

# **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 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon**

### **PRESENT:**

#### **For Faringdon Town Council**

Cllrs Mike Wise (Chair)

David Barron

Ian Bell

Jane Boulton

Al Cane

Julie Farmer

Angela Finn

Mark Greenwood

Steve Leniec

Andrew Marsden

David Price

18 Members of Public

Sally Thurston, Town Clerk

Liz Billson, Assistant Town Clerk

Rebekah Pugh, youth and Community Officer

Billie Hayter, Information Assistant

### **1. Mayor's Opening Address**

Cllr. Mike Wise thanked everyone for attending the meeting and 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 Cllr. Alex Meredith, C/Cllr Judith Heathcoat and D/Cllr. Roger Cox.

### **3. Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

The Minutes were amended to record the apologies of Cllr. Angela Finn and signed as a correct record.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

None

#### **5. Town Council Budget and Precept for 2016/17**

The meeting received a presentation on the proposed budget for 2016.17 from Cllr. Steve Leniec, Chair of Faringdon Town Council Finance and Audit Committee. Cllrs. Barron, Boulton, Marsden and Price gave an overview of their budgets and future plans.

On top of the services already provided the following projects for 2016.17 were highlighted:

- Re-furbish Tuckers Park Play Area
- Improvements to Oakwood Park
- Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan to referendum
- Move the Town Council Offices
- Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Celebrations
- Regent Cinema to continue and grow
- Youth Services to continue from Town Centre locations and grow
- Provide space for Information and advice services

Cllr. Leniec informed the meeting that a precept figure of £339,496 had been proposed by the Finance and Audit committee which equated to a 2% rise. However, a suggestion had been put forward of a further 1% rise to fund a member of staff one day per week to achieve a tidier Faringdon. This could include weeding pavements and sign cleaning. Research had been carried out in the Town Centre on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January where the majority of residents suggested that they would be happy to fund this project, if it made a difference to the way Faringdon looked. This would result in a precept request of £342,996 which equates to a 3% Rise.

#### **6. Oxfordshire County Council Savings**

Cllr. Wise gave a presentation to the meeting about proposed cuts to services which included grass cutting, bus service subsidies and Children's Services. It was explained that there was not enough information for the council to make any decisions on accepting responsibility for any areas.

*Members of the public expressed their concern over the possible cuts to Faringdon's services in particular the Children's Centre. It was requested that another public meeting be held when all the information was available from Oxfordshire County Council.*

#### **7. Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Wise gave an update on the progress of the FNP. He informed the meeting that the consultation period has now closed. The District Council will forward the Plan, supporting documents and comments received as a result of the public consultation to the Independent Examiner who will make his report and recommendations to the District Council. If his recommendations are acceptable

to the District and Town Councils, they will recommend that it proceeds to referendum

**8. Pink Pigeons Town Sign Proposals**

Sjoerd Vogt, gave a presentation from the Pink Pigeons detailing results from a public consultation on initial direction for a town sign. The next stage would be to further consult and involve residents and local artists in the choice of design.

**9. Public Speaking Time and General Discussion**

No one wished to speak at this time.

**10. Town Council Budget and Precept for 2016/17**

Cllr. Leniec summarised the budget proposals. It was PROPOSED that a 3% increase be put to the Town Council on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January to include the Tidier Faringdon Project. The meeting AGREED.

A precept request of £342,496 (£128.34 per band D household) would be recommended to Faringdon Town council on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January.