

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th September 2008 in the Old Town Hall, Market Place, Faringdon

PRESENT: Cllrs. J.C.W. Gillman (Town Mayor)
Mrs. M.J. Barker (Deputy Mayor)
Mrs. J. Boulton
J. Boyle
Ms J.C. Farmer
A.V. Hickmore
D. Hughes
S. Leniec

In Attendance: C/Cllr. Mrs. J. Heathcoat
D/Cllr. Mrs. A. Thomson
1 Member of Public
1 Member of the Press
The Town Clerk & Assistant Clerk

131/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. R. Cox, A. Marsden, N. O'Keefe, D. Price and M. Wise.

132/08 Council Vacancy : Co-option of New Member

No candidates came forward to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Cllr. Mrs. S. Vinall.

133/08 Minutes of last meeting : 9th July 2008

The Minutes were signed as a correct record.

134/08 Matters Arising & Action List

It was NOTED that all actions from previous meetings were complete and there were no other matters arising.

135/08 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

136/08 Public Question Time & Public Speaking Time

No questions had been received and the member of public present did not wish to speak.

137/08 County Councillor's Report

C/Cllr. Mrs. Heathcoat had tabled a written report, which was NOTED.

138/08 District Councillors' Report

In his absence, Cllr. Cox had submitted a written report, which was NOTED.

D/Cllr. Mrs. Thomson gave a verbal report, during which she expressed her disappointment that the Vale's Chief Executive had been unsuccessful in his bid to take on the role of joint CEO to run both the South Oxfordshire and Vale District Councils. Cllr. Leniec proposed that the Clerk should write to Mr. Stock thanking him for all his support over the years and stated that Faringdon owed a debt of gratitude to Mr. Stock. The proposal was seconded and CARRIED.

D/Cllr. Mrs. Thomson challenged the accuracy of the figures quoted in the Town Council's Development Strategy Plan in relation to the number of new houses recommended in the SE Regional Spatial Plan. Cllr. Hickmore pointed out that D/Cllr. Mrs. Thomson's information was out of date and stated that he was content with the accuracy of the figures in the Council document.

139/08 Chairman's Activity Report

The Mayor gave a verbal report, during which he highlighted racial abuse by teenagers targeted at the Rainbow Fish and Chip shop in London Street. He expressed his opinion that the Police had offered little support and seemed disinterested in the evidence. Cllr. Leniec expressed his concern and stated that Faringdon had become a multi national town and all other races should be supported as they were doing a splendid job for the town. He suggested that the Council should adopt a zero tolerance approach to racism and that a letter should be sent to the Police urging them to give the problem a higher priority. C/Cllr. Mrs. Heathcoat asked for a copy of any letter sent.

140/08 Reports from Committees

Planning & Highways : 15th July, 5th August, 26th August

The Minutes were NOTED.

Venues: 22nd July & 9th September : The Minutes were NOTED.

Recreation & Open Spaces: 16th July : The Minutes were NOTED.

Finance: 23rd July

Cllr. Leniec proposed that the decisions made under Min. Nos. 45/08, 48/08(a) and (b) and 50/08(a) and (b) be approved, which was seconded and CARRIED, and the Minutes were NOTED. Cllr. Leniec then gave a report on the meeting held with Vale Officers regarding the Corn Exchange lease and the closure of the Cash Office, during which he stated that the Vale were carrying out a survey of their property portfolio and were unable to commit to a renewal of the lease at the present time. It was NOTED that Cllr. Cox was attempting to arrange a meeting with the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder responsible for property matters with a view to discussing these issues.

141/08 Clerk's Report & Schedule of Payments

Cllr. Hickmore declared an interest in this item and left the meeting while it was being discussed.

1. The following bills had already been paid in accordance with S/Order No. 77 and required retrospective authorization.

Davis Home Centre	Miscellaneous items	49.25
Gold Dust Commercial	Office cleaning	299.00
	Pump House/TIC cleaning	100.00
Mr. T. Wheeler	Bus shelter cleaning	120.00

Mr. J. Barnes	C/Ex window cleaning	95.00
Three Counties Business Machines	Photocopier charges	73.16
VWHDC	Pump House Council Tax	342.00
VWHDC	Dog bin servicing charges	243.64
Cotswold Coolers	Bottled water	14.10
M.R.H. Services	Removal of damaged swing ó Oakwood	106.00
VWHDC	Planning application Fee ó Lechlade Rd.	85.00
Cllr. J.C.W. Gillman	Mayor's Allowance	750.00
Cllr. A. Hickmore	Attendance Fee ó Tribunal (underpaid) & Summer Seminar	24.00 35.20
Darbys Solicitors	Legal Fees ó Proposed Music Centre	301.98
Southern Electric	Electricity charges : Corn Exchange Pump House	957.47 222.80
Chubb Electronic Security	Bar Alarm service charges	139.71
Faringdon Whist Drive	Grant ó Local Govt. (Misc. Provisions) Act 1976	332.00
Kidde Fire Protection	Pump House fire alarm service charge	83.43
Imprest Wages A/c	Salaries for July + £1,000 top-up	11896.37

Direct Debits

(a) British Gas Business : The Corn Exchange gas payment plan had a credit balance of £40.33 on 4th July 2008 after the inclusion of £2973.03 charges (6 months), which require authorisation.

