

**The Parish of Great Faringdon
In the County of Oxfordshire**

**MINUTES OF A TOWN MEETING
held on
MONDAY 26th JANUARY 2009 at 7.30 p.m.
in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon**

PRESENT: For Faringdon Town Council
Cllrs. J.C.W. Gillman (Town Mayor)
Mrs. M.J. Barker (Deputy Mayor)
Mrs. J. Boulton
Ms. J. Farmer
A. Hickmore
D. Hughes
S. Leniec
A. Marsden
D. Price
M. Wise

**2 Members of Public
1 Member of the Press
The Town Clerk and Assistant Clerk**

1. Mayor's Opening Address

The Mayor opened the meeting by seeking permission for Cllr. Leniec to speak to the meeting, in his capacity of Chairman of the Finance Committee, despite him not living in the parish, and this was AGREED.

He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to present the Council's proposed budget for 2009/10 and to give the public the opportunity to suggest amendments or additions before being presented to Council on 28th January for final approval. He asked those present to stay focused on this and to save any debate on the future ownership and management of the Corn Exchange until the special town meeting being held on 3rd February for this purpose.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. David Keeble.

3. Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 28th April 2008

The Minutes were signed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

Min. No. 7: The Clerk stated that permission had now been granted by O.C.C. for the use of the land for allotments, and a planning application for change of use was currently being prepared.

5. Town Council Budget and Precept for 2009/10

The following budgets were presented by the respective Committee Chairmen:

- (a) Venues – Cllr. D. Price
- (b) Recreation & Open Spaces – Cllr. Mrs. J. Boulton
- (c) Planning & Highways – Cllr. A. Hickmore
- (d) Office & Establishment – Cllr. S. Leniec
- (e) Tourist Information Centre – Cllr. Leniec
- (f) Direct Council Expenditure – Cllr. Leniec

During her presentation, Cllr. Mrs. Boulton paid tribute to the Venues Caretaker, Ms. Lesley Owers, who had carried out a significant amount of extra work during the Park Superintendent's long absence on sick leave, and she wished the Park Superintendent a speedy recovery. During his presentation, Cllr. Hickmore paid tribute to the Deputy Clerk, Mrs. Hilary Sherman, who carries out an enormous amount of work on the Planning & Highways Committee's behalf. During his presentation, Cllr. Leniec paid tribute to the TIC Supervisor, Mrs. Sally Thurston, and thanked her and the T.I.C. staff for their resourcefulness in marketing various souvenirs of Faringdon, and in particular the 2009 Faringdon calendar.

Cllr. Leniec then presented an overview of the Council's budget based on the individual Committee's budgets above, and their proposals for keeping the increase in Council Tax to a minimum during the next financial year. These included the use of Council reserves, estimated at £75K, to fund proposed capital expenditure during the year, which would be carefully monitored to ensure that reserves did not fall below the threshold recommended by the Council's auditor.

6. Public Speaking Time and General Discussion

Members of the public had been given the opportunity to ask questions as they arose during the meeting, and further questions were taken during this item.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.