FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 11th March 2009 at 7.15 p.m. 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
S. Leniec
A. Marsden
D. Price
Dr. M. Wise

In Attendance: **D/Cllr. Mrs. A. Thomson (from Min. 36/09)**
Mrs. Sally Thurston, T.I.C. Supervisor
1 Member of the Press
The Town Clerk & Assistant Clerk

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33/09 Apologies for Absence
Apologies were received from Cllr. D. Keeble.

34/09 Minutes of last meeting : 11th February 2009
The Minutes were signed as a correct record.

35/09 Matters Arising & Action List
The actions carried out on the Action List were NOTED.
Min. 29/09: Cllr. Hickmore stated that the reply from the VWHDC regarding amortisation was unhelpful in the context of the Corn Exchange. Cllr. Cox suggested that the Vale's Solicitor should be asked to address this issue during the contract negotiations, and Cllr. Hickmore suggested that the Council's Auditor be contacted for advice.

36/09 Declarations of Interest
No declarations of interest were made.

37/09 Public Question Time & Public Speaking Time
No questions had been received and there were no members of public present.

38/09 County Councillor's Report
C/Cllr. Mrs. Heathcoat had submitted a written report, which was NOTED.

39/09 District Councillors' Report

D/Cllr. Cox tabled a written report, which was NOTED, and he highlighted the following issues:
Level of Affordable Housing: This has been increased from the government level of 25% to 40%. The Conservative Group had challenged this increase, particularly in the light of the current economic climate, because they believed it was unachievable.
Thames Water Proposed Reservoir: The planning application has been postponed for 5 years to enable further study based on new evidence and Environment Agency criteria.
Cllr. Hickmore asked how the Vale's Development Control Committee had justified their decision to approve the application for an amended access road to the development at 18 Coxwell Road. Cllr. Wise, who had attended the meeting, thanked D/Cllr. Barber for his support on this matter, but stated that the Committee seemed unwilling to listen to the objections from neighbours, the Town Council and Oxfordshire Highways, and seemed generally disinterested in the application as a whole.
D/Cllr. Mrs. Thompson gave a verbal report which highlighted a problem with car parking at the Leisure Centre by students from the Community College. The Leisure Centre were considering issuing their members with parking permits to try and resolve the problem. Cllr. Price stated that there was a similar problem with students parking their cars in Fernham Road and moped riders using the road as a short cut from the A420.

40/09 Chairman's Activity Report
Cllr. Gillman gave a verbal report, during which he paid tribute to the excellent turnout of Faringdon people for the repatriation of 3 soldiers killed in Afghanistan as it passed by on the A420 towards Oxford. He stated that only 2-3 hours notice had been received and suggested that, in future, Faringdon.org should be asked to post a notice on their website.

41/09 Reports from Committees
Planning & Highways : 10th February & 3rd March
The Minutes of 10th February were NOTED.
Cllr. Leniec expressed his surprise at the one of the grounds for objecting to GFA/19649/3 - Objection (c).
Cllr. Hickmore reported on the meeting held on 3rd March, as the Minutes were not yet available. He stated that a further four documents had been submitted by VWHDC regarding the Core Strategy, and he would provide a précis for the next P&H meeting.
Venues : 10th March
Cllr. Price stated that the meeting had centred around two debates, firstly the future location of the TIC and Town Clerk's offices and, secondly, future plans for the Corn Exchange and Pump House. He stated that an offer had been received from a Faringdon resident, who was well qualified in the building industry, to advise the Council on any work required to Council buildings free of charge.
Cllr. Price stated that a suggestion had been made to borrow funds for the refurbishment of the Corn Exchange in anticipation of the receipt of S.106 funds.
Cllr. Leniec pointed out that it was the responsibility of the Venues Committee to decide the work which needed to be carried out, and the Finance Committee's responsibility to obtain the funding.

42/09 The Corn Exchange
Members received advice from the Council's Solicitor regarding the wording of Clause C of the conditional contract for the transfer of the Corn Exchange to the Town Council. Both the Venues Committee and the Finance Committee had already considered the Solicitor's suggestion and neither could see why the existing wording would be so problematic. Cllr. Leniec proposed that the Clerk should write to the Solicitor thanking him for his advice, and ask the Vale's Solicitor to draw up the draft agreement including Clause C, and this was seconded and CARRIED.

