

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

The Pump House, 5 Market Place, FARINGDON, Oxfordshire, SN7 7JA

Telephone 01367 240281 www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Clerk: Sally Thurston



Minutes of a Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 14th December 2016 at 7.15 pm in the Jubilee Room, the Pump House, Faringdon.

PRESENT: Cllrs

Mike Wise	(Town Mayor)
Kiera Bentley	
Jane Boulton	
Al Cane	
James Famakin	from min. 3/12/16
Angela Finn	
Mark Greenwood	
Andrew Marsden	
Patrick Middleton	
Steve Leniec	
Pauline Beesley	

In Attendance:

Sally Thurston, Town Clerk
3 members of the public

1/12/16 **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies from the following were NOTED: Cllrs Julie Farmer and David Barron.
D/Cllrs. Roger Cox and Mohinda Kainth.
C/Cllr Judith Heathcoat.

2/12/16 **Minutes of last meeting**
The minutes for the meeting of Wednesday 9th November 2016 were signed as a correct record.

Cllr. Wise PROPOSED that item 14. Deputy Town Clerk Recruitment be moved to the end of the meeting as it would need to be held in confidential session due to the nature of the matter to be discussed. This was SECONDED and AGREED.

3/12/16 **Co-option of a Councillor**
Three prospective candidates gave a short presentation. Candidates and members of the public were asked to leave the room whilst a vote took place.
It was PROPOSED that Pauline Beesley be co-opted to the office of member of Faringdon Town Council. This was CARRIED. Cllr. Pauline Beesley signed her declaration of office and joined the meeting.
Other candidates were thanked for their interest and asked to re-apply should a vacancy arise in the future.

4/12/16 **Declarations of Interest**
No declarations of interest were made at this time.

5/12/16 Public Question Time

None received.

6/12/16 Public Speaking Time

7/12/16 Reports from Outside Bodies

a) Thames Valley Police - No report available.

Cllr. Cane informed members that a resident had found drug paraphernalia in their garden and police advice had not been clear. The Clerk had asked for clarification and the police had advised:

'The correct method of disposal would be a sharps bin. We would usually advise the caller to take it to a health center for disposal as there are no lines of enquiry for criminal offences. If the caller was vulnerable and unable to do this we would usually attend.'

Cllr. Famakin, who runs a local pharmacy, advised that needles could be safely disposed of through the pharmacy but members of the public should be extremely cautious, gloves should always be used and BIFFA should be called to dispose if there was any doubt about safety.

Cllr. Finn asked if the police could attend meetings or send a written report at least once a quarter. This was agreed. The Clerk was asked to contact the police.

b) Chamber of Commerce – No report available.

c) Town Team – Minutes from the last meeting were NOTED

8/12/16 County Councillor's report

County Cllr Judith Heathcoat submitted a written report which was NOTED.

9/12/16 District Councillors' Report

District Cllr Roger Cox submitted a written report which was NOTED.

10/12/16 Chairman's Activity Report

Cllr Wise submitted a written report which was NOTED.

11/12/16 Reports from Committees

Members NOTED minutes and reports of the following committee meetings and working parties including decisions taken under delegated authority:

- a) *Planning & Highways: 6th December*
- b) *Finance and Audit 23rd November*
- c) *Recreation and Open Spaces 16th November*
- d) *Venues 16th November*
- e) *Youth Services 10th November*

12/12/16 Clerk's Report & Schedule of Payments

Cllr Marsden PROPOSED the following bills be authorised and paid this was SECONDED by Cllr Greenwood and CARRIED.

CLERK'S REPORT December 2016		
November Salaries		
Salaries by BACS	Salaries	£ 12,471.70
HMRC by BACS	Tax and NI	£ 1,843.09
OCC by Cheque	Pension Contributions	£ 3,405.13
Cheque payments - made early due to urgency		
Royal Mail - made early due to urgency	Stamps for resale	£ 321.00
British Legion	Agency	£ 225.00
Image Acoustic	Agency	£ 576.00
Cheque payments		
Microshade	Hosted IT	£ 237.60
Budgens	Youth Services Supplies	£ 19.05
Davis DIY	Maintenance Items	£ 23.56
Pyrotech	Fire Safety	£ 203.80
DPDS Consulting Group	FNP Consultant	£ 782.34
PMG School Wear	Workwear	£ 69.96
SLCC	membership	£ 300.00
Filmbank	Film License	£ 99.60
Alto Digital	Copier Costs	£ 253.73
Faringdon Newspapers	Advertising / Papers for resale	£ 39.60
Jackson Lift Group	P/Houyse Lift Service	£ 265.20
Automotive leasing	Van Lease	£ 169.48
Sign Sense	Sign Audit (s106)	£ 591.60
BIFFA	Waste disposal	£ 255.69
Travis Perkins	Maintenance Items	£ 11.75
RBS Ltd	Accounts package	£ 288.00
Wellers Hedleys	Judicial Review Advice	£ 288.00
Faringdon Motorist Centre	Puncture repair kit	£ 2.99
SLCC	Course deposit	£ 150.00
FCTIC Payments		
MHP	Stock	£ 78.00
Theatre Tokens	Agency	£ 28.20
AmEgois	Agency	£ 126.00
V Hughes	Agency	£ 24.00
Faringdon Folly	Stock	£ 10.00
Direct Debits		
Coop Bank	Credit Card	£ 298.72
Associated Networks	Web Hosting	£ 22.80
VWHDC	Pump House Rates	£ 358.00
	C/EX Rates	£ 969.00
Fuel Card Services	Van / tractor Fuel	£ 74.82
O2	Mobile Phones	£ 43.32
Mainstream	Phone	£ 76.88
PWLB	Loan repayment	£ 5,239.23
SSE	C/EX Gas	£ 337.76
Total Town Council Invoices		£ 30,580.60

