

TOWN COUNCIL

**Notice is hereby given of a Town Council meeting
to be held on Thursday 28th January 2010 at 7.15 p.m.
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
J.C.W. Gillman
A.V. Hickmore
D. Keeble
S. Leniec
A. Marsden
N.S. O'Keeffe

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

01/10 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. K. Herbert.

02/10 Minutes of last meeting : 9th December 2009 (The meeting due to be held on 13th January 2010 was cancelled due to heavy snow).

The Minutes were signed as a correct record.

03/10 Matters Arising & Action List

Min. 179/09(172/09): Cllr. Hickmore reported that the Faringdon Engagement Art Team had changed its name to the Pink Pigeon Trust, to avoid confusion with the already existing Faringdon Educational Activities Trust (also known as FEAT).

Min. 193/09: The Chairman confirmed that he had written a letter to Hodsons confirming the Clerk's authority to give instructions to undertake legal action.

04/10 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were given.

05/10 Public Question Time

No questions had been received.

06/10 Public Speaking Time

(a) Report from Thames Valley Police

A written report from PCSO Kerry Davis was NOTED.

(b) Members of the Public

There were no members of the public present.

Hickmore Second: Cllr. S. Leniec
members 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 Councils' meeting dates that may cause councillors who serve on both Councils to be unable to attend the meeting of Faringdon Town Council.

The Motion, which had been stood over from the previous meeting, was CARRIED.

2. Proposer: Cllr. S. Leniec Second: Cllr. A. Hickmore
This Council notes with dismay the proposal from Oxfordshire County Council politicians that Youth service funding could be cut by two thirds by 2012. Council continues to support the provision of badly needed youth services within the town. This support has provided subsidised room hire and equipment for the new centre demonstrating tangible support for the services offered to young people. It would be a demoralising blow to the youth of the town if their centre was closed or faced cuts so soon after opening and would call into question the support of local politicians for the project.
We demand assurances from our local county councillor that this will be a priority issue when the ruling group set their budget and expect full support for the retention of all youth services in Faringdon and across the county.

Members received a response from C/Cllr. Mrs. Heathcoat to this Motion, which was NOTED. Despite the proposal having now been partly withdrawn by O.C.C., Cllr. Leniec did not wish to withdraw his Motion. He urged Council to carry the Motion to demonstrate its commitment to youth service activities in the town and the rest of Oxfordshire. Cllr. Wise suggested that the word 'demand' in the final paragraph be amended to 'seek', this amendment was accepted by Cllrs. Leniec and Hickmore and the Motion, as amended, was CARRIED. Members expressed their disappointment on hearing the news that Mr. David Mephram, the Youth Worker for Faringdon, had obtained a full time post elsewhere and the Council were actively recruiting for his replacement.

08/10 County Councillor's Report

C/Cllr. Mrs. Heathcoat had submitted a written report in her absence, which was NOTED. The report centred on two topics, firstly the financial position of O.C.C. and secondly the recent adverse weather conditions.

Cllr. Leniec stated that, whilst understanding the constraints of both O.C.C. and VWHDC during the recent snow and icy conditions, Faringdon had felt very neglected by them because of a lack of gritting on minor roads and footpaths.

However, both Cllr. Hickmore and Cllr. Gillman paid tribute to the efforts of VWHDC operatives who had been seen gritting areas which were not their responsibility.

09/10 District Councillors' Report

D/Cllr. Mrs. Thomson submitted a written report, which was NOTED. She also reported that she had recently attended a meeting of the Pre-School, which had received an Ofsted inspection and had obtained a good report. She felt this was remarkable in the light of their recent Management Committee problems.

D/Cllr. Cox also submitted a written report, which was NOTED.

, which was NOTED. He also reported that he had
Lewendon of Oxfordshire Royal British Legion and from

Major Terry Roper of The Rifles regarding Faringdon's contribution to repatriation ceremonies. As Faringdon Community College had specialist status in engineering, Cllr. Wise, being an engineer, had been asked to give an address at the Faringdon Community College's Awards Ceremony. He passed on the high regard in which the College was held; FCC had the highest exam results in Oxfordshire.

He then informed members of the High Sheriff's Awards and his request for nominations for residents who had made an outstanding contribution towards their community, particularly in youth activities. Two nominations were made: Mrs. Margot Manning for her fundraising activities for Save the Children and Mrs. Ann Jerome, for her work over many years with the Girl Guide movement.