43/09 Reports from Outside Committees
There were no reports to consider.

44/09 Clerk's Report & Schedule of Payments

1. The following bill had already been paid, because payment was required in advance to secure booking, and required authorisation.

Faringdon Junior School	Youth Event 21st March 2009	208.00

2. The following bills required authorization and payment in the usual way.

Gold Dust Commercial	Office cleaning	299.00
	Pump House/TIC cleaning	100.00
Mr. T. Wheeler	Bus shelter cleaning	60.00
	Pump House window cleaning	15.00
J. Barnes	C/Ex window cleaning	95.00
Three Counties Business Machines	Photocopier charges	53.33
VWHDC	Pump House Rates	
	Corn Exchange service charges	1941.39
RBS Software Solutions	Accountancy services	107.30
Cotswold Coolers	Bottled water	27.60
Biffa Waste Services	Waste disposal charges	333.39
Ventrolla	Pump House window draughtproofing	3235.09
NALC	Local Council Review subscription	13.50
Mrs. J. Rennie	Reimb. for wall planner and new phone	78.30
MoreThan IT	Advice re telephone system	115.00
Viking Direct	Stationery and bar items	171.64
Tribe Enterprises	Hire of skate park	2070.00
Simplyicons	Venues Caretaker uniform	91.64
Imprest Wages A/c	Salaries for February (inc. £100 P/Cash)	9785.87

Direct Debits:
The following direct debits required authorization:

O2 Online	Venues Mobile Phone	20.37
O2 Online	ROS Mobile Phone	13.22
Zen Internet Ltd.	Broadband charges	48.92

The Corn Exchange gas payment plan had a debit balance of £1478.95 on 23rd February 2009 after deduction of charges of £4,336.00, which required authorization.

TOTAL F.T.C. INVOICES 18,883.56

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

A.Pagett	Stock purchases	66.50
Glide Media	Stock purchases	13.00
Simplyicons	Stock purchases	50.36
Royal Mail	Stock purchases	157.14
Thematic Trails	Stock purchases	20.00
Mrs. S. Thurston	Reimb. for stock purchases	122.64
Faringdon Newspapers	Stock purchases	4.80

Agency Sales

Cards for Good Causes	Charity Christmas card sales	5077.41
Mrs. J. Banks	Card sales	6.48
Faringdon Community Bus	Ticket Sales (Weeks 45-48)	36.80

TOTAL F.C. & T.I.C. INVOICES 5555.13

Cllr. Gillman proposed that the bills in Sections 1-3 above be paid, seconded by Cllr. Ms. Farmer and CARRIED.

NOTICES:
Faringdon Health Walks invite all Council members and staff to join a special walk on Wednesday 15th April to celebrate their second anniversary. The walk would take place in the grounds of Faringdon House and be followed by refreshments at the Bell Hotel. The Clerk asked those members intending to join the walk to inform her as soon as possible, so she could pass on the information for catering purposes.

45/09 Schedule of Meetings – 2009/10
Members received the draft schedule drawn up by the Clerk for approval. One amendment was made at the Clerk's suggestion, and the Schedule was APPROVED.

46/09 Community Awards
Mrs. Sally Thurston tabled a proposal for the Council to create Community Awards and various categories were suggested. The Clerk stated that it would be a good opportunity to publicise the awards in the next Council newsletter, which would be published either in April or May. Cllr. Leniec expressed his concern at the costs of implementing such a scheme, which had not been considered by the Finance Committee, and also on the workload of the staff.
Cllr. Hickmore suggested that Council could agree to the scheme, in principle, at this meeting and ask the Clerk and Mrs. Thurston to prepare a report for the next Finance Committee meeting. This was seconded and CARRIED.

47/09 Risk Assessment 2008/09
Members received the Risk Assessments, which had been approved by the respective Committees, and these were APPROVED.

48/09 Correspondence
An email from Age Concern London outlining a scheme for the re-use of redundant computers by elderly clients was highlighted. Cllr. Leniec proposed that Council policy should be to donate its redundant computer equipment to a charity, including Age Concern, provided any information was properly wiped from the hard disk. This was seconded and CARRIED.