13/12/16

Motion under Notice

Proposer: Cllr. Steve Leniec

Seconder: Cllr. Al Cane

'This Council recognises the vital role that the White Horse Medical centre its doctors and staff play in delivering local health services in the town and wider area. It has become apparent that the service is struggling to keep up with increasing demand with long waits for general and other less urgent appointments. The building designed to cover 12,000 patients now looks after 15,000. It is with dismay that we learn that a bid for NHS funding of £684,000 to improve services and prepare for up to 4000 additional patients previously approved has been withdrawn at the last minute.

Our Neighbourhood plan has policies to address Health and Social care 4.11; however we need to address the issue proactively.

Just as Thames Water have effectively blocked new developments until the sewage works are upgraded no further housing should be built in the town until the Health Centre is upgraded to meet demand. It is PROPOSED that Council will oppose any additional housing in the area unless it has significant commuted funds earmarked for the improvement of local health services or until the White Horse Medical centre has been upgraded.'

Members supported the content of the motion in general but concern was noted that the motion could undermine the Planning and Highways Committee and the Neighbourhood Plan, which already had policies that covered this motion. Cllr. Leniec explained that the motion was intended to support both the Neighbourhood plan and the Planning and Highways Committee.

Cllr. Leniec PROPOSED the following amended motion:

'Following the decision of the NHS to withdraw funding for the improvements to the White Horse Medical Practice; Council will signify its opposition to significant additional housing unless health and related services are improved commensurate with the increased population of the town.'

This amendment was SECONDED by Cllr. Cane and the motion was CARRIED.

15/12/16

Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan

a) Members received an update which highlighted:

Faringdon residents voted in favour of the Faringdon Neighbourhood plan on Thursday 24th November, 944 YES 94 NO. The Vale of the White Horse District Council is voting to 'make' the plan at their meeting on 14th December 2016. Cllr. Boulton asked if Committees would now be using the policies of the FNP as part of their business. It was AGREED that a Strategic Working Party should be held in the new year to discuss the FTC strategy going forward and the delegation of responsibilities to committee.

b) Members received and considered letter of engagement from Wellers Hedleys Solicitor regarding advice following an application for Judicial Review against VoWHDC in which Faringdon Town Council are a named interested party. Members were informed that current costs were £288 and were capped at £500. Any further costs would be brought back to council. It was PROPOSED that the letter of engagement be agreed. This was SECONDED and CARRIED.

16/12/16

Emergency Plan

a) It was PROPOSED that Faringdon Town Council create an Emergency Plan. This was SECONDED and CARRIED.

- b) It was PROPOSED that an Emergency Plan working party be set up. This was SECONDED and CARRIED.
- c) It was PROPOSED that Hilary Sherman act as the to the Emergency Plan working party. This was SECONDED and CARRIED.

The following councillors were PROPOSED as members of the EPWP:

Cllr. Mike Wise

Cllr. Andrew Marsden

Cllr. Pauline Beesley

These members were SECONDED and APPOINTED.

17/12/16 Wantage Independent Advice Centre

- a) Members received and NOTED a report from Cllr. Wise following the AGM. It was NOTED that volunteers from Faringdon were needed to provide a permanent service based in the Town.
- b) It was PROPOSED that Cllr. Pauline Beesley act as the Town Council representative and attends WIAC meetings. This was SECONDED and CARRIED.

18/12/16 Items for Information Only

Members were informed that meetings had been held with interested stakeholders and Children's Centre plans are progressing. A 3 year business plan has been agreed. A steering board and charity will now be formed. Transitional funding of £37,500 (£12,500 per year) will be applied for in January from OCC. A further £13,800 per year running costs will be sought from a variety of potential funders and from fund raising events.

19/12/16 Correspondence

Members received and NOTED, for information only, correspondence from 9th November 2016 up to and including 14th December 2016. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of congratulations to the Royal British Legion for their support in organising excellent Remembrance Day events.

Cllr. Wise PROPOSED that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be discussed, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be excluded and they should be instructed to withdraw. This was SECONDED and CARRIED.

14/12/16 Deputy Town Clerk Recruitment

Members received the following recommendation from the Finance and Audit Committee: Following interview it is recommended that Rebekah Pugh is appointed Deputy Town Clerk on 25 hours per week on a starting salary SCP 27.

It was PROPOSED that Council appoint Rebekah Pugh as Deputy Town Clerk from 9th January 2017 for 25 hours per week with a starting salary SCP 27. This was SECONDED and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm