

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

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

Telephone 01367 240281

www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Clerk: Sally Thurston



Minutes of the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING held on MONDAY 21st May 2018 at 7.30pm in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon

In attendance:	<p>Cllrs: David Barron (Town Mayor) Kiera Bentley (Deputy Town Mayor) Jane Boulton Al Cane Julie Farmer Andrew Marsden Mike Wise Anne Marie Wright</p> <p>D/Cllr. Roger Cox</p> <p>22 Members of the public</p> <p>Staff Present: Sally Thurston – Town Clerk Rebekah Pugh – Deputy Town Clerk Liz Billson – Assistant Town Clerk Adele Vincent – Information Centre Supervisor</p>
1.	<p>Mayor's Opening Address</p> <p>Cllr. David Barron welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited outgoing Mayor, Cllr. Mike Wise, to give an opening address which highlighted activities in the town over the last twelve months. Cllr. Mike Wise's address is available on the Town Council Website and as an annex to the minutes.</p> <p>Cllr. Barron made a presentation to Cllr. Mike Wise who was thanked for his many years of dedicated service to the Town.</p> <p>Cllr. Barron highlighted some projects that are planned over the next twelve months, in addition to normal services, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Community Engagement Project to try and implement wishes of the Town first raised during the Neighbourhood Plan process.○ Linking groups within the community to gain an overall view of what is happening in the town.○ Support 'The Place' Children and Family Project to implement a programme of sessions○ Support the Town Centre – a new Town Centre Development Officer in post. 5000+ leaflets have been delivered to surrounding Tourist Information Centres and attractions in the last month.○ Launch the Faringdon Museum in the Information Centre, FTC are working with the Company Curator and Buscot House on our first exhibition to open on 18th August 2018

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heritage Day – 15th September 2018 ○ Launch the Youth Grants programme ○ A programme of events to commemorate the end of WW1 to include an exhibition, remembrance parade, beacon lighting and dinner. ○ Become a refillable water friendly Town ○ Town Tidy team will continue their excellent work ○ To investigate CCTV for the Town Centre ○ Aim to achieve the Gold Standard award for local councils <p>Cllr. Barron informed the meeting that the Town Council will be holding a Strategic Working Party meeting on May 30th and invited ideas during Public discussion to help inform the strategic plan for 21018/19.</p>
2.	<p>Apologies for Absence The following apologies were received and NOTED: T/Cllrs. Angela Finn and Steve Leniec C/Cllr. Judith Heathcoat Sgt. Kevin Hickman Wantage Independent Advice Centre Tim Gerry – Faringdon Rotary Sally Robins - Faringdon Infant School Malcolm Gee - PAD Committee. Hilary Sherman – Faringdon Town Council Planning Clerk</p>
3.	<p>Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 22nd January 2018 The minutes were signed as a correct record.</p>
4.	<p>Matters Arising Cllr. Barron informed the meeting that items from the last meeting regarding highways would be taken to the Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee meeting in June. The meeting in March was cancelled due to bad weather.</p>
5.	<p>Reports The following reports were received and NOTED.</p> <p>Copies of written reports are available on the Town Council website, from the Town Council office and as an annex to the minutes.</p> <p>1) Town Council Committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Finance and Audit – Cllr. Steve Leniec b. Planning and Highways- Cllr. Andrew Marsden c. Facilities – Cllr. Jane Boulton d. Communities and Partnerships – Cllr. Al Cane updated the meeting on the new youth grants that were available for groups that provide a facility for young people. Application packs were available at the meeting and were available from the Information Centre and the Town Council website. <p>2) Trusts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Tucker’s Recreation Ground Trust – Cllr. Jane Boulton b. Faringdon War Memorial Trust - Cllr. David Barron

- 3) County Councillor's Report – C/Cllr. Judith Heathcoat
- 4) District Councillors' Report – D/Cllr. Roger Cox
- 5) Reports from Local Organisations
 1. Folly Trust – *the need for volunteers was highlighted*
 2. Faringdon United Charity – *questions were raised regarding the level of reserves and grants given. It was explained that a new website had been launched and residents were encouraged to spread the word.*
 3. Faringdon Fire Station – *All firefighters at Faringdon are part time and have other jobs, residents were encouraged to apply.*
 4. Wantage Independent Advice Centre
 5. The Place
 6. Chamber of Commerce
 7. PAD Committee
 8. Faringdon Community Bus
 9. Twinning Association
 10. Beer Society
 11. Royal British Legion
 12. Clean Slate
 13. Folly Fest
 14. Whist Drive
 15. Citizens Advice Bureau
 16. Faringdon Rotary Club – *Faringdon would be a priority for grants in 2018. The community were encouraged to apply for funding by visiting the website or contacting any member of Faringdon Rotary. It was hoped that the small Christmas trees would once again be installed by the Rotary Club.*
 17. Be Free Young Careers
 18. Farcycles
 19. Faringdon Infant School

All the groups were thanked for their positive contribution to the life of the town.

- 7. Public Speaking Time and General Discussion**
- The Council were asked for an update on Heritage Day and the Hare Trail. Organisation for Heritage Day has just begun. The event would be held on 15th September 2018, public buildings would be open, and a variety of exhibitions and trails would take place around the Town. The Hare Trail is not a Town Council project, but it is understood that 3 giant hares have been painted and would be placed around the Town as well as several small hares. The organiser is appealing for help with fixing the hares in place.
 - There was concern about the decline in the Town Centre with the closure of Budgens, the bank and the loss of an ATM. There had been a petition regarding the use of the Budgens site. Cllr. Barron explained that the Town Council shared the residents' concern, but unfortunately had no powers to dictate business activity in the Town. Cllr. Cox explained that the Budgens premise was commercial and not under the Council's remit. However, he had met with a facilitator in his role as Chair of the Town Team, who was assessing options. Cllr. Farmer was asked if there had been any progress following meetings held by businesses, unfortunately there had been low interest and few ideas had come forward to improve the centre, however, some community members were trying to reinstate and regenerate the Saturday markets.

	<p>A member of the public felt that Faringdon needed a joined up and consistent message promoting its heritage where the council and businesses worked together. There are lots of activities in the town, but they are not joined up. Folly Fest extended an open invitation for any groups to take part in the festival and use the event to promote Faringdon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was concern about the increasing parking problem in the Town, particularly as the Town is increasing in size rapidly. Police are responsible for parking enforcement in our area, but it is a low priority for them. Cllr. Cox was asked if the VWHDC would reconsider decriminalizing parking. It was explained that there are many factors to consider in Abingdon, Wantage and Faringdon as this was a complicated issue. Cllr. Cox informed the meeting that VWHDC officers were reviewing the issue and he would report back any findings or activity.
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The Meeting closed at: 9.05pm