

## ON TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of a Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010 in the Old Town Hall, Market Place, Faringdon

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

**In Attendance:** D/Cllr. Tony de Vere, Leader of VWHDC  
Mr. David Buckle, Chief Executive, VWHDC  
C/Cllr. Mrs. J. Heathcoat  
D/Cllr. Mrs. A. Thomson  
2 Members of Thames Valley Police  
0 Members of Public  
1 Member of the Press  
The Town Clerk & Assistant Clerk

#### **17/10 Apologies for Absence**

No apologies were received.

The Mayor suggested that the report from Thames Valley Police should be brought forward on the Agenda to allow the police officers to leave the meeting and deal with other more pressing matters, and this was AGREED.

#### **18/10 Report from Thames Valley Police**

A written report was tabled at the meeting and NOTED. Council members complained about the congestion being caused by trucks parking at the lower end of Coxwell Street, often partly on the pavement. Sgt. Steve Clark informed members that one of his PCs had left Faringdon and would shortly be replaced. The Mayor thanked the Police for providing hot drinks at the repatriation ceremonies on the A420.

#### **19/10 Annual Visit by VWHDC**

Council welcomed D/Cllr. Tony De Vere, Leader and Mr. David Buckle, Chief Executive respectively of VWHDC. A list of questions which the Council wished to ask had been supplied prior to this meeting. D/Cllr. De Vere, referring to the previous item, stated that the District Council were keen to take on the role of enforcement of on-street parking restrictions, however the

level of fines which could be imposed would not make

question which had been submitted, and the following replies were given by the VWHDC representatives. (The full list of questions will be available from the Town Clerk's office and on the Town Council website.)

1. D/Cllr. De Vere stated that a partnership had been set up in Abingdon to improve the image of the town and its economic viability. Wantage also has a scheme through their Joint Economic Forum. When asked why Faringdon did not have a similar scheme, Mr. Buckle replied that, although there was no immediate prospect of this, the District Council would be happy to work with the Town Council.

The Mayor complained that the recent consultation with the VWHDC regarding the proposed changes to the Core Strategy, particularly with regard to future retail provision in Faringdon, was only of one hour's duration, and suggested that there should be better liaison between the towns in the Vale to discuss matters of mutual interest.

2. Mr. David Buckle stated that there had been no financial loss, apart from £6,000 which went missing from the Wantage Local Services Point, and that the figure of £700,000 was an accounting error. He confirmed that the District Council had had to make significant financial cuts this year and the error had now been rectified. He also stated that they had made a number of other cuts in the budget as a result of various factors and spending pressures. He did not believe there had been a significant impact in Faringdon or any other towns or parishes in the Vale.
3. D/Cllr. De Vere stated that the closure of Faringdon Cash Office, and the proposed closure of Wantage LSP, would reduce the face to face contact with the public; there was no plan to compensate the Town Council for the additional work which they were undertaking as a result of the Faringdon closure.

However, Mr. Buckle agreed to liaise with the Town Clerk in an attempt to help minimise the number of enquiries. Cllr. Marsden reminded the VWHDC representatives that Faringdon was at a significant disadvantage to Wantage or Abingdon because there was no public transport available to Abingdon.

5. D/Cllr. De Vere estimated that he spends around 30 hours per week carrying out work as Leader of the Council, in addition to his role as a Councillor.
6. Mr. Buckle explained that savings of approx. £2.5m had been made between the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils and outlined the various savings which made up this figure.
7. Cllr. Hickmore expressed the opinion that a recent proposal to delegate planning decisions to the Chairman of the Development Control Committee was deplorable, however he believed that simple planning applications could be delegated to Town Councils. Mr. Buckle replied that legislation did not permit this at the present time, although the District Council would not wish to rule out the suggestion for the future.
8. Mr. Buckle stated that the Public Spending Review would not be published until Autumn 2010, but the District Council were anticipating a 5% reduction in government funding year on year from 2011/12 onwards.
9. (a) Mr. Buckle replied that, in the case of a deficit higher than predicted, the cost would be shared by the County and District Councils and the Police, whilst any surplus would also be shared amongst them.

to look at the figures for Faringdon and to find out  
be projected.

that the strategy for the two properties was different.

The District Council were negotiating with Abingdon Town Council regarding transfer of the Guildhall and they have allowed extra funds in their 2010/11 budget to fund the costs of taking over the building.

As far as Wantage Civic Hall was concerned, initial discussions were not productive. However, the District Council believed that the facility had not been marketed properly and this would be undertaken in an attempt to increase income and to reduce the deficit, currently £150,000 p.a. A review would take place at the end of the next financial year.

The Mayor stated that the feeling amongst Faringdon residents was that, their Council tax was continuing to support facilities in other towns, whilst having to support the Corn Exchange at the same time.

In conclusion, Mr. Buckle stated that town regeneration was a District Council priority and promised increased activity in Faringdon. The Mayor thanked D/Cllr. De Vere and Mr. Buckle for attending the meeting.

#### **20/10 Minutes of last meeting : 29<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

The Minutes were signed as a correct record.

#### **21/10 Matters Arising & Action List**

The actions carried out on the Action List were NOTED and there were no further matters arising.

#### **22/10 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made at this time.

#### **23/10 Public Question Time & Public Speaking Time**

There were no members of public present.

#### **24/10 County Councillor's Report**

C/Cllr. Mrs. Heathcoat informed the meeting that the O.C.C. budget for 2010/11 had resulted in an increase of 2.7% over 2009/2010.

