

ON TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT:

Cllrs. J.C.W. Gillman (Town Mayor)
Mrs. J. Boulton
Ms J.C. Farmer
A.V. Hickmore
D. Hughes
D.B. Keeble
S. Leniec
A. Marsden
N.S. O'Keeffe
D. Price
Dr. M. Wise

In Attendance:

C/Cllr. Mrs. J. Heathcoat
0 Members of Public
1 Member of the Press
The Town Clerk & Assistant Clerk

184/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Mrs. M. Barker and R. Cox.

185/08 Council Vacancy : Co-option of New Member

Mr. David Keeble, who had indicated his wish to become a member of the Council, was invited to give a short presentation about himself. Following this, Cllr. Gillman proposed that Mr. Keeble be co-opted, which was seconded by Cllr. Leniec and CARRIED. Cllr. Keeble then made his declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting. The Clerk was asked to include an item on the next Council Agenda to appoint Cllr. Keeble to Committees.

186/08 Minutes of last meeting : 12th November 2008

The Minutes were signed as a correct record.

187/08 Matters Arising & Action List

Min. 175/08(c): Cllr. O'Keeffe reported on his attendance earlier in the day at the meeting of Mr. Phillips' creditors. He stated that he was the only creditor in attendance and there had been some difficulty in appointing a Trustee of Bankruptcy. He stated that the Council would be informed in the next 14 days of the appointment of the Trustee. Cllr. O'Keeffe stated that the list of Mr. Phillips' assets did not include the lease on the Portwell Bar, and Council expressed concern at this news. Cllr. Leniec proposed that Cllr. O'Keeffe be nominated to

itors and that his expenses be reimbursed as an
and CARRIED.

Min. 183/08: Cllr. Leniec reported that the Finance Committee had recommended the funds remaining be transferred to Faringdon United Charities, and this had been conveyed to Mr. Jenkins.

188/08 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

189/08 Public Question Time

Cllr. Leniec referred to a letter sent to him by Mr. Nick Elwell, the Chairman of the Faringdon Chamber of Commerce, following the Finance Committee's decision to reject his application for a grant on behalf of Focus on Faringdon. The letter had been copied to all other members of Council, and Mr. Elwell had requested that the questions contained in his letter be dealt with under this heading.

Cllr. Leniec tabled a reply which he proposed to send to Mr. Elwell, which had been approved by the Finance Committee, and this was approved by the Council. The Clerk was asked to email Cllr. Leniec's reply to Mr. Elwell.

190/08 Public Speaking Time

The Clerk drew attention to a report tabled by Sgt. Maddison of Thames Valley Police, and this was NOTED. The Clerk was asked to thank Sgt. Maddison for his report.

Mr. Al Cane congratulated the Council on their new website and stated that he was looking forward to the Council's response to the Vale's Core Strategy. Cllr. Hickmore stated that a special meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee would be held in January to discuss the document and all organizations would be fully consulted.

191/08 County Councillor's Report

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

192/08 District Councillors' Report

D/Cllr. Cox had tabled a written report, which was NOTED.

193/08 Chairman's Activity Report

The Chairman gave a verbal report, which was NOTED.

194/08 Reports from Committees

Planning & Highways : 18th November and 9th December

The Minutes of 18th November were NOTED. Cllr. Leniec expressed his concern that another gated community was being proposed at 18 Coxwell Road, and asked the Committee to take a view on whether such proposals in the town should be supported. Cllr. Hickmore stated that, whilst the P&H Committee had objected, the Vale Planning Department were unable to identify any planning reasons for rejecting the application. Cllr. Hickmore asked the Clerk to include an item on the next P&H Committee Agenda to discuss this issue.

ed the damage to the neighbouring property and believed this was caused by bad drainage on the Pump House side. He expressed the opinion that the Council were liable for the repair and that the whole of the rear wall of the Pump House needed re-pointing and rendering as a matter of urgency.

Cllr. Leniec asked how many had attended the recent puppet show in the Corn Exchange. Cllr. Hickmore stated that the attendance was disappointingly low, however the show itself was enjoyed by all who had attended.

The Minutes were NOTED.

Recreation & Open Spaces : 25th November – The Minutes were NOTED.

Finance : 26th November

Cllr. Leniec proposed the approval of decisions made under Mins. 72/08, 76/08(a), and 82/08(a) and this was seconded and CARRIED. He asked all Committees to prioritise their capital projects at their next meetings, and warned that budget cuts would need to be made, particularly in the light of the current economic climate. He proposed to defer any report on Min. 83/08(a) to the end of the meeting and this was AGREED.

The Minutes of 26th November were NOTED.

Finance : 10th December

Cllr. Leniec reported on decisions made at the meeting held immediately prior to the Council meeting, as follows:

1. To release from Council reserves a sum of up to £5,000 to support a youth event to be held on 21st March 2009.
2. To release from Council reserves a sum of up to £500 to carry out repairs to two bus shelters recently vandalized.

Cllr. Keeble asked why the glass panels were not being replaced with other materials which would be resistant to vandalism, and Cllr. Wise explained that there was little saving in cost and it was more difficult to etch the Town Council logo.

The decisions outlined above were APPROVED.

