

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the
Priory Committee
held on Wednesday 28th October 2015 at 7pm
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

Present: Councillor Roger Croft (Chairman)
 Councillors Steve Ardagh-Walter, John Chelliah, Mike Cole, Jason Collis and Ellen Crumly

In attendance: Mel Alexander (Services Manager) and 2 members of public

PRI/2015/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Richard Crumly.

PRI/2015/27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

PRI/2015/28 MINUTES

RESOLVED to take as read and confirm as accurate the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2015.

PRI/2015/29 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Clerk's Report

PRI/2015/21 Recommendation to Full Council

- I. It was confirmed that Quintons had been appointed and The Priory was being marketed for expressions of interest and/or indicative offers, on the basis of 10 hours work and, if successfully sold, this would be taken from the sale commission.
- II. It was confirmed that relocation of the electricity meter would be completed within the contract.

PRI/2015/24 Financial Matters

It was noted that a response was awaited from West Berkshire Council regarding the clawback clause.

(b) Any Other Items

There were no other matters arising.

PRI/2015/30 PROGRESS REPORT

The Services Manager gave a progress report on the refurbishment work. Additional roof repairs had been identified and the Architect had suggested that the lift could be omitted as a cost saving.

RESOLVED to request a report on the extent of additional roof repairs with costs plus details of potential savings by omitting the lift

RESOLVED to request that a cashflow report be presented to each meeting of this Committee with projections to the end of February

RESOLVED that Councillors Chelliah and Collis meet with current lessees of The Hub, Thames Valley Police and Thatcham Parochial Charity, to update them on progress.

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PRI/2015/31 MEETING WITH THATCHAM VISION

On 20th October 2015 Councillors Ardagh-Walter, Collis and Dillon met with representatives of Thatcham Vision; David Conquest (Chairman), Tessa Hall (Project Manager), David Brazier and Stephanie Steevenson. Councillor Ardagh-Walter reported that it had been a useful and constructive meeting. The refreshed parish plan was due to be published soon, of the 65 actions, 21 could be linked to The Priory, including; space for start-up businesses, advice and socialising for senior citizens, volunteering, museum/displays/history and outdoor performances.

RESOLVED to note this information.

PRI/2015/32 CORRESPONDENCE

Members received correspondence from: Mr. P. Dick (Kennet School), Mr. G. Panting (local resident), Mr. M. Payne (local resident), Ms. S. Steevenson (former Chairman of Thatcham Vision), Dr. N. Young (local resident), Ms. L. Harper (Thatcham U3A) and Ms. S. Ellis (Thatcham Historical Society).

RESOLVED that a response be sent to each correspondent from the Chairman.

PRI/2015/33 FINANCIAL MATTERS

At the last meeting Members requested that the Clerk check with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) the legalities of taking out a short-term bridging loan from West Berkshire Council (PRI/2015/24), the response from DCLG was as follows:

“no approval is required for borrowing by temporary loan or overdraft from a bank or otherwise of sums which the council may temporarily require to meet expenses pending the receipt of revenues receivable by it in respect of the period of account in which the expenses are chargeable.”

RESOLVED to note this information and to enquire whether it would be possible to repay the loan outside of the current financial year and what the application process entails

RESOLVED to formally apply to West Berkshire Council for a bridging loan

PRI/2015/34 RECOMMENDATIONS TO FULL COUNCIL

There were no recommendations to Full Council.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.46pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____