Land at Agricola Way
 Council considered recommendations from R&A Committee and a report from the Town Clerk regarding a request to carry out necessary improvements to a cycle crossing by West Berkshire Council and to grant permission for the necessary works to be completed, with future maintenance being provided by West Berkshire Council and that Thatcham Town Council would retain ownership of this land.

RESOLVED **iii.** Land at Brown's Field
 Council considered recommendations from R&A Committee and a report from the Town Clerk regarding completion of the land transfer to West Berkshire Council following completion of the Flood Alleviation Scheme to approve the transfer of ownership of the land to West Berkshire Council and the recommendations of R&A Committee on the points raised on the Heads of Terms.

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed. The meeting ended at 21:16

Signed: _____ Date: _____