

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

The Corn Exchange, FARINGDON, Oxfordshire, SN7 7JA

Telephone 01367 240281 Fax 01367 240303

www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Clerk: Sally Thurston



Minutes of a Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th June 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Jubilee Room, the Pump House, Faringdon.

PRESENT: Cllrs.

Mike Wise (Town Mayor)	
David Barron	
Jane Boulton	
Al Cane	
Julie Farmer	
Angela Finn	
Mark Greenwood	From min. 6/7/2015
Andrew Marsden	
David Price	

In Attendance:

Sally Thurston, Town Clerk
David Buckle, Chief Executive VWHDC
Matthew Barber, Leader VWHDC

- 1/7/15 Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from Cllrs. James Famakin and Alex Meredith D/Cllr. Roger Cox
- 2/7/15 Minutes of last meeting: Wednesday 13th May 2015**
It was noted that Agenda Item 12, to appoint members to working parties set up by full council, had been omitted from the minutes in error. The Clerk was asked to amend the minutes accordingly. The minutes were signed as a correct record of the meeting with this amendment.
- 3/7/15 Declarations of Interest**
None at this time
- 4/7/15 Public Question Time**
None
- 5/7/15 Public Speaking Time**
None
- 6/7/15 Visit by VWHDC Leader and Chief Executive**
The following question and answer session took place:
1. Parking is a major problem in Faringdon. The parking survey undertaken by Gary K Smith has been submitted to the Vale for consideration. Can you tell us when and if this will be taken up by the Vale?

Matthew Barber informed members that VWHDC were investigating ways of improving the RINGO service on the pay machines in the car parks to ensure people could take advantage of the free parking when accessing this service.

The VWHDC were also investigating car share schemes and residents parking permits. These would be considered at the annual review in Oct /Nov 2015.

Enforcement of existing parking restrictions would bring complaints but VWHDC are not against it. County Council needs to apply to central government to decriminalize car parking and take the responsibility of enforcement away from the police. They are not prepared to pay for this but the Vale would consider putting money forward. However the Vale cannot do this independently. All other local authorities in Oxfordshire must agree to go ahead, currently some are against this.

MB felt that expanding car parks would help but land was scarce.

David Buckle reminded councilors that parking enforcement was still a police issue and suggested that the police may act on this if approached by the Neighborhood Action Group.

2. How we can the Town Council and the Vale work closer together?

The Vale are very keen to progress a closer working relationship. Planning control has been the biggest issue in the past. They were currently investigating putting into place a guide with what happens during the planning process, how each step works and what everybody's responsibilities are.

The Town Council were asked to keep in touch if there is ever a problem.

The FNP should improve S106 communication as it clearly sets out expectation and what the community wants.

3. The FTC has been the first point of contact for local residents on Vale issues; if there are no means of reducing this burden, can there be training for our staff to deal with these enquiries? *This could be helpful and they will look into providing training and a frequently asked questions leaflet.*

Would it be possible for our staff to join with some of your courses on Manual Handling / Health and Safety as recompense for our extra costs?

Will look into this.

4. Implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan. How much weight will the Neighbourhood Plan carry? *FTC is particularly concerned that allocated employment land will be protected as the Town grows so people can work locally. Employment in places like Milton Park is difficult for some residents to travel to.*

When the FNP and the local plan are adopted they should be read as one document and will carry equal weight.

A plea was issued to the VWHDC that they communicated with the Town Council and helped to ensure that local employment land was secure. MB agreed that employment land should be defended particularly in a time of growth and the FNP and the local plan should help this.

5. The Local Plan. The Local Plan Spatial Vision states that by 2031 the service centre role of Faringdon (and other centres) will have been maintained and enhanced. What plans are there for the development of Faringdon?

There are not the same level development plans for Faringdon as there are for Abingdon. This is because the VWHDC are a major land owner in Abingdon and gives this gives them more freedom to act there.

FNP presents the blueprint for development for Faringdon in a planning document. Areas like employment, parking, leisure and health provision can all be developed. Economic development teams now get involved at the outset and guide planners during applications as to what is good for Towns like Faringdon. There is currently a gap however. Economic development in the form of Town Teams help individual businesses and there is focus on bring very large businesses to the Vale. We need to develop the gap between.

6. We were informed that there would be a review of the parish boundary in 2015 regarding the two allocated sites in Great Coxwell. The sustainability criterion for these sites has been justified on the basis of their proximity to Faringdon and they have been considered by the developers to be located in Faringdon. What will be the process for incorporating these sites into Faringdon in order to contribute to our council tax base?
The community governance review decided not to move boundaries. However, boundary reviews will continue to take place when a development is close to a boundary. If two parishes agree on a boundary move then it is highly unlikely that this would be refused. Any boundary reviews would not take effect until 2019.