11/10 Reports from Committees

Planning & Highways : 1st & 15th December 2009 & 5th January 2010 : These Minutes were NOTED.

Cllr. Wise asked for a public announcement to be made on the outcome of the Planning & Highways Meetings on 26th and 27th January. Cllr. Hickmore outlined the conclusions for the benefit of Council members who were not present at the meetings.

Cllr. Gillman suggested that the town centre had moved to Park Road, since the development of the Bloor Homes site and others which would follow in the vicinity.

Cllr. Leniec expressed his concern at the loss of manufacturing employment land, if the proposal to build a Tesco store at Park Road went ahead, and reminded members that the Council had made a commitment to increase employment provision.

Recreation & Open Spaces : 6th January : The Clerk stated that these Minutes would be available at the next meeting.

Venues : 1st December 2009: The Minutes were NOTED.

Cllr. Wise informed members that the Corn Exchange refurbishment specification was currently being drawn up, with the intention to carry out the work during August.

Cllr. Mrs. Boulton suggested that the Corn Exchange should be licensed to hold civil marriage ceremonies, and this suggestion was referred to the Venues Committee.

Venues: 12th January 2010 The Clerk stated these Minutes would be available at the next meeting.

12/10 Clerk's Report & Schedule of Payments

The following bills had already been paid in accordance with S/Order o. 77(a) and required retrospective authorization for payment.

Gold Dust Commercial	Office cleaning	276.00
Mr. T. Wheeler	Bus shelter & P/House window cleaning	75.00
Three Counties Business Machines	Photocopier charges (2 months)	148.47
Chubb Fire Ltd.	Fire Alarm maintenance ó C/Ex	159.39
Taylor's Catering Equip.	C/Ex gas cookers ó service charge	164.74
Simply Schoolwear	Uniform items ó V. Stepp	60.77
M.J. Dowell	Resurfacing of allotment No. 20	1500.00
VWHDC	Dog bin service charges	250.79
MRH Services	Installation of fencing- Oakwood Park	1666.70
	Play Equipment inspections	38.00
Archant Life	Venues advertising ó Cotswold Life	172.50

...s to C/Ex windows	257.33
...ery	170.61
...es for December	11,679.79

2. Direct Debits

O2 Online	Venues Mobile Phone	26.78
O2 Online	ROS Mobile Phone	13.22
Zen Internet Ltd.	Broadband charges	48.92
Esso Fuel Card Services	Van & mower fuel	30.57
Pitney Bowes	Franking machine rental	11.44
NPower	C/Ex electricity charges	148.58

TOTAL F.T.C. INVOICES 16,872.82

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

Simply Schoolwear	Stock purchases	83.70
Buckstop Print Services	Stock purchases & stationery printing	43.47
N.J. Hance	Stock purchases	26.00

Agency Sales:

West End Theatre Managers	Theatre Ticket Sales	65.97
Faringdon Community Bus	Ticket Sales (Weeks 36-39)	21.40

TOTAL F.C. & T.I.C. INVOICES 240.54

Cllr. Leniec proposed that payment of the above bills be APPROVED, which was seconded by Cllr. Hickmore and CARRIED.

13/10 Annual Visit by VWHDC Chief Executive and D/Cllr. Tony de Vere

Members reviewed the suggested questions to be submitted to VWHDC in advance of their attendance on 10th February and added three more questions to the list. The Clerk was asked to send the list to the Chief Executive and Leader.

14/10 Oxfordshire Fire Authority's Integrated Risk Management Consultation Action Plan 2010-11.

Members received and considered Cllr. Wiseø proposed response, which was that Council should support Projects 1-7, and this was APPROVED.

15/10 Precept 2010/2011

Members received the recommendations of the Finance Committee meeting held on 20th January 2010 and suggestions from the Town Meeting held on 25th January 2010.

Cllr. Leniec proposed that Council approve the Precept figure of £250,930, which was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barker and CARRIED.

16/10 Correspondence

- Two letters of apology were received from young people who had caused recent damage in All Saintsø Churchyard by painting some of the headstones with red paint. The Clerk stated that she had been asked by the Police whether they should charge the offenders, or take less formal action. She recommended that Council should take the more informal route, and this was AGREED.



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