

# FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009 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  
R. Cox  
Ms J.C. Farmer  
A.V. Hickmore  
D. Hughes  
D. Keeble  
S. Leniec  
A. Marsden  
N.S. O'Keeffe  
D. Price

**In Attendance:** D/Cllr. Mrs. A. Thomson  
0 Members of Public  
1 Member of the Press  
The Town Clerk & Assistant Clerk

### **16/09 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr. M. Wise.

### **17/09 Minutes of last meeting : 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

The Minutes were signed as a correct record.

### **18/09 Matters Arising from 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> January & Action List**

The actions carried out on the Action List and from previous Minutes were NOTED.

### **19/09 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

### **20/09 Public Question Time**

No questions had been received.

### **21/09 Public Speaking Time**

(a) Report from Thames Valley Police

The Clerk passed on a verbal report from TVP about a successful operation which had taken place in the town centre earlier in the day, which had resulted in a local man being arrested on suspicion of drug offences.

(b) Members of the Public

Mr. A. Cane informed members that the Faringdon “Soap Box” would start this week when residents would be interviewed under the Old Town Hall and asked for their opinion on current topics of interest.

### **22/09 County Councillor’s Report**

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

Cllr. Leniec raised the issue of the level of gritting/salting and highway maintenance within the town during the recent spell of snow and icy conditions, which he felt was below the standard expected, particularly on the A417. Cllr. Leniec was delegated to contact C/Cllr. Mrs. Heathcoat and pass on this information.

### **23/09 District Councillors’ Report**

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

Cllr. Leniec also complained that neither of the Vale’s car parks had been gritted and D/Cllr. Cox was asked to raise this issue with the relevant department at the Vale.

Cllr. Hickmore complained that the dog bins had not been emptied during the spell of bad weather and were now overflowing, which had resulted in dog owners not cleaning up after their animals. D/Cllr. Cox undertook to bring this to the attention of the relevant officers.

### **24/09 Chairman’s Activity Report**

Cllr. Gillman gave a verbal report, which was NOTED.

### **25/09 Reports from Committees**

*Planning & Highways : 20<sup>th</sup> January and 10<sup>th</sup> February*

Cllr. Hickmore gave a verbal report on the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February and tabled a document entitled “Faringdon Town Council – Response to the Draft VWHDC Preferred Options Consultation” which the P&H Committee had approved. Cllr. Gillman proposed that the document, as presented, be approved by Council, which was seconded and CARRIED.

Council was informed that Shrivenham Parish Council had already contacted the Swindon planners regarding the impact of proposed development on the North East of Swindon, so it was agreed that Cllr. Hickmore should contact Shrivenham councillors and build on their existing contacts.

*Venues : 13<sup>th</sup> January - The Minutes were NOTED.*

*Recreation & Open Spaces : 7<sup>th</sup> January - The Minutes were NOTED.*

*Finance : 21<sup>st</sup> January*

Cllr. Leniec proposed the approval of decisions made under Min. Nos. 06/09, 10/09, 13/09(a) and 13/09(c), which was seconded and CARRIED. The Minutes were NOTED.

### **26/09 Faringdon Resident’s Priority Parking Survey**

Members were asked to consider a recommendation from the Planning & Highways Committee to carry out a survey to ascertain the need for a residents’ parking scheme, together with a draft questionnaire.

Cllr. Hickmore outlined how the scheme would be funded and enforced, and stated that a covering letter would accompany the form explaining that the scheme would not guarantee a specific parking place.

Cllr. Price expressed the view that it was premature to introduce any scheme in isolation and in advance of the car parking survey which would be funded by S.106 funds. Cllr. Leniec pointed out that there was no budget for the costs of carrying out the survey. Cllr. Hickmore proposed that the survey be approved by Council, which was seconded but, when put to the vote, the proposal was LOST.

## **27/09 Reports from Outside Committees**

### *Joint Economic Forum for Faringdon : 8<sup>th</sup> January*

Cllr. Marsden, in his capacity as Chair of JEFF, reported that they were currently engaged in two projects, i.e. a Thursday market and an evening market. Cllr. Hickmore expressed the opinion that the sum of £650, which was recently spent by JEFF on a shopping survey, had been a waste of money. The Minutes were NOTED.