She urged Councillors to attend the forthcoming meetings regarding the Mineral Spatial Strategy Options, as there were some which would affect Faringdon. The Council Council were concerned about the impact on already busy roads in the area. C/Cllr. Mrs. Heathcoat outlined progress of the Good Neighbour Scheme, she stated that it would take some time to implement in Faringdon but she would be approaching her other parish councils to see whether there were any volunteers prepared to run the scheme.

#### **25/10 District Councillors' Report**

D/Cllr. Mrs. Thomson submitted a written report, which was NOTED.

#### **26/10 Chairman's Activity Report**

The Mayor tabled a written report, which was NOTED. He presented a gift which he had been given at a recent meeting from the people of Arura, in the West Bank, for the people of Faringdon and stated this would be on permanent display in the Tourist Information Office.

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and 27<sup>th</sup> January The Minutes were NOTED.  
had been sent to the Vale enclosing the Council's

response to the additional consultation of Your Vale ó Your Future and that this had been seen by all Council members. He proposed that Council should formally approve the letter, which was seconded and CARRIED.

He also asked to formally record his thanks to Mrs. Hilary Sherman, the Deputy Clerk, who had recorded the Minutes of the meetings on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January exceedingly well.

*Recreation & Open Spaces Committee : 6<sup>th</sup> January* The Minutes were NOTED.

*Venues : 12<sup>th</sup> January* The Minutes were NOTED.

*Finance : 20<sup>th</sup> January* The decisions made within Mins. 09/10(b) and (c) were APPROVED and the Minutes were NOTED.

### 28/10 Reports from Outside Committees

No reports were available.

### 29/10 Clerk's Report & Schedule of Payments

1. The following bills had already been paid because payment was required either urgently or in advance.

Weaver Khan	C/Ex refurbishment architectural fees	2254.00
Biffa Waste Services	Overdue waste disposal charges	24.20

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

Davis Home Centre	Maintenance items	132.33
Gold Dust Commercial	Office cleaning	276.00
J. Barnes	C/Ex window cleaning	95.00
Mr. T. Wheeler	Bus shelter & P/House window cleaning	75.00
Three Counties Business Machines	Photocopier charges	98.17
Chubb Fire Ltd.	P/House fire alarm maintenance	83.43
MRH Services	Play equipment inspection and repairs	74.58
VWHDC	Dog bin servicing charges	250.79
TJH Plumbing & Heating	C/Ex water heater repairs	150.00
Cotswold Coolers	Bottled water & sanitization service	38.78
JRB Enterprises	Dog waste bags and dispensers (2)	223.84
PHS Group plc	Sanitary disposal charges	502.57
TVE Hire & Sales	Hire of portable lighting	30.52
O.P.F.A.	Annual Subscription	65.00
The White Horse Show	Trade Stand booking fee	100.00
Mrs. J. Rennie	Reimb. For stationery	36.60
Mrs. S. Thurston	Reimb. For Oxfordshire Tourism fees	20.00
Faringdon Newspapers Ltd.	FTC/FC&TIC Christmas advert	23.00
Imprest Wages A/c	Salaries for January	11,127.47

	Revenue Mobile Phone	24.06
02 Online	ROS Mobile Phone	13.51
Zen Internet Ltd.	Broadband charges	49.98
Esso Fuel Card Services	Van & mower fuel	41.20
Pitney Bowes	Franking machine rental	11.69
British Telecom	Fax line charges	62.93
British Telecom	Hall telephone charges	55.15
British Telecom	Pump House telephone charges	104.17
Business Gas	C/Ex gas charges	1188.14
Thames Water	Tucker Park water charges	138.51

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

Faringdon Youth Centre	£2,000
Ferendune Court Amenity Fund	£1,000

**TOTAL F.T.C. INVOICES 20,370.62**

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

Buckstop Print Services	Stock purchases	64.40
Tourism South East	Stock purchases	220.39
H. Godsell	Stock purchases	63.00
Thematic Trails	Stock purchases	28.33

*Agency Sales:*

J. Wharton	Sale of cards	5.00
Mrs. C. Franklin	Sale of cards and prints	12.00
Jo Banks	Sale of cards	3.24
A. Morris	Sale of cards	11.39
I. Brinsden	Sale of cards and prints	76.19
G. Fletcher	Sale of cards	19.12
A. Cane	Sale of posters	44.00
M. Godliman	Sale of decorated glassware	63.68
Faringdon Community Bus	Ticket Sales (Weeks 40-44)	73.56

**TOTAL F.C. & T.I.C. INVOICES 684.30**

Cllr. S. Leniec proposed that the bills in Section 1-5 above be authorised and paid, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. J. Boulton and CARRIED.

**30/10 Cycle of Meetings 2010/11**

Members received the draft schedule of meetings for the next fiscal year, as presented by the Town Clerk, and this was APPROVED.

on the withdrawal of the Faringdon Community Bus  
days only service between Lechlade and Faringdon,  
via Coleshill, Eaton Hastings and Buscot. Statistics had shown that the service had  
low patronage.

Cllr. Leniec expressed the view that the bus service was operating at inappropriate  
times, and residents of Eaton Hastings would prefer a Saturday service.

The Clerk was asked to respond by accepting the proposal, but expressing the  
Council's disappointment.

### **32/10 Correspondence**

A letter was received from O.R.C.C. inviting Council to celebrate 90 years of their  
work by contributing to a special publication which would highlight good examples  
of local community initiatives. It was suggested that ECOWEEK, the Faringdon  
Community Bus, and the British Legion for their work with repatriations should be  
put forward and Cllr. Mrs. Barker was delegated to complete the questionnaire on  
behalf of the Council and submit to O.R.C.C.

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