

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 13th May 2009 in the Old Town Hall, Market Place, Faringdon

PRESENT: Cllrs. **Dr. M.L.H. Wise** (Town Mayor)
Mrs. M.J. Barker (Deputy Mayor)
Mrs. J. Boulton
R. Cox
Ms J.C. Farmer
J.C.W. Gillman
A.V. Hickmore
D. Keeble
S. Leniec
A. Marsden
N.S. O’Keeffe

In Attendance: **0 Members of Public**
1 Member of the Press
The Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk and
Assistant Clerk

61/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. J. Boyle and D. Price.

62/09 Election of Town Mayor

Cllr. M. Wise was proposed by Cllr. S. Leniec, seconded by Cllr. A. Hickmore.
Cllr. Mrs. M.J. Barker was proposed by Cllr. J.C.W. Gillman, seconded by Cllr. Ms.
J. Farmer. There being no other nominations, when put to the vote Cllr. Wise was
elected by 7 votes in favour, and 4 votes in favour of Cllr. Mrs. M.J. Barker.

63/09 Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Town Mayor.

Cllr. Wise made his declaration of acceptance of office and took the Chair. Cllr. Wise
thanked the outgoing Mayor, Cllr. J.C.W. Gillman for all his hard work during his
term of office, and stated that he had been a marvellous ambassador for the town,
giving generously of his time, effort and money. The members unanimously agreed
with Cllr. Wise’s tribute.

64/09 Election of Deputy Mayor

Cllr. Mrs. M.J. Barker was proposed by Cllr. Leniec, who thanked her for her
commitment to the role of Deputy Mayor and for her support to Cllr. J.C.W. Gillman,
particularly during the past very difficult year. Cllr. Mrs. Barker’s election was
seconded and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Before the meeting moved on, the Clerk read a letter of resignation to the meeting from Cllr. David Hughes, who had resigned for personal reasons. Cllr. Hickmore proposed that the Clerk be authorised to purchase a suitably engraved glass gift for Cllr. Hughes in recognition of his work during his term of office, and flowers for Mrs. Hughes, who was currently in poor health, up to a sum of £120 and this proposal was seconded and CARRIED.

65/09 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

66/09 To Appoint Town Council representatives to the following organisations:

The following appointments were made:

- | | | | |
|-----|---|--------|---|
| (a) | Joint Environmental Trust for Faringdon | Cllrs. | Mrs. M.J. Barker
A.V. Hickmore
J.C.W. Gillman |
| (b) | Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils | Cllr. | J.C.W. Gillman |
| (c) | Faringdon United Charities | Cllrs. | A.V. Hickmore
Ms. J. Farmer |
| (d) | Leisure Centre Advisory Group | Cllr. | N.J. O’Keeffe
(substitute Cllr. D. Price) |
| (e) | Traffic Advisory Committee | Cllrs. | N.J. O’Keeffe
D. Price |
| (f) | Joint Economic Forum for Faringdon | Cllrs. | Mrs. M.J. Barker
Mrs. J. Boulton
J.C.W. Gillman
A. Marsden
A. V. Hickmore |
| (g) | Community Bus Executive Committee | Cllr. | D. Keeble |
| (h) | Faringdon Area Project | Cllr. | Miss J. Farmer |
| (i) | Neighbourhood Action Group | Cllr. | R. Cox |

67/09 To Appoint Members to the following Town Council Committees

The following appointments were made:

- (a) Venues Committee
Cllrs. Mrs. M.J. Barker, J. Boyle, Miss J. Farmer, J.C.W. Gillman, A.V. Hickmore, S. Leniec, D. Price.
- (b) Recreation & Open Spaces Committee
Cllrs. Mrs. M.J. Barker, Mrs. J. Boulton, J.C.W. Gillman, A.V. Hickmore, D. Keeble, S. Leniec, N. O’Keeffe.
- (c) Planning & Highways
All members except Cllrs. R. Cox, Miss J. Farmer and S. Leniec.

68/09 To Appoint Chairmen of the above Town Council Committees

The following Chairmen were appointed by the members of their respective committees:

- Venues Committee : Cllr. D. Price
Recreation & Open Spaces Committee : Cllr. Mrs. J. Boulton
Planning & Highways Committee : Cllr. A.V. Hickmore

69/09 To Appoint Members to Finance & Audit Committee

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the above Chairmen of Committees were all automatically appointed, and the following additional members: Cllrs. Miss J. Farmer, J.C.W. Gillman, S. Leniec and A. Marsden.

