

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 8th March at 7.15 pm in the Jubilee Room, the Pump House, Faringdon.

PRESENT: Cllrs **Mike Wise** **(Town Mayor)**
 Pauline Beesley
 Jane Boulton
 Al Cane
 James Famakin **from min: 7/4/17**
 Mark Greenwood
 Steve Leniec
 Richard Marsh
 Andrew Marsden
 Patrick Middleton **from min: 6/4/17**

In Attendance: **Sally Thurston, Town Clerk**
 Rebekah Pugh, Deputy Town Clerk
 Adele Vincent, Trainee Clerk
 C/Cllr. Judith Heathcoat to min: 9/4/17
 PC. Tom Prior Thames Valley Police to min: 7/4/17

1/4/17 **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies from Cllrs. David Barron, Angela Finn, Julie Farmer and Kiera Bentley were NOTED.

2/4/17 **Minutes of last meeting**
It was noted that Cllr. Beesley was in attendance at this meeting but this was omitted from the minutes. The minutes for the meeting of Wednesday 8th February 2017 were signed as a correct record with this amendment.

3/4/17 **Declarations of Interest**
None were made at this time.

4/4/17 **Public Question Time**
None received.

5/4/17 **Public Speaking Time**

6/4/17 **Reports from Outside Bodies**
a) Thames Valley Police – A report from PC Tom Prior was NOTED with thanks.

7/4/17 **County Councillor's report**
County Cllr Judith Heathcoat submitted a written report and was available for questions. This was NOTED.

8/4/17 **District Councillors' Report**
District Cllr Roger Cox submitted a written report which was NOTED.

9/4/17 **Chairman's Activity Report**
Cllr Wise submitted a written report which was NOTED.

10/4/17

Reports from Committees

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

- a) Finance and Audit 1st March 2017
- b) Planning & Highways: 14th February and 7th March 2017

11/4/17

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 March 2017		
Salaries		
Salaries by BACS	Salaries	£13,978.05
HMRC by BACS	Tax and NI	£ 2,800.12
OCC by Cheque	Pension Contributions	£ 4,205.25
Cheques		
Automotive Leasing	Van Lease	£ 169.48
Alto Digital	Copier Costs	£ 44.94
Viking	Stationery	
Film Bank	Film License	£ 130.20
Microshade	IT Hosting	£ 288.30
Oxfordshire Youth	DBS	£ 20.00
Biffa	Waste disposal	£ 270.34
Quidne	IT Support	£ 48.00
Experience Oxfordshire LTD	Membership	£ 598.80
Joslins	Stone bench clean	£ 576.00
TVE	Strimmer Service	£ 78.00
OALC	Membership	£ 1,305.80
DG Joinery	Info Centre Door	£ 610.00
IAC	Interim Audit	£ 390.00
SETON	Cleaning Equipment	£ 88.45
South East Workwear	Lkaunch T Shirts	£ 70.95
BG Garden and Tree Care	Tucker Park Hedge	£ 1,020.00
Budgens	Account	£ 64.09
Davis	Maintenance items	£ 8.23
Wellers Hedleys	Leases x 3	£ 1,807.00
Amazon - S Thurston Reinm	Strimmer Wire	£ 27.52
I Av Sheds	P/House Shed deposit	£ 400.00
FIC Payments		
PMG Schoolwear	Stock	£ 14.99
Faringdon Folly	Stock	£ 20.00
Faringdon Newspapers	Stock	£ 3.36
J Wharton	Agency	£ 9.95
Direct Debits		
Coop Bank	Credit Card	£ 409.77
Associated Networks	Web Hosting	£ 22.80
Fuel Card Services	Van / tractor Fuel	£ 21.60
O2	Council Mobiles x 4	£ 50.90
Mainstream	Phone	£ 73.66
CFCorporate	Photocopier lease	£ 178.45
PWLB	Loan Repayment	£ 2,370.92
Total Town Council Invoices		£32,175.92

12/4/17

Willes Close Lease

Cllr Wise PROPOSED that the Town Council offer the Sensory Garden Project a 25 year lease under the terms laid out in the draft and recommended by the Finance and Audit committee. This was SECONDED by Cllr Boulton and RESOLVED. It was further PROPOSED that Cllrs. Wise and Boulton be delegated to sign the lease, in the presence of the Town Clerk, on behalf on the Town Council. This was SECONDED and RESOLVED.

