

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

The Pump House, FARINGDON, Oxfordshire, SN7 7HL

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Clerk: Sally Thurston



The Parish of Great Faringdon In the County of Oxfordshire

Minutes of Annual Town Meeting held on MONDAY 11th APRIL 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon

PRESENT:

For Faringdon Town Council

Cllrs Mike Wise (Chair)

Ian Bell

Jane Boulton

Al Cane

Julie Farmer

Steve Leniec

Andrew Marsden

Patrick Middleton

32 Members of Public

Sally Thurston, Town Clerk

Liz Billson, Assistant Town Clerk

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.

Cllr. Wise gave an overview of the last year. Cllr Wise informed the meeting that as well as hard copies in the room a copy of his address and all written reports submitted were available on the Faringdon Town Council website.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Town Cllrs David Barron, Angela Finn, Alex Meredith

County Cllr. Judith Heathcoat

Faringdon Junior School

Faringdon Community College

Faringdon Infant School – Heather Hambridge

Justin Kamphuis – Fire Station

David Williamson – Twinning Association
Kealy Whenray The Pump House Project
Sarah Benson – Rotary
Vivian Checkley – Faringdon United Charities

3. Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 18th January 2016

The minutes were AGREED and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Reports

The following reports were received and NOTED.

1) Reports from Town Council Committee Chairmen

- (a) Finance
- (b) Venues
- (c) Recreation & Open Spaces
- (d) Planning & Highways
- (e) Youth Services

2) Reports from

- (a) Tucker's Recreation Ground Trust
- (b) Faringdon War Memorial Trust
- (c) Parish Transport Rep

3) County Councillors Report

Cllr. Heathcoat supplied a written report which was received and NOTED.

4) District Councillors' Report

Cllrs. Cox and Kainth supplied a written report which was received and NOTED. Parking was raised by the meeting as still being an issue in Faringdon. Cllr. Cox explained that this was a police issue. The meeting questioned why the district had not introduced civil enforcement. Cllr. Cox explained it would involve both County and District Councils and would cost approx. £250k to introduce. Cllr. Cox was asked to provide a breakdown of these costs which he would supply to the Town Clerk for publication.

5) Thames Valley police – Sgt. Ryan James supplied a written report which was received and NOTED. The meeting questioned Sgt. James why parking was not enforced in Faringdon. The public were encouraged to take pictures of and report offenders. However police resources were tight and the police had to prioritise serious crime.

6) Reports from Local Organisations

- Children's Centre Faringdon– Carole Gough, Manager, supplied a written report and gave a short presentation which was received and NOTED. The presentation highlighted how the closure of the Children's Centre, as a result of cuts made by Oxfordshire County

Council, would affect Faringdon's families, in particular vulnerable Families. The Children's Centre staff were very worried about the five universal groups they run no longer being available as they acted as an early intervention tool. Statutory safeguarding would continue but it was questioned how this need would be identified, particularly as the nearest Children's Service would be in Abingdon. A member of the public suggested that volunteers from Home Start could provide support. Mrs Gough explained that the volunteers carry out a wonderful service but were currently only helping Military families in the town and would not be able to run the universal groups.

Grant Reports

The following groups had received grants from Faringdon Town Council and submitted reports on how their grant funding had assisted their organisation.

- Whist Drive
- Folly Trust
- Folly Fest
- Rotary
- Wantage independent Advice Centre
- South and Vale Carers

Reports were received and NOTED.

Outside Bodies

The following groups submitted reports detailing their activities over the last year.

- Twinning Association
- Faringdon Community Bus
- Faringdon United Charity
- Fire Station
- Pink Pigeons
- Rotary Club
- The Pump House project

The reports were received and NOTED.

6. Public Speaking Time and General Discussion

None

The meeting closed at 9.15pm