### *Traffic Advisory Committee : 13<sup>th</sup> December*

Cllr. Cox stated that this Committee were also seeking a solution to the parking problems, but that this was extremely difficult when there was dissention amongst the residents themselves. The Minutes were NOTED.

## **28/09 Clerk's Report & Schedule of Payments**

1. The following bills require authorization and payment.

Gold Dust Commercial	Office cleaning	276.00
	Pump House/TIC cleaning	150.00
Mr. T. Wheeler	Bus shelter cleaning	60.00
	Window cleaning – Pump House	15.00
Three Counties Business Machines	Photocopier charges	64.48
Davis Home Centre Ltd.	Light bulbs (C/Ex and P/House)	15.96
Cotswold Coolers	Bottled water & sanitization service	37.95
Oxford City Supplies	Cleaning materials	213.16
Chubb Fire Ltd.	Fire alarm servicing (Pump House)	209.53
Viking Direct	Stationery	86.29
VWHDC	Dog Bin Service charges (6 months)	487.28
	Telephone Switchboard rental	287.60
Weaver Khan Architects	Inspection Report – Pump House	998.20
WPS Insurance Brokers	Additional premium – increased pub. Liability	107.02
O.A.L.C.	Training Course – Assistant Clerk	46.00
Southern Electric	Electricity charges – C/Ex	1094.90
	P/House	393.86
Thames Water	Water charges : C/Ex	168.62
	Pump House	28.55
	Tucker Park pavilion	95.75
MRH Services	Play Equipment inspection	38.00
Faringdon Newspapers	Town Meeting advertising	57.50
DMH Solutions	Risk Assessment software upgrade	27.25
Imprest Wages A/c	Salaries for January 2009 (inc. £160 P/Cash)	10084.92

Direct Debits:

The following direct debits require authorization:

O2 Online	Venues Mobile Phone	21.90
O2 Online	ROS Mobile Phone	13.22
Zen Internet Ltd.	Broadband charges	48.92
British Telecom	T.I.C. telephone charges	64.18
	Office fax line & broadband	54.79
	Hall/bar telephone	53.79

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

Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire (ARCH)	£645.50
Faringdon Twinning Association	£645.50
<b>TOTAL F.T.C. INVOICES</b>	<b>16591.63</b>

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

Simplyicons	Stock purchases	75.57
Clive Brown	Stock purchases	14.00
Thematic Trails	Stock purchases	20.87
The White Horse Show	Booking Fee – Trade Stand	90.00

*Agency Sales:*

J. Rice	Sales of 'Fernham Cookbook'	20.00
Faringdon Community Bus	Ticket Sales	77.30

<b>TOTAL F.C. &amp; T.I.C. INVOICES</b>	<b>297.74</b>
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Cllr. Gillman proposed that the above bills be authorised and paid, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barker and CARRIED.

**29/09 Future of the Corn Exchange**

*(a) To consider offer from Vale of White Horse District Council to gift the Corn Exchange to the Town Council w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010*

Council were asked to consider the offer, in the light of recommendations from the Finance Committee and a recent Town Meeting, which had overwhelmingly supported the acceptance of the offer. Cllr. Leniec proposed that Council accept the offer, with a view to transfer of the property on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010, which was seconded and CARRIED.

*(b) To consider terms of the gift, in the light of recommendation from Finance Committee.*

The terms of the gift, as outlined in an email from the Vale's Interim Strategic Director dated 19<sup>th</sup> January, were considered. Cllr. Leniec stated that the Finance Committee believed the terms were the best that could be achieved, and had recommended their acceptance. Cllr. Leniec proposed that the terms be accepted, which was seconded and CARRIED.

Cllr. Hickmore expressed his concern at a comment made by the Interim Strategic Director regarding amortisation, and Cllr. Cox was delegated to obtain more details.

### **30/09 Faringdon Fossil Trust**

The Clerk read a letter from Darbys Solicitors outlining the costs which would be incurred for the transfer of land from Builders Ede to the Town Council, estimated at £500 + VAT. It was AGREED to defer this matter for consideration by the Finance Committee at their next meeting.

### **31/09 Communities in Control : Real people, real power: Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity – A consultation**

Members were asked to consider their response to the consultation document, which had been deferred from the previous meeting. It was AGREED to make no response.

### **32/09 Correspondence**

The Clerk was asked to send the Faringdon Chamber of Commerce a list of the Council's meeting dates.

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