



Sally's Summary your Town Clerk Sally Thurston, summarises recent meetings below. Please see our website for detailed minutes:

Finance Committee – 8th January 2024

A report showing visitor numbers and sales highlighted that the Information Centre continues to serve the community and visitors well.

The committee carefully considered all **budgets for 2024/2025 and made a recommendation for both budget and precept** (the town councils' portion of Council Tax) to the Full Council meeting on 15th January.

A grant of £1,500 was awarded to Root & Branch to assist in their running costs in supporting Faringdon residents. Root and Branch is a charity who helps people experiencing mental health difficulties in the Vale of White Horse.



It was agreed that the **Mayor's Chain would be improved** and engraved with past mayors to ensure the town's history is preserved within the regalia. A Deputy Mayor's badge will be purchased in line with other towns.

Full Council – 15th January 2024

The **2024/25 budgets were approved**. Detailed budgets can be found on our website under the Finance section.

A precept of £535,283 was agreed. Increased costs of utilities, staff and other items has meant that each committee needed to work hard to ensure that the charge to residents is as low as possible, whilst ensuring that the current services were delivered and maintained.

For residents the annual charge from Faringdon Town Council (FTC) for a **Band D property will be £157.03. This is a weekly increase of 14p (4.9%)**. We hope residents feel that we offer good value for money. A list of our services is available on our website or from the Information Centre. Any comments to please email: office@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk.

District Cllr. Edwards highlighted that the Vale of White Horse District Council (VoWHDC) are undertaking a consultation on the **new Local Plan**, which closes on 21st February. The VoWHDC team will be in Faringdon on 6th February 2024. Residents can also respond online here: <https://theconversation.southandvale.gov.uk/jlp/>.

Upcoming Council meetings – all are welcome!

You can join remotely online or attend in person. Details and links are on our website: www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk.

Dates for upcoming Council meetings are as follows:

Full Council	12th February 2024
Trusts	19th February 2024
Planning and Highways	26th February 2024
Community and Partnerships	4th March 2024
Full Council	11th March 2024



Faringdon Town Council Community Awards will be voted for and presented during 2024.

We hope that the awards will raise public morale and help to encourage good community spirit, as well as recognising positive aspects of our community. There are five awards, all for services to the community.

Community Hero Award

The Clive Davis Community Hero Award is an award given to an individual member of the community who has made a difference to the lives of others, going above and beyond the call of duty.

Group Award

There are many groups in Faringdon of various types. This award is open to any group, be that sporting, hobby, church, educational, or indeed any group of people who meet on a regular basis. The group award nominations should be for groups that enrich and improve the lives of their members or the wider community.

Business Award

Any business in Faringdon is eligible for nomination. Nominated businesses should have contributed to the community in some way ideally be a business that shows commitment to the town and its residents.

Community Volunteer Award

The Rick Ebsworth Community Volunteer Award is an individual award given to a member of the community for voluntary service.

Environmental Champion Award

Awarded to an individual who is working hard to improve the environment and raise awareness of environmental issues.

How can I nominate?

Nominations can be made by using the online nomination form on our website or by posting your nomination in the ballot box in the Information Centre. Please state the reasons for your nomination as awards will be shortlisted using this information.

Important dates

Deadline for nomination is 1st March 2024 by 4pm. Those shortlisted by an independent panel will be put to the public vote between 18th March and 12th April 2024.

Winners will be announced at the Town Meeting on 1st May 2024.

Faringdon Community Larder

Community Larder is a membership programme that provides surplus food from wholesalers and supermarkets with the aim of reducing food waste.



It is the perfect opportunity to help reduce food waste and save money on your food bills.

Community Larder is held every Tuesday in the Corn Exchange from 2:30pm to 4pm; come along to find out more or contact adele@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk for more information.

If you would like us to feature an event on Faringdon Town Council website calendar please contact events@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk



Thank you to all of the residents who bought charity Christmas cards from the Information Centre. Once again these were very popular and we sold over £5,000 worth of cards!

New signs about town



Look out for new signs dotted about town, appearing at the Pump House, Clos Mélois Boules Court and adorning a bus stop near you!

Christmas Lights 2023



Photo by Adele Vincent

The town looked wonderful this year. The Christmas lights were funded by FTC and the large tree was installed by Faringdon Rotary Club with sponsorship by The Advertiser Magazine. The big switch on event, on 2nd December 2023, was a success and it was lovely to see so many businesses benefiting from the custom of the residents who turned out to support the event. Children

enjoyed the free rides provided by FTC and the community supported the stalls, raising money for local organisations. Thank you to the local choirs and musicians for adding to the Christmas atmosphere with their music and to The Elms Primary children for singing. A special thanks to Rachel Williams for organising all of the music. Thank you to the Rotary Club for providing the perfect Father Christmas grotto and bringing along the ever popular Thomas! Thank you also to The Advertiser for their sponsorship. Date for your diaries: Christmas Lights Switch on this year will be **30th November 2024!**

Newly qualified CiLCA Officers at FTC

Congratulations to our Facilities and Services Officer Sarah Johnson (top photo) and Marketing and Communities Officer Liza Whitney (bottom photo) for passing their Certificate in Local Council Administration. This year-long course tests an individual on the broad knowledge of all aspects of a clerk's work. This qualification will be invaluable in their roles going forward.



REINTRODUCING COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

Chat to your local town councillors

When? Saturday 3rd Feb, 10am-12 midday

Where? Museum, Faringdon Town Council offices, The Pump House