(b) British Telecom	Telephone charges : Fax Line	50.74
	T.I.C. Line	62.40
	Hall phone	49.00
(c) Thames Water	Water charges : Corn Exchange	184.68
	Pump House	26.48
	Tucker Park Pavilion	98.55

TOTAL F.T.C. INVOICES

16741.96

F.C. & T.I.C. Invoices:

Photographic Heritage	Stock Purchases ó gifts	152.02
Simplyicons	Stock Purchases ó Tshirts and fleeces	276.15
Piercing Glance	Stock purchases ó Tshirts	421.71
Faringdon Historical Soc.	Stock purchases ó Books	58.18

Agency Sales:

R.A.F. Charitable Trust Ent.	Ticket Sales ó Fairford Air Tattoo	1674.00
J. Wharton	Card sales	21.00
M. Nairne	Artist of the Month Sales	90.00
M. Godilman	Artist of the Month Sales (July)	48.83
West End Theatre Managers	Ticket Sales	103.54
Faringdon Comm. Bus	Ticket Sales ó July	268.00

TOTAL F.C. & T.I.C. INVOICES (Aug.)

3113.43

2. The following bills required authorization in the normal way.

Gold Dust Commercial	Office cleaning	299.00
	Pump House/TIC cleaning	125.00
Mr. T. Wheeler	Bus shelter cleaning	60.00
Three Counties Business Machines	Photocopier charges	36.15
VWHDC	Pump House Council Tax	342.00
VWHDC	C/Ex service charges (2006/07)	3030.53
Faringdon Newspapers	T.I.C. Advertising	33.61
Darbys Solicitors	Legal fees for Bar Franchise agreement	622.75
K & S Services	Removal of items from Pump House (insurance requirement)	850.00
Trade Services (Landscaping)	Churchyard maintenance	569.87
R. Peacock	Pump House wall repairs	40.00
WGS Power & Lighting	Anchor testing fee	763.75
Biffa Waste Services	Quarterly waste disposal charge	317.11
Able Group UK	C/Ex window repair	105.75
Viking Direct	Stationery	113.68
MorethanIT	New computer system	941.18
The National Trust	Allotment Rent (1/2 year)	147.50
Performing Right Society	Royalties Fees 2008/09	765.00
Imprest Wages A/c	Salaries for August (inc. £60 P/Cash)	10558.37

Grants:

The following grant is made under S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 and is recommended by the Finance Committee.

Bromsgrove Day Centre	300.00
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TOTAL F.T.C. INVOICES (Sept.) 20,081.07

F.C. & T.I.C. Invoices

Tourism South East	Stock purchases	135.99
The National Trust	Stock purchases	25.00
Simplyicons	Stock purchases	86.71
Buckstop	Stock purchases of 2009 Calendars	444.15
Royal Mail	Purchase of stamps	310.78
African Children's Fund	Stock purchases	10.00

Agency Sales

N. Whale	Hand made Cards	4.10
Faringdon Community Bus	Ticket Sales (Weeks 18-22)	212.75

TOTAL F.C. & T.I.C. INVOICES 1229.48

The Chairman proposed that the bills in Sections 1 and 2 above be approved for payment, which was seconded by Cllr. Leniec and CARRIED.

142/08 Motions Under Notice:

1. Proposer: Cllr. A. Hickmore Seconder: Cllr. S. Leniec
In order to improve Council communications and community sustainability, Council resolves to adopt the following motion:

1. Communications

1.1 Newsletter

- 1.1.i. The Council will produce a newsletter at least 4 times each year.
- 1.1.ii. The content of the newsletter will be provided by the chair of each committee after consultation with the committee members.
- 1.1.iii. Any other content may be provided by individual members or officers but will be subject to the Town Clerk accepting it. The Town Clerk will not reject any copy except on the grounds of:
 - a) Doubts as to legality
 - b) Available space
 - c) Decency
 - d) Bringing the Council or Councillor(s) into disrespect.
- 1.1.iv. The newsletter will be sent to all Faringdon Towns people, Designated Town organisations, the County Councillor, all members of Vale of White Horse District Council, the Chief Executive of Vale of White Horse District Council.

1.2 Website.

- 1.2.i. The Council will set up a new web site by 1st October 2008.
- 1.2.ii. The web site will have an interactive element. This will be monitored by the Town Clerk.
- 1.2.iii. After consultation with the Town Clerk, each committee chair will submit to the website the activities and future plans of the relevant committee after each meeting.