70/09 To Appoint Chairman of Finance & Audit Committee

Cllr. Leniec was proposed, seconded and CARRIED.

71/09 To appoint members to the following Advisory Committees/Working Parties

The following members were appointed:

- (a) Care of Faringdon A.C. : Cllrs. R. Cox & J.C.W. Gillman
- (b) Publicity A.C. : all members except vacant member.
- (c) Climate Change Working Party : Cllr. Mrs.M.J. Barker
Mrs. J. Boulton
D. Price
M. Wise

84/08 To Review Payment of the following Annual Subscriptions:

The following subscriptions were reviewed and it was AGREED to renew them when they became due.

Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils : £1127.61 (renewed April 2009)

Local Council Review: £13.50 (already renewed)

Society of Local Council Clerks: £209.00 (renewed 1st January 2009)

Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association: £60.00

Oxfordshire Rural Community Council: £20.00

85/08 To Inspect any Deeds or Trust Instruments in the Custody of the Town Council.

The documents were available at the meeting, and the Clerk reminded members that they could be inspected at any time during office hours and by appointment outside office hours.

86/08 Minutes of last meeting : 8th April 2009

The Minutes were signed as a correct record.

87/09 Matters Arising & Action List

Min. 15/09: Cllr. O’Keeffe stated that he was still trying to contact someone in the organisation with a view to inviting a representative to a future Council meeting.

88/09 Public Question Time

No questions had been received.

89/09 Public Speaking Time

Mr. A. Cane asked to inspect the deeds and trust instruments in the custody of the Town Council, and this was AGREED.

90/09 County Councillor’s Report

C/Cllr. Mrs. Heathcoat was not present at the meeting and had not submitted a report.

91/09 District Councillors' Report

D/Cllr. Cox gave a verbal report during which he stated he had been pursuing the £30K S.106 funds due from Bloor Homes with the relevant officer at the Vale, and had spoken to the Leader of the Council regarding recent problems with the Corn Exchange agreement.

Cllr. Wise drew attention to the proposed Swindon East development and asked whether the VWHDC were aware of it. D/Cllr. Cox replied that they were aware of the proposal.

92/09 Chairman's Activity Report

Cllr. Gillman gave a verbal report for the previous month, during which he paid tribute to the Faringdon Artistic Skaters. He stated that four members had been selected for the European and World Championships and they had three members in the National Squad.

He stated that he had attended two repatriations during the previous month. Cllr. Keeble asked how members of the public could obtain information about repatriations, Cllr. Gillman stated that the information could be found on the ? website and the Royal British Legion had a network of contacts.

Cllr. Wise offered to write to the individual skaters to congratulate them on their achievements, and this was AGREED.

93/09 Reports from Committees and Working Parties

Planning & Highways :14th April

Cllr. Hickmore expressed his concern at the recent news that the £30K S.106 had been paid to the VWHDC by Bloor Homes by the date promised, but the Town Council had not been informed and this had only recently come to light. He suggested a letter be sent to Bloor Homes thanking them for honouring their commitment, and asking them to inform Council when any future payments were made.

Cllr. Cox expressed his concern that S.106 commitments were not being properly tracked by the VWHDC, because of their inability to recruit and appoint a dedicated member of staff for this purpose.

Planning & Highways :5th May

Cllr. Wise gave a report, as he had chaired the meeting, and expressed his concern at the impact on Faringdon from the proposed Swindon Eastern development. Cllr. Wise's report was NOTED.

Recreation & Open Spaces : 15th April

Cllr. Gillman raised his concern about the land adjacent to Willes Close. Cllr. Leniec pointed out that the Council were unable to fulfil its obligations to make the land safe, because of the problems with access, and suggested it should be transferred back to the ownership of O.C.C. Cllr. Hickmore suggested that Council should enter into negotiations with O.C.C., because the value of the land had increased significantly. It was AGREED to refer the matter to the R.&O.S. Committee for further discussion. The Minutes were NOTED.

Finance : 6th April and 29th April

Cllr. Leniec proposed that the decisions made within the following Minute Nos. be approved: Mins. 33/09. 35/09(a). 36/09, 37/09, 40/09(a). Cllr. Leniec's proposal was seconded and CARRIED.

94/09 Reports from Outside Committees

The Clerk stated that she had not received any reports during the previous month.