13/4/17

Bloor Homes Donation

(a) Cllr. Leniec PROPOSED that up to £30,000 be released from the £50,000 Bloor Homes donation, that is currently held in earmarked reserves, for the following purposes:

1. Up to £10,000 for the purchase of cinema chairs for the Corn Exchange
2. Up to £20,000 for a replacement floor in the Corn Exchange.

This was SECONDED by Cllr Wise and RESOLVED.

A capital grant of £5,220 was received from VWHDC for this project.

(b) Members considered the following quotes, as recommended by Finance and Audit Committee:

- i. Corn Exchange Replacement Floor

Cllr. Middleton PROPOSED that the Quote for £22,771.66 be accepted. This was SECONDED by Cllr. Beesley and RESOLVED.

- ii. Cinema Chairs

Members considered samples from Alpha furniture. It was PROPOSED that authority to select the appropriate chairs up to a cost of £10,000 be delegated to the Clerk in conjunction with the Leisure Services staff, following testing of the samples by both staff and community members for a variety of purposes. This was SECONDED and RESOLVED.

14/4/17

Children's Centre

(a) Members received and NOTED an update. Cllr. Greenwood PROPOSED that measures were put in place to determine future funding and to ensure that the charity had clear guidance from the council and community. This was SECONDED and RESOLVED.

It was further PROPOSED that the Children's Centre steering board write a draft set of objectives and present them to council for consideration in the next 6 months. This was RESOLVED.

(b) It was PROPOSED that the Chairman of Faringdon Town Council act as a trustee for the Charitable Incorporated Organisation that will provide the Children's Centre. This was SECONDED and RESOLVED.

15/4/17

Policies

It was PROPOSED that the following draft policies be APPROVED this was SECONDED and RESOLVED.

(a) Training and Development Policy

(b) Treasury and Investment Policy

16/4/17

Unitary Proposals

Members discussed the unitary proposals proposed by Oxfordshire County Council. Cllr. Middleton PROPOSED that a letter be written to the Secretary of State informing him that Faringdon Town Council felt that there was not enough conclusive evidence on the impact of a unitary authority to make an informed decision on their position. The Council were in favour of simplified local services, however, were concerned that the larger workload of fewer councillors would excluded working members of the community from standing, thus, leading to more career politicians who were disjointed from local issues. This was SECONDED and CARRIED.

17/4/17

Live Nativity Play 2017

Members received a PROPOSAL to assist in the organisation of a joint community project to hold a live nativity play in the Market Place on Friday 8th December 2017. It was PROPOSED that a budget of up to £500 be allocated to the project for administration. This was SECONDED and CARRIED.

18/4/17

Items for Information Only

Members were informed of the following activities:

- FTC organised a stall to promote the Town Centre across the opening weekend of the new retail park.
- FTC organised a Book Week event in the Old Town Hall
- FTC organised a Litter Pick that took place on 5th March
- Clerk and Deputy attended SLCC Practitioners' Conference
- Deputy and Trainee Clerk attended War Memorial Training
- Dementia Training was held for staff and councillors.
- Cllr Beesley and the Clerk met with Bromsgrove Day Centre to discuss funding cuts.
- The Deputy Town Clerk has passed the Introduction to Local Council Administration.
- Lou smith from the Pump House Project had been awarded a High Sheriff's Award and the project had been put forward for a Queen's Award.
- Wantage Independent Advice would be offering a fortnightly drop in surgery from March 17th 1.30 to 3.30pm in the Pump House.

19/4/17

Correspondence

Members received and NOTED, for information only, correspondence up to and including 8th March 2017.