

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

The Pump House, Market Place, FARINGDON,
Oxfordshire, SN7 7HL

Telephone 01367 240281 Fax 01367 240303

www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Clerk: Sally Thurston



Minutes of a Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 9th March 2016 at 7.15pm in the Jubilee Room, the Pump House, Faringdon.

PRESENT: Cllrs. **Mike Wise (Chairman and Town Mayor)**
David Barron
Mark Greenwood
James Famakin
Angela Finn
Steve Leniec
Andrew Marsden
Patrick Middleton

In Attendance: **Liz Billson, Assistant Town Clerk**
Mark Blatch, Faringdon Chamber of Commerce

Before the meeting began, the Mayor noted the sad news of the death of George Martin. It was AGREED that a letter of condolence be sent from the Town Council.

- 1/4/16** **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from Cllrs. Ian Bell, Jane Boulton, Al Cane, Julie Farmer, Alex Meredith and David Price, D/Cllrs. Mohinder Kainth and Roger Cox and C/Cllr. Judith Heathcoat.
- 2/4/16** **Minutes of last meeting:** Wednesday 10th February 2016.
The minutes were signed as a correct record of the meeting.
- 3/4/16** **Declarations of Interest**
No declarations of interest were made at this time.
- 4/4/16** **Public Question Time**
None received.
- 5/4/16** **Public Speaking Time**
No one wished to speak at this time.

- 6/4/16 Reports from Outside Bodies**
- (a) Thames Valley Police – no report was available.
Cllr. Leniec expressed regret that a representative of Thames Valley Police was not present to discuss reports of an assault on a visitor to the town, which he understood had taken place recently in the town centre.
 - (b) Town Team – no report was available.
 - (c) Chamber of Commerce – a report was received from Mark Blatch, President, which was NOTED.
- 7/4/16 County Councillor’s Report**
Members received a written report from County Cllr. Judith Heathcoat which was NOTED.
- 8/4/16 District Councillors’ Report**
Members received a written report from District Cllrs. Roger Cox and Mohinder Kainth which was NOTED.
It was NOTED that the Fernham Fields appeal had been allowed, with the planning obligation for affordable housing removed for 3 years. It was AGREED that the Clerk be asked to write to the Chief Executive and Leader of VWHDC, requesting more information and expressing concern regarding the implications for provision of affordable housing.
- 9/4/16 Chairman’s Activity Report**
Members NOTED a written activity report from Town Mayor, Cllr. Mike Wise.
Cllr Wise drew members’ attention to a meeting which would be taking place in the Corn Exchange on 8/4/16, on the subject of refugees, and to the Royal British Legion Dinner Dance on 15/4/16, also in the Corn Exchange.
- 10/4/16 Reports from Committees**
Members received and NOTED reports of the following committee meetings, *including decisions taken under delegated authority*:
- (a) *Planning and Highways* 16th February
 - (b) *Venues* 2nd March
- 11/4/16 To appoint deputies to the following joint committees:**
- (a) *Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee*
It was AGREED that Cllr. Mike Wise would act as deputy
 - (b) *Town Team*
It was AGREED that Cllr. Andrew Marsden would act as deputy.
- 12/4/16 Clerk’s Report & Schedule of Payments**
Members received the following schedule of payments up to and including 9th March 2016:

Cllr. Marsden PROPOSED that the above bills be authorised for payment. This was SECONDED by Cllr. Leniec and CARRIED.

13/4/16 Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Marsden informed members that the previous independent examiner had declined to examine the Plan a second time, and a shortlist of alternative examiners was therefore awaited from VWHDC. The FNP Working Party would be producing a positive statement on the value of the Plan, to be approved by the Planning and Highways Committee and then Council. It was AGREED that the Clerk be asked to write a letter to the Secretary of State explaining the difficulties that Faringdon has faced during the process.

14/4/16 Devolution of Services

Members considered an update from OCC on the Oxfordshire Together proposals. Concern was expressed regarding the lack of detailed information in many areas of the proposals. A meeting of the Strategic Working Party would be called once all the information had been received.

15/4/16 Unitary Authority Proposals

Members received and considered letters from OCC and VWHDC. Concern was expressed that a power struggle between the County and District Councils would only waste scarce time and resources.

16/4/16 Items for Information Only

- The Assistant Town Clerk gave an update on the move of the offices from the Corn Exchange to the Pump House. The Information Centre was open to the public, but the telephone and internet services had not yet been connected.
- An email had been sent by the Town Clerk to OCC regarding bus subsidies.

17/4/16 Correspondence

The correspondence box was not available for this meeting.