

# **FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**

The Corn Exchange, FARINGDON, Oxfordshire, SN7 7JA

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Clerk: Sally Thurston



## **Minutes of a Recreation and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at 7.15 p.m. in the Jubilee Room, the Pump House, Faringdon**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Jane Boulton (Chair)  
David Barron  
Julie Farmer  
Andrew Marsden

**In Attendance:** Sally Thurston, Town Clerk

**1/3/15 Apologies for Absence**  
Mike Wise

**2/3/15 Declarations of Interest**  
None

**3/3/15 Election of a Vice Chair**  
Cllr. Julie Farmer was proposed as Vice Chair. This was seconded and CARRIED

**4/3/15 Minutes of Last Meeting: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015**  
The minutes were signed as a correct record

**5/3/15 Items for Information Only**  
Members were informed that:

- New mowers Had now been purchased and were working well
- Bark stored at FAZE had been moved away from building
- The Clerk was still trying to determine fence ownership at Oakwood Park

**6/3/15 Public Speaking Time**  
None

**7/3/15 Public Question Time**  
None

**8/3/15 Elms Tennis Court**  
Members received a written report from Rebekah Pugh which detailed the increased marketing of the court. This was NOTED.

**9/3/15 Financial Report**  
a) Members received end of year financial report for 2014/15

This was NOTED

b) Members received 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2015.16 financial report

This was NOTED

**10/3/15 Christmas Lights 2015**

a) Members were informed that Faringdon Electrical had agreed to fulfill the Christmas Lights contract for 2015 at the same rate as 2014.

b) It was proposed that Faringdon Electrical be awarded the contract for 2015. This was AGREED.

c) The following members were proposed as members of the Christmas Lights working party:

Cllrs. Jane Boulton, Julie Farmer and Mark Greenwood. This was seconded and CARRIED. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting inviting members from Faringdon Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce.

**11/3/15 Leisure Services Report**

Members received a report from the Leisure Services Team. This was NOTED

**12/3/15 Allotments**

Members received a report from Assistant Town Clerk. Members NOTED that some allotment holders had been openly taking things from other people's plots. It was proposed that the Clerk write a letter to all allotment holders to say this was unacceptable and that any allotment holders caught stealing from another plot would lose their allotment. This was CARRIED.

**13/3/15 Inspection of Play Equipment**

Members received report of annual inspection. This was NOTED.

Members NOTED the fact that bark was not an ideal surface and AGREED this should be addressed when funds allowed.

**14/3/15 Town Council Van**

Members received and considered quotes for the leasing of a van.

A Nissan van suitable for the tasks required would be in the region of £210 per month including maintenance. This could be funded with committee budget if the rental for the lock up garage was no longer required. It was proposed that this quote be accepted in principal and recommended at the next Finance and Audit Committee Meeting.

**15/3/15 Tuckers Play area**

a) Members received plans and costing's for an refurbished play area

Members agreed plans in principal and authorised the clerk to seek funding and approach Tuckers Recreation Ground Trust and the Football club with the plans

b) Members were informed that £40,000 s106 funds had been applied for towards the play park from existing funds held by VoWHDC.

**16/3/15 All Saints Church Yard**

Members NOTED there the Leisure Services Team had reported unstable headstones. The Clerk informed the council that there was no clear agreement between the Church and the Council detailing areas of responsibility and this caused confusion.

The Deputy Town Clerk had carried out research and ascertained some historical fact. It was proposed that the Clerk draw up a paper detailing Town Council responsibilities and submit it to the next meeting.

**17/3/15**

**Willes Close Triangle**

Members were informed that Badnall Properties had been contacted regarding the land and its possible future use as public open space. The Clerk was asked to contact C/Cllr Heathcoat to discuss covenants and restrictions on the land.

*Cllr. Farmer declared an interest as her client owned some adjoining land.*

**18/3/15**

**Folly Park**

Members discussed the need for play equipment in the country park and received a request from Faringdon District Cricket Club. It was agreed that this area need more play equipment and that the council should ask the VoWHDC, as owners of the park, to provide better facilities. The clerk was asked to meet with the cricket club to discuss their needs and report back to the next meeting.

**19/3/15**

**Folly Fest**

Members considered a request to use the Town Park for Children's Activities. This was AGREED.

**20/3/15**

**Bad Weather Equipment**

Cllr. Farmer informed members that another Town in the area had purchased a snow clearing machine for pathways. She requested members to consider this as a future project. It was questioned whether the pathways in the town centre would be wide enough for this type of machine. Members agreed that further investigation was need and to consider this again in the future.

**21/3/15**

**Footpath and Verge Cutting**

Members discussed the clearance of footpaths and verge cutting.

Members NOTED that the Council office had received several complaints that the footpath known as Hobbs Lane was very overgrown. The County Council are responsible for one side and private land owners the other. The private land owners had agreed to cut back their side. County Council had advised that there was no money in the budget for this clearance. C/Cllr Heathcoat had need informed and was trying to assist. It was proposed that Faringdon Town Council cut back the vegetation to make the pathway safe but that County Council should be billed for the work. Members felt that residents deserved to be able to freely use this busy walkway without risk of injury. This was AGREED. It was further proposed that a more thorough cutback be investigated in the autumn. This was AGREED.

Members were also informed that the Clerk had been approached by the ramblers association about clearing the footpath at the end of Southampton Street. This was also County Council responsibility; the ramblers cleared the path last summer. It was proposed that the Clerk write to C/Cllr Heathcoat and request the County Council clear the path.

**22/3/15**

**Strategic Working Party Recommendations**

a) 3 year plan for R&OS

Members discussed the plan. It was proposed that replacing bark for safer surfacing on the Town Council play areas be added. This was AGREED.

b) Maintenance Plan for R&OS for 2015/16

Members discussed and AGREED the maintenance plan.