

# **FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**

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Clerk: Sally Thurston



## **Minutes of the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING held on MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 7.30pm in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon**

<b>In attendance:</b>	<p>Cllrs: David Barron (Town Mayor) Kiera Bentley (Deputy Town Mayor) Al Cane Beverly Capewell Mark Greenwood Steve Leniec Andrew Marsden Bethia Thomas Mike Wise</p> <p>PC Tom Prior</p> <p>5 Members of the public</p> <p>Staff Present: Sally Thurston – Town Clerk Liz Billson – Assistant Town Clerk</p>
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Mayor's Opening Address</b></p> <p>Cllr. David Barron welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the format for the meeting and explained that the meeting was intended to give the electorate of Faringdon the opportunity to propose how they would like the Faringdon Town Council Budget to look in 2019 /2020. The meeting was also an opportunity for members of the public to bring things to the Councillors and to capture what people want and feed this into the system.</p> <p>Cllr. Barron PROPOSED that Cllr. Leniec, a resident of Eaton Hastings, be invited to join the meeting as Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee, as this was AGREED.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>T/Cllr Jane Boulton, D/Cllr. Roger Cox</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the Town Meeting held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018</b></p> <p>The minutes were signed as a correct record.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Town Council Budget and Precept for 2019/20</b></p> <p>a) The meeting received a presentation from the Mayor and committee Chairmen on the DRAFT budget proposal following the initial budget meetings. There will be another round of budget meetings in January where proposals will be re-considered, amended and finalised. All meetings are open to the public and are held in the Jubilee Room at 7.15pm as follows: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January – Community and Partnerships and Facilities Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January – Finance and Audit.</p>

	<p>The final proposal will be considered and agreed at Full Council on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019.</p> <p>It was NOTED that the budget included an estimated cost of £7000 for an election in May 2019. Cllr. Leniec encouraged those present to spread the word to ensure that Faringdon had a contested election.</p> <p>It was NOTED that the DRAFT proposal for the precept request for 2019/20, at this initial stage, is £370,711. This included a capital project to improve the Christmas lights to the value of £4,300. It was explained that the Tax base for 2019/20 had not yet been received from the District Council. Using last year's Tax base figure this precept request would equate to a cost of £135.53 for a Band D property, an increase of less than 2%.</p> <p>b) Suggestions were invited from residents. It was felt that there were some excellent things happening, but many people didn't know about them. It was suggested publicity could be improved particularly for those not using Facebook or the internet. This was NOTED.</p>
7.	<p><b>Public Speaking Time and General Discussion</b></p> <p>A member of the public had contacted a Councillor informing them that they wanted to start a youth drop in to try and combat anti—social behaviour.</p> <p>A councillor had been given a petition from shop keepers requesting CCTV in the Town to combat ASB. The Mayor explained that the Council had investigated the provision of CCTV fully and discovered that they were not able to meet the considerable costs or provide the staffing to ensure the strict legislation was adhered too. The petition would be passed to the Crime Commissioners Office.</p> <p>Antisocial behaviour was a considerable concern for those present. There was lengthy discussion regarding the adverse effect this was having on the whole town. It was felt that an increased police presence was the best way to address the problem.</p> <p>PC Tom Prior gave an overview of what the Neighbourhood police team are doing to combat the issue. There are now 4 PCSOs and 2 PCs in the team, with the possibility of a further PCSO next year, and they have been operating increased patrols, which are supported by Wantage when necessary. Letters have been sent to parents of the large group of young people who are regularly causing problems. Key individuals would be visited to encourage them to follow the rules. There are currently between 10 and 15 live investigations into ASB in Faringdon. The NPT are working in partnership with the Community College, Town Council and other stakeholders to try and tackle the issue. Members of the public were encouraged to assist the NPT by reporting any ASB and sharing police posts on Facebook. PC Prior would also look into setting up a WhatsApp group to be managed by shop keepers to share issues, this had worked well for rural crime. This was NOTED with thanks.</p>

**The Meeting closed at: 9.20pm**