Teenage Action Group : 30th October and 27th November

The Minutes of 30th October were NOTED. In Cllr. Boyle's absence, Cllr. Leniec stated that he welcomed the opportunity for Council to support the work of the Youth Service more closely.

195/08 Clerk's Report & Schedule of Payments

1. The following bills required authorization and payment.

Mr. T. Wheeler	Bus shelter cleaning	60.00
Mr. J. Barnes	C/Ex window cleaning	95.00
Three Counties Business Machines	Photocopier charges	59.64
VWHDC	Pump House Council Tax	342.00
Brian Miller	Repairs to Bar Sink Area	426.00
RBS Software Solutions	Accounts Software Maintenance Fee	230.00
	New Website Fees (inc. training)	

	of Hire Fees – Pump House	23.26
	House lift service charge	179.19
Biffa Waste Services Ltd.	Waste disposal charges	317.11
O.C.C.	Road Closure fees – 2008	1470.89
BDO Stoy Hayward LLP	Audit Fees 2007/08	1057.50
O.P.F.A.	Annual Subscription	65.00
S.L.C.C.	Annual Subscription	209.00
WGS Power & Lighting	Erection & maint. of Christmas lights	3818.75
Trade Services (Landscaping)	Grass cutting – Churchyard and parks	1474.61
Faringdon Garage	Van MOT and repairs	73.40
Buckstop Print Services	Stationery	65.80
Newsquest	Christmas Lights advertising	58.75
Viking Direct	Stationery	139.52
J.C.W. Gillman	Mayor's Allowance instalment	187.50
Sing Faringdon	S.145 Grant	525.00
WPS Insurance	Insurance premium for bus shelters	13.81
Faringdon Newspapers	Advertising	61.91
J. Rennie	Reimb. For Christmas tree lights	24.99
Faringdon Chamber of Commerce	Supply of Christmas trees	72.00
Imprest Wages A/c	November salaries (inc. £100 P/Cash) incl. 2008 Backpay	12618.81

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

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire	200.00
---------------------------------	--------

3. Direct Debits

The following direct debits require authorization:

Public Works Loan Board	Loan instalment – Pump House	6488.43
O2 Online	Mobile phone charges (ROS)	13.22
O2 Online	Mobile phone charges (Venues)	24.26

TOTAL F.T.C. INVOICES 30,275.65

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

Royal Mail	Purchase of Stamps	249.24
(This invoice has already been paid because payment was required with order).		
Simplycons	Stock purchases	257.58
JAC of Cards	Stock purchases	9.00
N.J. Hance	Sale of Books	28.00
Buckstop Print Services	Stock purchases	217.35
F.C. Poller	Sale of Books	18.00

A. Cane	24.30
Inez Brinsden	9.45
Faringdon Community Bus Ticket Sales (Weeks 33-36)	87.50
TOTAL F.C. & T.I.C. INVOICES	999.74

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Gillman that the above bills be authorized for payment, seconded by Cllr. Ms. Farmer and CARRIED.

196/08 Previously notified Members' Questions under S/Order No. 24

The following question had been received from Cllr. A. Hickmore:

- 1. What progress is being made on the Council newsletter and has a meeting been planned to consider the content?*

Cllr. Gillman referred to an email which he had sent to all members inviting items for the newsletter. Cllr. Hickmore suggested that the Chairmen of Committees should carry this out on behalf of their respective Committees.

197/08 Codes of Conduct for local authority members and employees

Council received the responses recommended by Cllr. Hickmore and the Clerk. One amendment was made, in Question 4 which should read "YES". Following this amendment, the responses were APPROVED.

198/08 Freedom of Information Act

Members received the draft Information to be Published form which had been completed by the Clerk for approval. Cllr. Hickmore proposed this should be approved, which was seconded and CARRIED.

199/08 "Recession Conference"

Members received a proposal from Cllr. Hickmore to organize a Conference to help business, employees and wealth producers through the upcoming period of need, which was presented by Cllr. Marsden. Cllr. Marsden outlined the funding arrangements for the 1 day conference and proposed that a Working Party be set up to organize the event, which was seconded and CARRIED.

It was proposed, seconded and CARRIED that the following members be appointed to the Working Party:

Cllrs. Ms. Farmer, A.V. Hickmore, S. Leniec, A. Marsden and D. Price.

A draft letter to Lord Mandelson, whom it was intended to invite as the key speaker, was tabled at the meeting and APPROVED.

Cllr. Wise drew attention to the Oxfordshire Road Safety Report, and expressed the view that it would be helpful to know exactly where the County's accident black spots were located.

Cllr. Gillman proposed invoking S/Order 65 to exclude the Press and Public for the next item, which was seconded by Cllr. Leniec. However, when put to the vote, the proposal was LOST. The meeting then considered an email from the Vale's Interim Strategic Director outlining the draft Heads of Agreement for the transfer of the Corn Exchange to the Town Council.

Paras. A, B, F through to K were AGREED.

Para. C : The exact amount of transition funding to be agreed prior to completion.

Para. D : A maximum term of 5 years to apply.

Para. E : Council could not agree to any covenant restricting its use of the premises after transfer.

The Clerk was asked to convey Council's comments to the Vale and it was AGREED that the existing delegation should seek a meeting with the Interim Strategic Director to continue negotiations as soon as possible.