7. Are there any plans to include the A420 in your development strategy? We are concerned about the impact of developments along the A420, here, in Shrivenham and in Swindon on traffic density on the A420.
The A420 does feature in the plan but they are small, specific improvements. The A420 needs more capacity and there are no easy solutions. Reassurance was offered that the Vale take the A420 very seriously and the County Council also need to. FTC are worried that residents cannot get out of the town as junctions on to the A420 are often gridlocked at rush hour. The Vale understand this but think the whole road needs to be looked at strategically to increase capacity looking at individual junctions could cause more hold ups. The money need would be way beyond what S106 could offer and would need significant capital investment. Even if the County Council do not have the money to improve the road they still need to identify a solution. The Vale would consider helping with cost if the budget allowed it. FTC asked if there was any time frame in which things might improve. This would depend on the speed of development and would be somewhere between now and 2030.

8. The Vale has about 50,000 houses. The SHMA proposes a further 20,000 houses, a 40% increase in population. Can you explain how infrastructure will be developed to meet this growth?
There are lots of infrastructure plans. The Clinical Commissioning Board has been consulted and are supportive. CIL will help to secure funding as it is a non-negotiable, time related payment from developers to improve infrastructure. The 20,000 house will not be built in the next year but over a long period of time. The current rate of build in the vale is between 600 and 800 house per year.

9. How will the Government initiative to introduce a right to buy to housing association tenants affect the Vale?
The Bill will not be published until the Autumn so we will not know the impact until we have the details. It is thought that high value stock will be sold to fund replacement housing stock; however, the Vale does not have any.

The Bill will not be as much as a shock to the Vale as to other areas because we current look at 25% of houses being shared ownership so we support people buying their own homes already.

7/7/15

Reports from Outside Bodies

- (a) Thames Valley Police – None received
- (b) Twinning Association
Cllr. Mike Wise gave a verbal report which was noted. He highlighted that the Twinning Association had hosted a very successful 25th Anniversary visit with 72 French, 4 Czech and 3 German visitors including the Conseiller Général of the Canton of Radon, the President and Vice-President of the Community of Communes of the Valley of the Haute Sarthe, the mayors of Le Mêle, St Aubin d' Appenay, Königstein and Falkenstein, Deputy Lieutenant Marie-Jane Barnet, MP Ed Vaizey and several other deputy mayors and dignitaries.
- (c) Chamber of Commerce
The minutes of a meeting on 11th May were NOTED
Cllr Julie Farmer highlighted that the Chamber were trying to raise its profile and were hosting a FNP exhibition in the Old Town Hall on 25th June 2015.
- (d) NAG
The minutes of a meeting on 18th May were NOTED
It was proposed that Cllr Julie Farmer raised the parking issues at the next NAG meeting. This was AGREED.

8/7/15

County Councillor's Report

None received

9/7/15

District Councillors' Report

None received

10/7/15

Chairman's Activity Report

The chairman submitted a written report of his activity over the last month.

11/7/15

Clerk's Report & Schedule of Payments

Cllr. Al Cane declared an interest as he was listed a payee under a TIC Agency. This was NOTED.

CLERK'S REPORT June 2015		
1. Payments made early due to urgency		
Fulcrum Commercial Kitchens	C/Ex Water Heater repair	£ 116.28
Faringdon Newspapers	TIC Advert	£ 32.81
Theatre Tokens	Token sales	£ 18.80
Information Commissioner	Data Protection	£ 35.00
2. Cheque payments		
Tom Wheeler	Pump House Windows	£ 15.00
A&M Garden Machinery	Strimmer Wire	£ 52.51
Homeland Garden Machinery	Mower service x3 inc spares	£ 162.30
PMG Schoolware	Workwear	£ 71.94

IAC Internal Audit	Audit service	£ 390.00
Filmbank	License	£ 171.16
Viking	Display Boards	£ 719.93
B&W Lift Services	Service OTH 127.50	£ 384.00
Faringdon Newspapers	FNP Publicity	£ 105.35
Spacemaster	Bus Shelter repair	£ 780.00
WPS	Van Insurance	£ 396.60
Handy Garden Machinery	Mower and strimmer	£ 1,232.50
Mrs Ebsworth	Hanging Baskets	£ 150.00
Davis DIY	Maintenance Items	£ 78.48
Pyrotech	Pump House Fire Safety	£ 78.00
Vision It	Hosted Emails x 20	£ 320.40
Petty Cash	Cash	£ 162.17
3.Grants		
Tuckers Rec Ground Trust	LGA(Misc. Provs)76 s.19	£ 1,000.00
Folly Fest	LGA 1972.s145	£ 3,000.00
4.Bank Transfer	Reimb for May Salaries	£ 19,998.81
5.Charge Card Payments		
Thomas and Anca	Bingo Machine	£ 151.92
O2	Pay as you go phone	£ 12.99
HFE Signs	FNP Banner	£ 27.53
O2	Pay as you go credit	£ 10.00
The Book Service	Books TIC for resale	£ 90.00
Amazon	Brief Encounter	£ 4.49
Co-Op	Card Fee	£ 2.00
6. Direct Debits		
VWHDC - Business Rates	C/Ex	£ 913.00
	P/House	£ 355.00
	FAZE	£ 413.00
EON - Electricity	P/House	£ 45.81
	Theatre	£ 55.15
	C/Ex	£ 283.52
	FAZE	£ 63.67
PWLB	Loan repayment	£ 5,473.45
Fuel Card Services	Van and Tractor Fuel	£ 62.24
o2 online	Venues Phone Contract	£ 13.14
Mainstream Digital	Telephone & Broadband	£ 16.55
Associated Networks	Web Hosting	£ 22.80
Talk talk	P/House Broadband	£ 30.60
British Gas	C/Ex	£ 1,295.00
Total Town Council Invoices		£ 38,813.90

