

MINUTES OF THEALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Theale Parish Council held in the Peter Gooch Room, Pavilion on Monday 7th March 2022.

Members present: Cllrs P Clifford, S Coker, L Cox, Z Fenwick, K Gash, R Gallop, I Hopcroft, M Paul & J Richardson (chairman)

Others present: Alan Macro (district councillor)

Clerk: P Manley

Administration officer: J Crisp

Meeting started 7:30pm

FUL/155/21/22 To receive apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Clark.

No declarations of interest.

FUL/156/21/22 To adopt the minutes of the meeting on 7th February 2022

Proposed by Cllr Gallop, seconded by Cllr Clifford, with a vote in favour, it was

RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the meeting on 7th February 2022 as an accurate record of the meeting.

Cllrs Cox, Fenwick and Hopcroft abstained due to their absence.

FUL/157/21/22 Public forum

No members of public present.

FUL/158/21/22 Chairman's remarks

The chairman alerted all to spoof emails in her name.

Cllr Fenwick asked whether more dog poo bins could be provided near The Volunteer. The clerk offered to ask West Berkshire Council.

FUL/159/21/22 District councillor's report

Received. Items included: the 4% council tax increase and Theale contributions to the upkeep of Holy Trinity churchyard; refurbishment of the old primary school; traffic safety issues outside Theale Primary School (a road safety audit has now been commissioned); parking on Blossom Lane; planning permission granted for the new "sports hub" at Newbury Rugby Club.

FUL/160/21/22 Clerk's update

Received. Items included: update on Roundhead Road application for adverse possession; progress on the renovation of the John Cumber Hall; updated on the parish magazine; deadline for play area and MUSA tenders extended to 1st April; Theale Club's charity fun day on 25th June; notice of a by-election to fill the vacancy, scheduled for Thursday 28th April.

FUL/161/21/22 Committees & working groups update

None received.

FUL/162/21/22 To respond to planning and licence applications and appeals received since the last meeting

21/03271/FULD [submitted before meeting]	Demolition of existing workshops and erection of 6 no flats, consisting of two blocks -front and back, with parking and associated landscaping	74–76 High Street
<p>Objection on following grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern over effect on local infrastructure. Whilst this development in isolation will have a negligible effect, the aggregate of several such small developments will add to the existing strain on infrastructure including health services and sewage. Paragraph 4.35 of the West Berkshire Core Strategy (2006–2026) DPD states that “[if the Lakeside] development goes ahead, Theale would need to undergo a period of consolidation to provide an opportunity for facilities and services to be upgraded.” • Given the granted permission for the Lakeside development, the council questions the need for more apartments in Theale. • Inadequate parking provision (ie one per apartment). • Lack of green space and opportunities for biodiversity. 		
22/00221/CLASSM [submitted before meeting]	Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Conversion of office into 1 no. studio flat. Including demolition of existing internal walls and erection of new internal walls.	27A High Street Mr George Lovering
No objections		
22/00181/FUL	Change of use from Class E(g) (iii), B2 and B8 to Class E(g) (iii), B2 and B8 with ancillary trade counter use	Access Twelve Station Road RG7 4PN Mr N Beales
No objections		
22/00395/FUL	Construction of a Muga outdoor ball court. Construction of a new car park. Construction of external air source heat pump compound	Former Theale Church of England Primary School Church Street RG7 5BZ West Berkshire Council
No objections		
22/00304/FUL	The proposals on the 10 th hole require netting adjacent to the tee in order to prevent golf balls straying into a nearby third party property. In addition a planting plan has been proposed which in time will reduce the visual impact of the net and in time may even render the netting unnecessary. No change of use.	Theale Golf Centre North Street Theale RG7 5EX Theale Golf Club
No objections		

Proposed by Cllr Clifford, seconded by Cllr Fenwick, with a vote in favour, it was

RESOLVED to approve the pre-submitted responses as listed above.

FUL/163/21/22 To note West Berkshire Council planning decisions for Theale parish since the last meeting.

21/03189/HOUSE	Single storey rear extension and part garage conversion	34 Cavalier Close RG7 5DJ	Granted
21/02813/COND2	Application for approval of details reserved by Conditions 10 (SUDs Drainage), 12 (External Materials) and 18 (Biodiversity Enhancements) of Appeal Ref: APP/W0340/W/19/3243107 of application 18/03209/FULEXT - Demolition of existing building and construction of 15 no. dwellings, 2no. retail units (use Class A1/A2/A3), associated access, parking and landscaping.	19 High Street TA Fisher Developments Ltd	Granted

FUL/164/21/22 To authorise payments as listed on payment schedule 576 dated 7th March 2022

Proposed by Cllr Cox, seconded by Cllr Gash, with a vote in favour, it was

RESOLVED to authorise payments as listed on payment schedule 576 dated 7th March to a total of £6,121.32.

FUL/165/21/22 To agree that with effect from May 2022 the meeting schedule for full council meetings 2022/23 is adjusted to meet bi-monthly, that is six times per year.

Motion submitted by Cllr Cox.

The clerk said he had contacted the internal auditor to check whether it would be acceptable, in months where an ordinary meeting did not take place, for payments to be approved by the clerk and bank signatories. It would be acceptable.

Cllr Clifford suggested that, rather than reduce the number of ordinary meetings, they could be used to discuss strategic matters, covering matters such as the aging fabric of the pavilion, the council's policy over planning responses, and a strategic plan looking five, ten, fifteen, twenty years ahead.

Cllr Hopcroft stated that, were meetings to be bi-monthly, working groups might have to wait longer for their proposed expenditure to be authorised.

The issue of submitting responses to planning applications with a deadline falling before meetings was raised.

Cllr Gallop suggested that, given the recent attempts at engaging with the local community on the High Street, reducing the opportunities for public participation in meetings might convey the wrong impression.

Seconded by Cllr Richardson, the motion was put to a vote. With two in favour and seven against (including Cllr Clifford), the motion was

NOT CARRIED.

FUL/166/21/22 To agree that the Christmas event 2022 take place on 3rd December 2022

Motion submitted by Cllr Cox. Seconded by Cllr Richardson, with a vote in favour, it was

RESOLVED to agree that the Christmas event 2022 take place on 3rd December 2022.

FUL/167/21/22 To disperse the profits (£600) from the 2021 Christmas event as follows: £150 to Trinity Bunnies, £150 to Theale Primary School, £150 to Theale Green School, £150 to Carebus

Motion submitted by Cllr Cox.

Cllr Clifford asked how the charities were chosen. Cllr Cox stated that they were organisations which would benefit all ages in Theale and which did not raise funds at the Christmas event.

Seconded by Cllr Richardson, with a vote in favour, it was

RESOLVED to disperse the profits (£600) from the 2021 Christmas event as proposed.

FUL/168/21/22 To review the recording of meetings policy

Proposed by Cllr Cox, seconded by Cllr Clifford, with a vote in favour, it was

REVIEWED.

FUL/169/21/22 To review the sickness absence policy

It was suggested the policy be amended to clarify to whom the clerk should report their own sickness absence, that is the staffing committee.

Proposed by Cllr Clifford, seconded by Cllr Gallop, with a vote in favour, it was

REVIEWED, subject to the suggestion above.

The meeting ended at 8:23pm.

Signed _____ Dated _____

DRAFT