

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 14th January 2009 in the Old Town Hall, Market Place, Faringdon

PRESENT: Cllrs. Mrs. M.J. Barker (Deputy Mayor)
Mrs. J. Boulton
J. Boyle
R. Cox
A.V. Hickmore
D. Hughes
D. Keeble (from Min. No.)
S. Leniec
A. Marsden
N.S. O’Keeffe
D. Price
Dr. M. Wise

In Attendance: C/Cllr. Mrs. J. Heathcoat
D/Cllr. Mrs. A. Thomson
0 Members of Public
The Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Assistant Clerk

Cllr. Mrs. Barker chaired the meeting in Cllr. Gillman’s absence. Before the meeting started, she paid tribute to Mr. Clive Davis, who had recently died.

01/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. J. Gillman.

02/09 Minutes of last meeting : 10th December 2008

The Minutes were signed as a correct record.

03/09 Matters Arising & Action List

Min. 187/08 (175/08(a): Cllr. O’Keeffe reported that a Trustee in Bankruptcy had now been appointed and asked for Council guidance on whether he should continue to attend meetings at public expense. It was AGREED that he should take no further action as it was unlikely to result in any return and he was thanked for his help with this matter. The Clerk was asked to write to the Trustee and inform them of the existence of the Portwell Bar lease.

Min. 194/08: Cllr. Boyle thanked the Finance Committee for releasing the sum of £5,000 for the proposed youth event on 21st March, and stated that he would soon be seeking help from other Council members to help on the day.

04/09 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

05/09 Public Question Time

No questions had been received.

06/09 Public Speaking Time

A report from Sgt. Maddison of Thames Valley Police was received and NOTED.

07/09. County Councillor's Report

C/Cllr. Mrs. Heathcoat's report was NOTED. She highlighted various items in the report, and offered to arrange for Council members to attend the Junior Citizens Centre at Rewley Road, where safety instruction is given to school children.

08/09 District Councillors' Report

D/Cllr. Mrs. Thomson stated that the Craft Fairs had been very successful last year, despite the economic downturn, and she thanked all those who had supplied the catering for each monthly event.

09/09 Chairman's Activity Report

In Cllr. Gillman's absence, the Clerk read the Chairman's Activity Report and this was NOTED.

10/09 Appointment of Cllr. Keeble to Committees

Cllr. Hickmore proposed that Cllr. Keeble be appointed to the Recreation & Open Spaces Committee, and this was seconded and CARRIED.

11/09 Reports from Committees

Planning & Highways : 9th December 2008 & 6th January 2009

Both sets of Minutes were NOTED, and the Clerk was asked to include an item on the next Council Agenda to discuss a recommendation to carry out a survey on a Resident's Parking scheme in the town centre.

12/09 Clerk's Report & Schedule of Payments

The following bills required authorization and payment.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Gold Dust Commercial | Office cleaning (2 months) | 529.00 |
| | Pump House/TIC cleaning (2 months) | 175.00 |
| Mr. T. Wheeler | Bus shelter cleaning | 60.00 |
| | Window cleaning – Pump House | 15.00 |
| Three Counties Business Machines | Photocopier charges | 63.65 |
| Viking Direct | Stationery | 61.60 |
| Chris Lewis Security Services | Intruder Alarm maintenance | 689.72 |
| Southern Electric | Electricity charge : Pump House | 298.38 |
| J.P. Larkin Electrical Ltd. | Replacement timer – Christmas lights | 77.20 |
| RBS Software Solutions | Website design, training & annual fees | 1980.89 |
| Mrs. S. Thurston | Reimb. for till rolls | 16.10 |
| Mrs. H. Sherman | Reimb. for water heater cartridge | 43.70 |
| Horseshoe Lake | Supply of mobile climbing wall | 632.50 |
| Imprest Wages A/c | Salaries for December (inc. £100 P/Cash) | 12,512.49 |

Direct Debits:

The following direct debits require authorization:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| O2 Online | Venues Mobile Phone | 21.32 |
| O2 Online | ROS Mobile Phone | 13.22 |
| Zen Internet Ltd. | Broadband charges | 48.92 |
| British Telecom | Office telephone charges | 209.18 |

British Gas : The Corn Exchange gas payment plan had a credit balance of £2941.45 on 7th January 2009 after the inclusion of £368.47 charges (6 months) which require authorisation. Concern was expressed at the size of the credit and the Clerk explained that the charges had been based on estimated readings, which she believed were well below the actual reading. The Clerk was asked to arrange for readings to be taken and sent to British Gas as soon as possible.

