

The Parish of Great Faringdon in the County of Oxfordshire

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

held on Monday, 14 April 2014 at 7.30 pm

In the Corn Exchange, Faringdon

PRESENT: For Faringdon Town Council
Cllrs D Price (Town Mayor)
Ms J Boulton
R Cox
Ms K Draper
Ms J Farmer
S Leniec
M Greenwood
A Marsden
A Meredith
Dr M L H Wise
T White

14 Members of Public
1 Member of the Press
Deputy Town Clerk
Supervisor, Faringdon Community & Tourist
Information Centre
Town Clerk's Assistant

1. Mayor's Opening Address

The Mayor 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**.

The Mayor thanked the staff for all their hard work during the year and highlighted in particular the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan which was close to finalization. He thanked the many organizations and townspeople who had contributed towards the plan and further stated that this Annual Town Meeting was an opportunity for the people of the town to air their views to the Town Council.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from C/Cllr Mrs J Heathcoat, D/Cllrs Mrs Alison Thomson and Mohinder Kainth, Cllr James Gregory, Heather Hambidge (Faringdon Infant School), David Wilson (Faringdon Community College) and Craig Curtis, Faringdon Leisure Centre

3. Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 20th January 2014

Min 5: should read "In particular, there was a sum of £80k **to be used for the development of the Faringdon Library**;

Min 7: should read "....."would be commemorated on the **4th** August";

Following these amendments, the Minutes were signed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Reports from the Chairmen of the Town Council Committees, Tucker's Recreation Ground Trust and Faringdon War Memorial Trust

(a) *Finance & Audit Committee**

The Chairman had submitted a written report. It was NOTED that this committee was responsible for the overall financial security of the Town Council. Grants of £9750 had been awarded to organizations providing benefit to Faringdon residents;

(b) *Venues Committee**

The Acting Chairman had provided a written report which highlighted various activities, both in the Corn Exchange and the Pump House, including regular weekly and monthly bookings in both venues. Following the installation of a cinema screen in the Corn Exchange, regular film shows were being held. The Pump House Project was turning the old theatre at the rear of the Pump House into a vibrant activity centre for the young people of the town and Oxfordshire;

(c) *Recreation & Open Spaces Committee**

The Chairman had submitted a report outlining the current activities of the committee which included new play equipment to replace equipment damaged due to vandalism. All the allotments were being used, with a long waiting list.

(d) *Planning & Highways Committee**

The Chairman had provided a written report which highlighted the number of large planning applications for housing in the town. He also stated that the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan which had proved a large undertaking which involved council members, local residents and local organizations but that it was nearing finalization;

(e) *Youth Services Committee**

It was NOTED that this was a new Town Council Committee which had recently been set up to enable a programme to be designed to make the Centre as effective as possible for young people.

Reports from Tucker's Recreation Ground Trust and Faringdon War Memorial Trust*

Written reports were submitted by the Chairmen of both Trusts. These reports were **NOTED**.

County Councillor's Report*

C/Cllr Mrs J Heathcoat had submitted a written report in her absence. The report was **NOTED**.

District Councillors' Report*

A written report had been submitted by D/Cllrs R Cox, M Kainth and Mrs Alison Thomson. The report was **NOTED**.

Reports from Local Organizations

The following written reports were submitted and **NOTED**:

Faringdon Community College *

Fire Service *

Faringdon Leisure Centre*

Faringdon United Charity*

The following verbal reports were given by representatives and **NOTED**:

Faringdon Twinning Association

Chamber of Commerce

6. Portwell Seat

A detailed presentation* was made by Sjoerd Vogt on behalf of the Pink Pigeons Trust and its proposals for the restoration of the seat which would be funded by Bloor Homes. Mr Vogt stated that Tim Shutter had been chosen as the artist and that following public consultation on the proposals he had submitted, the one depicting a diver had been agreed.

7. Planned Population Increase

How should Faringdon, as a community, respond to the planned population increase over the next few years?

A lengthy discussion took place on the various impacts an increase in population would have on the town. It was **AGREED** that when formulating the Neighbourhood Plan, many ideas had come about which although not planning issues could be used to address the issues raised in connection with population increase. It was therefore **AGREED** that following the adoption of the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan, a group is formed on the same terms and conditions as that used for the FNP and that the referendum is used as an opportunity, not only as a consultation on the FNP, but also to liaise with the population in asking them to become involved in this group.

8. Public Speaking Time and General Discussion

Mrs D Saunders spoke about housing design and its importance in relation to how towns and villages are built. She also highlighted the work that the Faringdon Area Project has been undertaking.

Please note that written reports marked with an * will be available in the Clerk's office and can also be found on the Town Council website

www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk