

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

The Corn Exchange, FARINGDON, Oxfordshire, SN7 7JA

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Clerk: Sally Thurston



The Parish of Great Faringdon, in the County of Oxfordshire

MINUTES OF A TOWN MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13th April 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon

PRESENT:

For Faringdon Town Council

Cllrs Mike Wise (Chair)

Jane Boulton

Roger Cox

Julie Farmer

Steve Leniec

Andrew Marsden

18 Members of Public

Sally Thurston, Town Clerk

Liz Billson, Assistant Town Clerk

The Mayor, Cllr Price, had given his apologies. Cllr Cox proposed Cllr Wise as Chair for this meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Marsden and CARRIED.

1. Mayor's Opening Address

Cllr. Mike Wise thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He read an address from current Mayor Cllr. David Price highlighting the following major achievements during the four years of this council:

- Refurbished Corn Exchange
- Improvements to Pump House including the demolition of the old club house and the leasing of the Old Theatre to the Pump House Project.
- Opening of Youth Projects including Faze (taken over from County Council).
- Cinema in the Corn Exchange with the successful grant application from the Big Lottery Fund for equipment.
- Bringing the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan almost to completion which includes the protection of employment land.

The Chair sought permission from the meeting to allow Cllr Steve Leniec to speak in his capacity as Chairman of the Finance Committee, although he lived outside the parish. This was **AGREED**.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from C/Cllr Judith Heathcoat, D/Cllrs Alison Thomson and Mohinda Kainth, Cllrs Angela Finn, David Price and James Gregory, Justin Kamphuis - Faringdon Fire Station, Heather Hambridge - Faringdon Infant School, Martin Gilbert – Oxfordshire Play Ass, PC Chris Linzey – Thames Valley Police.

3. Minutes of the Town Meeting held on Monday 26th January 2015.

The Minutes were signed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Reports

Reports from Town Council Committee Chairmen

(a) Finance Cllr. Steve Leniec submitted a written report which was NOTED

Cllr. Cox noted that the precept had been raised in line with public request at the Town Meeting in January to increase the grants budget.

(b) Venues Cllr. Julie Farmer submitted a written report which was NOTED

(c) Recreation & Open Spaces Cllr. Jane Boulton gave a brief update in the absence of a Committee Chair. This was NOTED.

(d) Planning & Highways Cllr. Mike Wise submitted a written report which was NOTED.

- A member of the public enquired if there was a timetable for the Parking Survey that was completed earlier in the year. Cllr Wise explained the survey had been accepted and recommended by the Town Council and was now in the hands of VoWHDC.
- It was asked if there was any compulsion on VoWHDC to act. It was explained that the main focus of the survey was that enforcement of existing parking restrictions was needed. This would be costly and there are fewer problems in other towns in the Vale so the district council had decided against civil enforcement.
- It was asked if we could lobby the police to enforce. It was explained that this had been raised at the Traffic Advisory Committee and the Neighbourhood Action Group but the police were over stretched.
- The comments were NOTED, and it was AGREED that parking was an issue the new Town Council should pursue.

- (e) Youth Services Cllr. Andrew Marsden gave a brief update in the absence of a Committee Chair. This was NOTED.
- (f) Tucker's Recreation Ground Trust and Faringdon War Memorial Trust. Cllr Wise gave brief oral updates in the absence of the Trust Chairmen which were NOTED.

Reports from County and District Councillors

- (a) C/Cllr Judith Heathcoat submitted a written report which was circulated and NOTED.
- (b) D/Cllrs Alison Thomson, Mohinda Kainth and Roger Cox submitted a joint written report which was circulated and NOTED.

Reports from Local Organisations

- Faringdon Twinning
David Williamson gave an oral report which was NOTED.
- Chamber of Commerce
Sarah Allen Stevens and Paul Brame – gave written and oral reports which were NOTED.
- Faringdon Town Team
Trudy Godfrey – gave written and oral reports which were NOTED.
- JEF
Trudy Godfrey – gave written and oral reports which were NOTED.
- Folly Trust
Eddie Williams gave an oral report which was NOTED.
- Faringdon Infant School
A written report was submitted, circulated and NOTED
- Faringdon Play and Activity Day 2014
A written report was submitted, circulated and NOTED

Reports from Grant recipients

The following organisations gave reports on how grants from Faringdon Town Council had helped them:

- South and Vale Carers – John Tabor
- Independent Advice Bureau - Lisa Bengel
- All Saints' Church – Andrew Sergeant

These reports were NOTED.

6. Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Mike Wise gave an update on progress of the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan. Following the decision to include protection of green spaces, the entire Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan will need to be resubmitted, this would include another 6 week public consultation in the town plus a 6 week consultation by the VoWHDC. The plan would go out to public consultation in Faringdon immediately after the Purdah period.

7. S106 Funding

Cllr Mike Wise gave an update regarding future applications for possible S106 funding. A list had been prepared by Faringdon Town Council two years ago and S106 agreements had been made as a result. Cllr. Wise explained that projects were being identified to improve and build on this original list. He expressed that it was important to move quickly and have projects ready for any possible funding opportunities. Ged Cassell, VoWH, had been advising on the criteria needed to build a focused and successful bid. Business cases for various areas were now being completed by a variety of groups.

Cllr Wise asked the meeting if they had any suggestions for projects to be considered for S106 funding:

- One resident expressed concern that play areas were not on the list, in particular play areas for older children. This request was NOTED. She believed that development of the Country Park was in the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan for this purpose. Cllr. Wise explained that the Country Park was a VoWHDC park so they would need to pursue S106 funding for its development.
- One resident asked for a hearing loop for the Corn Exchange to be considered to assist hearing impaired users. This request was NOTED.
- It was asked if more Public Art could be considered. This was NOTED.
- A member of the public asked if the new Community Infrastructure Levy would result in automatic contributions. It was explained that once CIL replaced S106, Faringdon Town Council would be entitled to 25% of contributions if the FNP is adopted and 15% if it is not. However, it is understood that a business case for projects would still be needed to ensure that the funds are used to reduce the impact of new developments on the town's existing infrastructure.

8. Public Speaking Time and General Discussion

- A Member of the public enquired if there was currently a Town Council operated graveyard and if there was a plan for the future taking into account the increasing population. It was explained that the Town Council did not currently operate a grave yard, but there were two graveyards in the town.