

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the
Recreation and Amenities Committee
held on Monday 15th June 2026 at 19:00hrs
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

Present: Councillor Ben Schiffer-Harte (Acting Chairman)
 Councillors Mike Cole, Jeremy Cottam, Owen Jeffery, Petra Pemberton,
 Simon Pike and Val Watts (as substitute for Cllr D Lunn).

In attendance: Laura Carlin (Town Clerk)

RA/2026/12 ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, a vote was taken to elect an Acting Chairman for the duration of the meeting and unanimously to elect Councillor Ben Schiffer-Harte

RESOLVED

RA/2026/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillors Suzanne Adamantos, John Boyd and Dave Lunn.

RA/2026/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mike Cole declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 5ii as a member of Equinox Learning Trust for Kennet School.

RA/2026/15 MINUTES

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2026, having been previously circulated, be taken as read, confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

RA/2026/16 INCOME / EXPENDITURE COSTS.

Councillors reviewed and noted income and expenditure for this Committee's budgets for the financial year to date.

RA/2026/17 ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING PARTY

Committee were presented with the minutes from the Environmental Working Party meeting held on the 3rd June 2026.

RESOLVED

to adopt the Minutes.

Committee also considered the following recommendations from the Environmental Working Party:

RESOLVED

i. to request to proceed with Council Officers utilising the free Local Partnerships / Local Government Association's Carbon Footprint calculator tool to assess the Council's carbon footprint for 2025.

to instruct officers to go ahead with collating data for the Council's 2025 Carbon Footprint Report, using the free online tool.

RESOLVED

ii. to request to contact both Kennet and Trinity School to support the showing of the film 'Future Council' to students at their school as a partnership event.

to instruct the working party to proceed with the above request.

RA/2026/18 YOUTH WORKING PARTY

RESOLVED

Committee received the Youth Development Strategy to recommend the Youth Development Strategy to Full Council for adoption. Cllr Cole noted that the funds held in Earmarked Reserves for this purpose will not cover all aspects of the strategy and that financial provision will be made though increases to the precept.

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- RA/2026/19** **THATCHAM FRIDAY MARKET**
 Committee received a report from the Place Manager on the current position of the Friday market.
- RESOLVED** that thanks and congratulations be passed to the Officers responsible for the successful regeneration of the market.
- RA/2026/20** **APPROVED WORKS PROGRESS REPORT**
 Committee received and noted a progress report from the Town Clerk on previously approved works. Cllr Jeffery requested approval be sent to Councillors before final sign off.
- RA/2026/21** **ALLOTMENTS WATER LEAK REPAIR**
 Committee received a report from the Facilities Manager outlining a proposal to identify and repair a water leak and
- RESOLVED** to approve the investigation works required and delegate authority to proceed, once the quote has been received, to the Chairman of R&A and F&GP Committees. Authority to be obtained via email to avoid delays.
- RA/2026/22** **ST MARYS BOUNDARY WALL**
 Committee received a report from the Town Clerk and noted that the tender process has begun.
- RA/2026/23** **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**
RESOLVED that, in view of the commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted during items 12-14, it is in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they be instructed to withdraw.
- RA/2026/24** **LAND & PROPERTY RELINQUISHMENT/REQUISITION**
 Committee considered the following land transfer and property requisition reports:
- RESOLVED** i. Land at Dunstan Park, Crowfield Drive and Artillery Drive to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to submit Land Registry applications and complete Form ID2's on behalf of the Town Council.
- RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to spend funds up to £200 per application if required.
- RESOLVED** ii. Land at Agricola Way to grant permission to West Berkshire Council to carry out the improvement works and take responsibility to maintain the works in the future.
- RESOLVED** iii. Land at Brown's Field to agree to transfer the land to West Berkshire Council and approve the recommendations of the Cricket Club Lease Working Party and
- RESOLVED** to request a covenant be added to the sale of the land to ensure it is only to be used as a dog exercise area open to residents for no commercial gain.
- RESOLVED** iv. Burdwood Community Centre to instruct the Town Clerk to investigate the feasibility of transferring this facility to the Town Council and report back to this committee.

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RA/2026/25 THATCHAM TOWN CRICKET CLUB

Committee considered a report from the Town Clerk and recommendations from the Cricket Club Lease Working Party meeting held on 27th April 2026 and

RESOLVED to agree to the recommendations made by the Working Party for approval at the Full Council Meeting on 22nd June 2026.

RA/2026/26 CHARITY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATION HALL HIRE RATES

Committee considered a report from the Place Manager regarding the hiring rates of the community halls to charities and organisations

RESOLVED for Councillor Jeffery to visit the Community Larder to better understand the provision provided and

RESOLVED for the Recreation & Amenities Committee to review all charity rates to ensure that there is continuity across all assets.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:55

Signed: _____

Date: _____