

TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Town Council meeting
held on Wednesday 9th December 2009
in the Council Chamber, the Corn Exchange, Faringdon**

PRESENT: Cllrs. **Dr. M. Wise** (Town Mayor)
Mrs. J. Boulton
J.C.W. Gillman
K.J. Herbert
A.V. Hickmore
S. Leniec
A. Marsden
N.S. O'Keeffe

In Attendance: C/Cllr. **Mrs. J. Heathcoat**
1 Member of Public
1 Member of the Press
The Town Clerk & Assistant Clerk

177/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Mrs. M. Barker, R. Cox, Ms. J. Farmer, D. Keeble and D. Price.

178/09 Minutes of last meeting : 11th November 2009

The Minutes were signed as a correct record.

179/09 Matters Arising & Action List

Cllr. Hickmore raised a point of order and stated that Matters Arising should not be included on Council Agendas and it was AGREED to discuss this further at the next meeting.

Min. 164/09: Cllr. Leniec asked whether the noise limiter had been checked and enquired about the outcome. Cllr. Wise stated that this had been raised at the Venues Committee, and various functions had been held recently with no problems.

Min. 167/09: The Chairman proposed that a letter should be sent to the Royal British Legion for their help with the Remembrance Exhibition, and this was AGREED.

Min. 172/09: It was reported that the Engagement Art Team had held their first meeting. The Actions carried out on the Action List were NOTED.

180/09 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

181/09 Public Question Time

No questions had been received.

182/09 Public Speaking Time

(a) Report from Thames Valley Police

A written report from TVP was tabled at the meeting and NOTED. Cllr. Leniec stated that hare coursing was still being committed in the local area.

ncil on the splendid display of Christmas lights in the
e Corn Exchange noise limiter was operating erratically.

183/09 Motions Under Notice

Proposer: Cllr. A.V. Hickmore Second: Cllr. S. Leniec

öChange current standing orders that set dates for Council meetings to:

The Town Clerk will produce a set of dates for Council meetings and present it to Council for approval not later than the April meeting each year. The Town Clerk will include in her considerations when setting the dates any significant clashes with other Councilsö meeting dates that may cause councillors who serve on both Councils to be unable to attend the meeting of Faringdon Town Council.ö

This item stood undiscussed and was deferred to the next meeting, in accordance with S/Order No. 79.

184/09 County Councillor's Report

C/Cllr. Mrs. Heathcoat gave a verbal report, which included further details about the Good Neighbour Scheme which is operating in Bicester. She had attended a meeting with O.C.C. officers to explore ways of setting up a similar scheme in Faringdon.

C/Cllr. Mrs. Heathcoat had also attended a conference on hate crimes, and stated that some of the information she had received regarding the offences committed was very disturbing. She also reported that Faringdon Youth Centre had recently received a cheque from the Faringdon Educational Activities Trust (known as FEAT) for £5,000 and it was hoped the Centre would be open early in the New Year. She felt it was unfortunate that the Faringdon Engagement Art Team were also known as FEAT, and Cllr. Hickmore undertook to suggest a change of name, to avoid confusion.

185/09 District Councillors' Report

D/Cllr. Cox had tabled a written report, which was NOTED. The report confirmed that the VWHDC had abandoned their proposal to delegate planning matters.

D/Cllr. Mrs. Thomson had also tabled a written report, which was NOTED. She suggested that an approach be made to the VWHDC for free parking on market days.

186/09 Chairman's Activity Report

Cllr. Wise tabled a written report, which highlighted three repatriation ceremonies during the past month for four soldiers killed in Afghanistan. He passed on a suggestion from a member of the public for a raffle to be held for the chance to turn on the Christmas lights.

187/09 Reports from Committees

Planning & Highways : 10th November. The Minutes were NOTED.

Planning & Highways : 1st December

Cllr. Hickmore reported that Felix Gummer would be attending the next meeting on 15th December to update the Council on their plans for a new Tesco store in Park Road.

Following that, representatives from Faringdon House, Budgens and Tesco would attend the meeting on 26th January, following an exhibition staged by VWHDC in the Corn Exchange earlier in the day regarding future retail provision in Faringdon.

Venues : 17th November The Minutes were NOTED.

Venues : 1st December Cllr. Wise gave a verbal report on the meeting.

Recreation & Open Spaces : 18th November The Minutes were NOTED.

Finance : 25th November

97/09 (90/09(a), 97/09 (91/09 Grant No. 2) and 100/09
 minded the Committees to prioritise their list of capital
 and urged them to find savings. He stated that the tax
 base for 2010/2011 had now been confirmed and that this showed an increase of 50 over the
 previous year. Cllr. Hickmore questioned this and the Clerk was asked to write a letter to the
 Vale seeking justification for this figure.

188/09 Reports from Outside Committees

Neighbourhood Action Group : 17th November The Minutes were NOTED.

189/09 Changes to Refuse Collection in the Vale of White Horse

Council received a written report from Cllrs. Gillman and Hickmore following their meeting
 with Vale officers, which was NOTED. It was AGREED to invite Mr. David Wilson to
 attend the Annual Town Meeting to explain the new arrangements to Faringdon residents.
 Cllr. Herbert asked whether there were different sizes of bin for smaller or larger families,
 and Cllr. Leniec expressed his concern at the disruption caused to traffic by the collection
 vehicles.

190/09 Clerk’s Report & Schedule of Payments

1. The following bills have already been paid because payment was either required in
 advance, or was of an urgent nature.