TOTAL F.T.C. INVOICES/PAYMENTS **18,240.52**

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

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Faringdon Historical Soc. | Stock purchases – books | 69.95 |
| Simplyicons | Stock purchases | 188.14 |
| Buckstop Print Services | Stock purchases | 249.55 |

Agency Sales

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------|
| N. Whale | Card sales | 14.35 |
| Faringdon Community Bus | Ticket Sales (Weeks 37-40) | 38.77 |

TOTAL F.C. & T.I.C. INVOICES **560.76**

Cllr. Hickmore expressed concern about paying the invoice from Horseshoe Lake for the hire of a mobile climbing wall for the Youth Event in advance of the event, and asked Cllr. Boyle to negotiate a percentage payment, with the remainder on the day of the event. With this proviso, he proposed payment of the bills, which was seconded by Cllr. Keeble and CARRIED.

NOTICES:

Council were invited to nominate candidates for the VWHDC Chairman's Community Awards Lunch on 7th March 2009, the theme for which is 'Sporting Achievements across the Vale'. The Clerk was asked to put the following names forward:

Simon Harrington for his work with Faringdon Rugby Club

Mrs. Dee England and Mr. Steven England and some of the skaters with Faringdon Artistic Skaters

Mr. Les Sears, Faringdon Football Club

and to ask the Faringdon Judo Club and Faringdon Bowls Club to nominate a member who should be recognised for their achievements in the sporting community.

13/09 Previously notified Members' Questions under S/Order No. 24

The following questions have 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?*

It was NOTED that no meeting had taken place, but the Mayor had requested news items from each Committee Chairman. The Clerk suggested that the newsletter should be co-ordinated in the Council office and this was AGREED. Committee Chairman were asked to submit their news items to the Clerk.

- 2. Which organisations have Chairs of Committees contacted with a view to explaining the functions of the Council, and how many presentations have they made.*

Following a heated debate, during which Cllr. Hickmore expressed the opinion that Council were not engaging with other organisations in the town, and were not taking the resolution which had been passed in September 2008 seriously, it was AGREED that an invitation to organisations be included in the next Council newsletter. It was also AGREED to include an item on each Council Agenda to receive the Minutes of the Traffic Advisory Committee, Joint Environmental Trust and Joint Economic Forum for Faringdon.

- 3. Is there any change in the attitude of JEFF with regard to its role in the town. Has it yet decided to become a central clearing route for information between town organisations and the two Councils, in line with FTC resolution.*

Cllr. Marsden, in his capacity as Chair of JEFF, stated that they believed there was no requirement to change their constitution because this already permitted the inclusion of representatives from outside organisations, if this was deemed appropriate. Cllr. Hickmore asked whether any other outside organisations had been invited, and he was informed that each existing member had been tasked to invite one other organisation.

14/09 Communities in Control: Real people, real power: Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity – A Consultation

It was AGREED to defer this item to the next meeting. The Clerk asked members to retain their copies of the consultation document and to bring them to the next meeting, as these would not be re-issued.

15/09 Correspondence

The contents of the Correspondence Box were NOTED. Cllr. Price asked for copies of various documents.

Cllr. O'Keeffe stated that he had recently had dealings with an organisation who advised families who had family members suffering from Aspergers Syndrome, and who had offered to speak to the Council. He was asked to send their contact details to the Clerk, who was instructed to invite them to a future meeting.