7. FC&TIC Invoices		
Alan Godfrey Maps	Stock	£ 16.25
PGM School Ware	Stock	£ 42.84
TSE	Stock	£ 158.99
Anne Pagett	Stock	£ 120.40
Photographic Heritage	Stock	£ 340.85
Helen Martin	Agency	£ 9.52
Ann Strowger	Agency	£ 116.10
Al Cane	Agency	£ 16.76
Lesley Lambert	Agency	£ 12.00
J Wharton	Agency	£ 30.95
Roxanne Smith	Agency	£ 36.00
Total FC&TIC Invoices		£ 39,714.56

Cllr. Mike Wise PROPOSED the above bills be authorised and paid this was SECONDED by Cllr. David Barron and CARRIED.

12/7/15 Accounts to 31st March 2015

- (i) *Annual Return*
Members received the Annual Return. It was proposed that Sections 1& 2 be APPROVED by Council and signed by the Chair. This was seconded and CARRIED.
Cllr. Mike Wise (Town Mayor) signed sections 1 & 2 of the annual return.
- (ii) *Investment & Reserves Reconciliations as at 31.3.2015*
It was proposed that Investment & Reserves Reconciliations as at 31.3.2015 be APPROVED by Council. This was seconded and CARRIED.
- (iii) *Balance Sheet*
It was proposed that Balance Sheet be APPROVED by council and signed by the Chair. This was seconded and CARRIED.
- (iv) *Income & Expenditure Account*
It was proposed that Income & Expenditure Account be APPROVED by Council. This was seconded and CARRIED.
- (v) *Supporting Statement to Accounts & Asset Register*
It was proposed that Supporting Statement to Accounts & Asset Register, to include the disposal of a Floor Buffer to the value of £581, be APPROVED by Council and signed by the Chair. This was seconded and CARRIED.

13/7/15 Financial Regulations

The Clerk informed members that there had been an amendment to 9.8 in the updated Financial Regulations.

Following a recommendation from the Finance and Audit Committee, Cllr. Angela Finn proposed that the updated and amended Financial Regulations be ADOPTED by Council. This was seconded by Cllr. David Price and CARRIED.

- 14/7/15 Reports from Committees**
- a) Finance and Audit** **3rd June**
The minutes were received and NOTED
- b) Planning & Highways:** **14th May and 2nd June**
The minutes were received and NOTED
- c) Venues:** **27th May**
The minutes were received and NOTED
- 15/7/15 Recordings Meeting Working Party**
- a) Members considered expanding the remit of the recording meetings working party to include to exploring initiatives to help the Council to engage the Faringdon Community.
- b) It was proposed that this working party be re-named Community Engagement Working Party. This was AGREED
- c) Membership of the working party elected at the Annual Meeting on 13th May would remain the same.
- 16/7/15 Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan**
- Members were informed that the FNP was now in the consultation period which would come to an end on 25th June. This would be followed by a VWHDC consultation period, examination and then referendum.
- 17/7/15 S106 Contributions**
- Members were informed that an outline planning application was being prepared for the 4&20 site. The developer's representative had recently attended a Planning and Highways meeting and talked about possible S106 contributions. It was proposed that the Clerk contact VWHDC S106 Officer, Jayne Bolton, to ensure we were kept informed of any available monies. This was AGREED.
- 18/7/15 Attendance at meetings**
- Members received a reminder that councillors must give apologies if they are unable to attend a meeting. It was proposed that the clerk investigate ways of reminding councillors of meeting dates, such as text alerts, and allowing councillors to get in touch at short notice. This was AGREED.
- 19/7/15 Items for Information Only**
- The Clerk informed members that there was a town and Parish Forum on 2nd July. Cllr. Mike Wise informed members that he had received information about supporting and employing reservists. An information pack was available in the correspondence box.
- 20/7/15 Correspondence**
- The contents of the correspondence box were NOTED