Link Direct Ltd.	Newsletter distribution	97.75
VWHDC	Office business rates 2009/10	809.64
Mrs. S. Thurston	Reimbursement for Community Awards	334.21
Mrs. S. Thurston	Reimbursement for stamps (TIC account)	174.60

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

Davis Home Centre	Miscellaneous items	58.40
Gold Dust Commercial	Office cleaning	276.00
Mr. T. Wheeler	Bus shelter & P/House window cleaning	75.00
Three Counties Business Machines	Photocopier charges	
VWHDC	Pump House Council Tax	359.00
VWHDC	Office business rates 2008/09 & 2009/10	6356.69
Cotswold Coolers	Bottled water	27.60
RBS Software Solutions	Website annual maintenance charge	345.00
	Annual Computer Accounts support fee	241.50
WGS Power & Lighting	Anchor bolt testing charge	747.50
WGS Power & Lighting	Supply & installation of Christmas lights	4399.90
Viking Direct	Stationery	238.59
Lexis Nexis	New edition of Local Council Administration	59.05
S.L.C.C.	Subscription Renewal Fee	212.00
ARicab	Listed building consent fees	179.38
Pitney Bowes	Postage charges ó Franking machine	318.28
F. Church Ltd.	Pump House gas service charge	450.35
B&W Lift Services Ltd.	Pump House lift service charge	176.38
Oxford City Supplies	Cleaning materials	168.34
SDK Environmental Ltd.	Pump House ó Pest control fees	53.00

	House electricity charges	167.00
	Miscellaneous Provisions) Act grant	2500.00
	disposal charge	333.39
Far. Chamber of Commerce	Supply of Christmas Trees	80.00
Faringdon Newspapers	TIC advertising	57.50
Imprest Wages A/c	Salaries for November (inc. £100 P/Cash)	11980.98

3. Direct Debits

O2 Online	Venues Mobile Phone	24.02
O2 Online	ROS Mobile Phone	13.22
Zen Internet Ltd.	Broadband charges	48.92
Esso Fuel Card Services	Van & mower fuel	40.94
P.W.L.B.	Loan instalment	6332.28

TOTAL F.T.C. INVOICES 37,148.42

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

Simply Schoolwear	Stock purchases	47.88
A. Pagett	Stock purchases	43.45
Buckstop Print Services	Stock purchases & stationery printing	568.10
Faringdon Historical Soc.	Stock purchases	69.95
Mrs. S. Thurston	Reimb. For stamps	283.41

Agency Sales:

A. Cane	Poster & card sales	59.50
L. Hounan	Jewellery sales	76.68
Faringdon Community Bus	Ticket Sales (Weeks)	81.20

TOTAL F.C. & T.I.C. INVOICES 1404.77

Cllr. Marsden proposed that the bills in Sections 1-4 be approved and paid, seconded by Cllr. Leniec and CARRIED.

191/09 Faringdon Junior School – Town Council governor vacancy

Following the resignation of Cllr. Leniec as governor, after many years, Council were invited to nominate another Councillor to replace him as Community Governor for the school. Cllr. Keeble was nominated to replace Cllr. Leniec and the Clerk confirmed that he had agreed to the nominated. Cllr. Keeble's nomination was AGREED and Cllr. Leniec was thanked for his work as Community Governor for many years, and it was stated that the Junior School had gone from strength to strength during his term of office.

192/09 VWHDC Chairman's Community Awards Lunch – 6th March 2010

Council were invited to nominate anyone who they felt should be recognised for their achievements in the local community, the theme for this year's awards being 'Unsung Heroes of the Vale'. It was AGREED to nominate all those who had been nominated for the Clive Davis Community Hero award, plus Mrs. Joy Blake.

193/09 Confirmation of Town Clerk as duly authorised Officer to give instructions to obtain legal advice or carry out legal work.

Hodsons Solicitors to provide a letter of confirmation to the Chairman should write to Hodsons and confirm that the Officer of the Council.

194/09 Annual Visit by VWHDC Chief Executive and D/Cllr. Tony de Vere

The Clerk stated that she had received questions from two members only since the last meeting, and it was AGREED to defer this matter to the next meeting for final approval of the questions to be submitted. The following question was also added:

Do the Vale have any plans to delegate simple planning applications to its Town Councils?

195/09 Oxfordshire Fire Authority's Integrated Risk Management Consultation Action Plan 2010-11.

The Integrated Risk Management Plan provides details of the strategic direction for future fire and rescue provision in the county during the next 3-5 years. Council is invited to make comments on the strategy ó deadline for comments is 31st January 2010. The consultation document can be viewed on the County Council website www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/irmp.

One copy is also available for inspection from the Town Clerk's office.

Cllr. Wise was delegated to consider the documents and bring his proposed response to the next meeting for approval.

196/09 Correspondence

1. Mr. & Mrs. N. Snelling re parking problems in Lechlade Road
Mr. & Mrs. Snelling's letter, which was circulated with the Agenda, was considered. They were particularly complaining about parking on the grass verge outside No. 52 Lechlade Road, which had resulted in ugly muddy scars. In the light of increased usage of the A417, the presence of parked vehicles had also increased the danger for drivers using the legal parking area known as Wellington Square. The Clerk was instructed to write to Sgt. Steve Clark of TVP and ask him to enforce the parking restrictions.
2. Cllr. Leniec expressed pleasure at the news that Bridging the Gap were operating once more, after a long absence due to family circumstances.