95/09 Clerk's Report & Schedule of Payments

BILLS TO BE PAID

1. The following had already been paid because payment was required in advance of work being carried out, but required retrospective authorisation.

Link Direct	Distribution charge for Council newsletter	97.75
Darbys Solicitors	Corn Exchange legal searches (authorised by Finance Committee)	300.00

2. The following invoices required payment in the usual way.

Davis Home Centre	Maintenance items	24.76
Gold Dust Commercial	P/House cleaning	50.00
	Office cleaning	276.00
Mr. T. Wheeler	P/House window and bus shelter cleaning	75.00
Three Counties Business Machines	Photocopier charges	109.18
VWHDC	Pump House Council Tax	359.00
VWHDC	Telephone system hire	261.30
Cotswold Coolers	Bottled water	13.80
Viking Direct	Stationery & OTH fire extinguisher	259.93
Portwell Press	Stationery	56.93
RBS Software Solutions	Year End A/cs charge	510.83
Information Commissioner	Data Protection Fee	35.00
F. Church Ltd.	C/Ex boiler call out charge	124.20
M.R.H. Services	Play equipment repairs	405.35
PHS Group	C/Ex sanitary disposal charges	494.75
Southern Electric	C/Ex electricity charges	256.95
B.J. Wadcock	Repairs to wall – Rear of Pump House	851.00
Archant Accounting Serv.	Advertising charges – Venues	618.70
Vine UK Ltd.	Supply and installation of Bar Water heater	368.00
Faringdon Community Bus	Advertising charges	500.00
J.C.W. Gillman	Mayor's Allowance	375.00
Faringdon War Mem. Trust	VAT Refund, refund of hire charges and donation towards electricity costs	784.34
Tuckers Rec. Ground Trust	VAT Refund	94.50
Dr. A. Allen	Medical Report Fee – R. Bream	50.00
Faringdon Newspapers	TIC and recruitment advertising	167.62
WPS Insurance Services	Renewal Premium 2009/10	9310.67
Live & Local Ltd.	C/Ex production fee	201.25
George Henry Relay	Noise limiter testing	115.21
Imprest Wages A/c	Salaries for April (inc. £150 P/Cash)	10486.33

3. Direct Debits

O2 Online	Venues Mobile Phone	19.20
O2 Online	ROS Mobile Phone	13.22
Zen Internet Ltd.	Broadband charges	48.92
British Telecom	Fax line charges	53.61
British Telecom	Bar phone charges	52.62
British Telecom	TIC phone charges	62.15
Siemens Financial Serv.	Annual Service Fee (Photocopier lease)	23.00
Thames Water	Tucker Park pavilion water charges	48.10
Thames Water	C/Ex water charges	168.72
Thames Water	P/House water charges	22.03
British Gas	C/Ex gas charges	539.67

4. The following grants are recommended by the Finance Committee

Joint Environmental Trust	S.137 Grant	1,500.00
Wantage Independent Advice Centre	S.142(2a) Grant	650.00
M.A.D.D.	S.144/145 Grant	2,000.00
Assisted Reading for Children in Oxon.	S.137 Grant	260.00

TOTAL F.T.C. INVOICES **33,094.58**

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

Faringdon Newspapers	Faringdon Folly Sales	4.80
Helen Godsell	Stock purchases	42.00
Alan Godfrey Maps	Stock purchases	14.63
Simplyicons	Stock purchases	22.76
Book Castle Publishing Ltd.	Stock purchases	9.09

Agency Sales

J. Wharton	Greetings cards	6.00
S. Spencer	Artist of the Month Sales	78.30
Faringdon Community Bus	Ticket Sales – Weeks 1-5	386.92

TOTAL F.C. & T.I.C. INVOICES **564.50**

Cllr. Hickmore proposed that the above bills in Sections 1-5 be approved and paid, seconded by Cllr. J.C.W. Gillman and CARRIED.

96/09 Correspondence

Cllr. Leniec drew attention to a memorandum he had circulated to all members reminding them of the procedures for incurring and claiming out of pocket expenses. Cllr. Mrs. Barker drew attention to an event she wished to attend on behalf of the Climate Change Working Party, at a cost of £25. Cllr. Leniec proposed that Cllr. Mrs. Barker should be authorised to attend and that her attendance expenses be reimbursed as this was an approved duty, which was seconded and CARRIED.