

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

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Clerk: Sally Thurston



Minutes of a Youth Services Committee meeting held on Thursday 8th January 2015 at 7.15 p.m. in the June Rennie Room, the Pump House, Faringdon

PRESENT: Cllrs. James Gregory (Chair)
Ian Bell
Julie Farmer Left during minute number 7/1/15
Andrew Marsden

In Attendance: Andrew Gould, Senior Youth Worker
Sally Thurston, Town Clerk
Rebekah Pugh, Safeguarding Officer
Kealy Whenray, Pump House Project
John Nightingale, Faringdon Rotary
1 member of the public

1/1/15 Apologies for Absence
Cllr. David Price

2/1/15 Declarations of Interest
None

3/1/15 Minutes of Last Meeting: 13th November
The minutes were signed as a correct record of the meeting

4/1/15 Items for Information Only
None

5/1/15 Public Speaking Time
Kealy Whenray introduced herself as Project coordinator for the Pump House Project. Kealy gave a brief overview of her work and role at the project. She is currently working in partnership with Andrew Gould to ensure a joined approach to youth provision in the Town.

It was agreed that partnership working was paramount to successful projects.

John Nightingale introduced himself as Chair of Youth Services for Faringdon Rotary Club. John told the committee about rotary youth projects. Highlighting

progress with the ROTA Kids project at the Pump House and the INTERACT program for older teenagers.

It was proposed that a representative from both the Pump House Project and Faringdon Rotary be co-opted onto the Committee as non-voting members at the next meeting. This was CARRIED

6/1/15 **Public Question Time**
NONE

7/1/15 **2015/16 Budget**

The committee discussed ranking capital projects in order of importance as requested by the Finance and Audit Committee. The following order was proposed:

1. New Floor
2. Tables and Chairs

Kealy Whenray offered unused tables from the Pump House Project. It was proposed that the offer was accepted and that tables were removed from the Capital requests. This was seconded and CARRIED.

It was then proposed that capital projects be considered in the following order:

1. New floor
2. Chairs

This was seconded and CARRIED.

No amendments were made to the final revenue budget.

8/1/15 **FAZE**

1. A report was received and NOTED from the Senior Youth Worker.

Andrew highlighted the following points:

- Behind the scenes management and support had enabled him to feel motivated and concentrate more on the Youth work needed.
- There is a great feeling around the project relationships with young people are vastly improved. More and more young people are turning to FAZE for help. Members of the community are beginning to understand the importance of the project and what it is striving to achieve.
- Joint working with the Pump House Project is an exciting prospect and meetings with the project coordinator already held.

2. Friends of FAZE

Andrew informed the committee that he had sent out letters to members of the community inviting them to join Friends of Faze which would work like a school PTA. He had had a good response and hoped to set up the group ASAP.

3. Purchase of FAZE Site

The Clerk informed the committee that Planning Permission had now been received if the Town Council decided to purchase the site. The purchase could now be considered by Finance and Audit Committee who would make a recommendation to Full Council.

4. Faze Management Board

Cllr. James Gregory reported that the FAZE board had now been disbanded. The funds raised by the board were now in the process of being allocated. Cllr. Gregory recorded thanks to the FAZE Board for their work in saving the Youth Centre from closure.

9/1/15

Young Carers Group

The Senior Youth Worker reported that this was a highly successful and worthwhile project which both the Rotary and Town Council were very proud of.

The committee considered re-signing the Memorandum of Understanding with Faringdon Rotary Club to run the Young Carers Session. It was proposed, seconded and CARRIED to sign the memorandum. The memorandum was signed at the meeting.

10/1/15

Safeguarding Officer

The newly appointed Safeguarding Officer gave an update on progress highlighting the following:

- A policy meeting was held on 6/1/2015. Although there was much to do good progress had already been made.
- A complete review of all policies and risk assessments would be made in the coming weeks once in place these would enable the Youth Work team to focus on Youth Work whilst ensuring best practice.
- The SGO had attended a safeguarding session at Faringdon Community College and would attend another run by Oxfordshire Youth, along with the Senior Youth Worker and the Town Clerk, in late January. This would ensure that skills were up to date.
- The importance of signposting was raised. It is essential that staff can direct the young people to the correct services.

Members were asked to approve the new safe guarding policy. It was proposed, seconded and CARRIED that this was adopted. Cllr Gregory signed the policy at the meeting.

The Clerk felt it was important to call another meeting in February to discuss assigning roles on a management team for the FAZE Youth Project. This was AGREED. The Clerk would advise at date in due course.

11/1/15

Strategic Working Party Recommendations

1. Members considered and discussed the formulation of a 3 year plan for *Youth Services*. The following items were added:

- Act as a hub for all Youth Groups, coordinating and bringing groups together
- Build strong partnerships – working with outside bodies
- Work with other groups on press releases and joint Youth Services newsletters
- Build on the current FAZE team and project
- Use FAZE as a hub for youth projects – signposting to the correct services
- Plan for the FAZE site if purchased
 - Yr 1 Buy
 - Yr2 Fundraise, plan, research need
 - Yr 3 Develop the site

It was proposed the Clerk work these items into a document which would be reconsidered at the next meeting. This was seconded and CARRIED.

2. Maintenance Plan for FAZE for 2015/16

It was proposed that Staff formulated a plan for consideration at the next meeting. This was seconded and CARRIED

3. Review Youth Service Committee Terms of Reference

Cllr. Marsden felt that the first point should be that the Committee worked as an umbrella body for all Youth Organisations in Faringdon.

It was proposed and seconded that Cllr Marsden review the terms in conjunction with the Town Clerk for consideration at the next meeting.

12/1/15

Youth Services Compendium

Cllr. Gregory reported that it was planned to compile a Youth Directory to ensure that all Youth groups were identified. A comprehensive directory would help enable partnership working and ensure that all groups could access help and funding. It would also help to advertise services available to residents.

13/1/15

Grant Allocation

It was felt that to allocate any funds fairly the Youth Compendium would be very useful to ensure no groups were missed.

Groups could be contacted and invited to apply for funds.

The first task would be to allocate existing funds when they are received from the disbanded board. This could then lead to access to further funds.

It was proposed that Cllr. Gregory in conjunction with the Town Clerk investigate accessing the further funding. This was AGREED.