1.3 Communications with local voluntary groups.

- 1.3.i. The Council will contact voluntary groups in Faringdon and ask that they invite the relevant chairs of committees to attend occasional meetings of their group.
- 1.3.ii. Each chair of committees will make themselves available to attend at least 2 different voluntary group meetings each year.
- 1.3.iii. The chairs of committees will report back to their relevant committees on the discussions that took place when they visited local voluntary groups as representatives of the Council.

2. Development of community sustainability.

2.1 Town Council will suggest a change in the constitution and methodology of the Joint Economic Forum for Faringdon. As:

- a. The JEFF should become the main forum for the coordination of activities and the transfer of information between the VWHDC, FTC and voluntary groups in the Town.
- b. All voluntary groups should be asked whether they want to be represented.
- c. The agenda of JEFF will in future concentrate on the attending voluntary groups, the VWHDC and FTC presenting their plans and objectives (on specific and general topics) so that the other groups are informed and if necessary can offer help.
- d. The FTC representatives on JEFF will discuss the Council position on all relevant issues before each JEFF meeting in order that they are seen to be clearly putting the FTC position.
- e. The FTC representatives on JEFF will report back to FTC on the activities of voluntary groups, how we can help, how they can help us and how the coordinating function of JEFF is working.

3. Elections

3.1 As a principle, Faringdon Town Council will seek to promote contested elections for both bye-elections and statutory elections.

3.1.i. To achieve this objective the Council will:

- a. Advertise elections in the local press where this is possible in the prescribed timescale.
- b. Produce an election pack that will inform the Townspeople:
 - How to apply for election
 - The duties of Town councillors
 - What the Town Council does
 - Statutory requirements.

This pack will form the basis for the advertisements and posters.

- c. All elections will be advertised on at least 4 sites within the Town.

4. Governance

Faringdon Town Council will set itself an objective to achieve "Quality Council" status by March 2010.

The Motion was CARRIED.

2. Proposer: Cllr. A. Hickmore Seconder: Cllr. J.C.W. Gillman
Council and all Committees will publish draft Minutes when issuing Agendas for members of the public. Draft Minutes will also be published on the web site as soon as possible after each meeting. Draft Minutes will be clearly marked as such.
The Motion was CARRIED.

143/08 Oxfordshire 2030 – A partnership plan for improving quality of life in Oxfordshire

Council were invited to comment on the proposals set out in a consultation document closing date for comments 22nd September 2008. In his absence, Cllr. Wise had submitted his comments, which were NOTED. Cllr. Hickmore expressed his concern at the constitution of the Oxfordshire 2030 Partnership and suggested they were an undemocratic body. Cllr. Hickmore was delegated to send a response on behalf of the Council, based on Cllr. Wise's comments, to comply with the deadline.

144/08 Oxfordshire Radcliffe Hospitals – Proposal to become a Foundation Trust

In his absence, Cllr. Marsden had submitted his recommended response to the consultation document, which he suggested needed no comment from the Council as it was clearly of more concern to individuals. It was AGREED that no response should be sent, but Cllr. Marsden was thanked for his clear and concise précis of the document.

145/08 Future Medical Cover for community Hospitals

Council were invited to consider proposals for future medical cover in Community Hospitals and Intermediate Care beds in Care Homes. In his absence, Cllr. Wise had submitted his comments and the Clerk was asked to send a response on behalf of the Council based on Cllr. Wise's comments.

146/08 A Development Strategy for Faringdon 2008-2026.

On behalf of the Planning & Highways Committee, Cllr. Hickmore tabled a paper to be submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council to aid its spatial planning. He asked the Council to consider the following:

1. To accept the document marked 2008-2020 as a basic consultation document.
2. To send the document to organizations in the town with a covering letter, which Cllr. Hickmore read to the meeting. In conjunction with the District and Town Councils, Cllr. Hickmore would decide which organizations would receive the letter.
3. To agree that the procedure outlined in the letter should be followed
4. The document to be posted on the Council's new web site.

It was proposed, seconded and CARRIED to agree with Cllr. Hickmore's recommendations.

147/08 Recreation & Open Spaces Committee

In view of the small number of members on this Committee, Council were asked to consider appointing additional members. Current membership: Cllrs. Mrs. J. Boulton (Chairman), Mrs. M.J. Barker, J.C.W. Gillman, A.V. Hickmore and S. Leniec. Cllr. Hughes agreed to serve on the Committee, and his appointment was AGREED. The Clerk was asked to invite other members absent from this meeting to consider joining the Committee.

148/08 Correspondence

The correspondence was NOTED. The Clerk drew attention to the notification that the Wantage Independent Advice Centre had recently received the Queens Jubilee Award for Voluntary Service, and she was asked to send a letter of congratulations to them on their achievement.