

**The Parish of Great Faringdon  
in the County of Oxfordshire**

**Minutes of a Town Meeting  
held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 7.30 p.m.  
in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon**

**PRESENT: For Faringdon Town Council**

**Cllrs. Dr. M.L.H. Wise (Town Mayor)  
Mrs. M.J. Barker (Deputy Mayor)  
Mrs. J. Boulton  
R. Cox  
Ms. J. Farmer  
J.C.W. Gillman  
A.V. Hickmore  
S. Leniec  
A. Marsden  
D. Price**

**D/Cllr. Mrs. A. Thomson  
3 Members of Public  
1 Member of the Press  
The Town Clerk and Assistant Clerk**

**1. Mayor's Opening Address**

The Mayor informed the meeting that, as a result of Faringdon winning the Action for Market Towns National Award 2009 for Faringdon ECOWEEK, the Duke of Gloucester had agreed to visit the town to officially present the award to Mr. Sjoerd Vogt.

The Mayor then asked the meeting for their permission to allow Cllr. Leniec to speak to the meeting, in his capacity of Chairman of the Finance Committee, despite him not living in the parish, and this was AGREED.

He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to present the Council's proposed budget for 2010/11 and to give the public the opportunity to suggest amendments or additions before being presented to Council on 28<sup>th</sup> January for final approval.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. K. Herbert and D. Keeble.

**3. Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

The Minutes were signed as a correct record.

**4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **5. Town Council Budget and Precept for 2010/11**

Cllr. Leniec began by saying that the last couple of years had been very difficult for the Town Council, particularly because of the gradual withdrawal of services from the town by the District Council, and the Town Council taking over full responsibility for the Corn Exchange. He stated that the Council had plans to carry out work in the Pump House over the next year, and the Corn Exchange would undergo major refurbishment during the Summer.

Cllr. Leniec then presented the overall Council budget for 2010/11 and tabled a comparison of expenditure with the budget for 2009/10 including a percentage change between the two years. Cllr. Leniec pointed out that the 2010/11 budget represented a 1.2% increase over the previous year, based on a Band D property.

The Mayor invited questions and asked that these be directed to the appropriate Committee Chairman.

## **6. Public Speaking Time and General Discussion**

Ms. Gene Webb suggested that a professional marketing company should also be asked to market the Pump House, but Cllr. Leniec stated that Council would rather wait and give Mrs. Thurston time to get established in her new role.

Ms. Gene Webb asked whether Council had made any progress for the use of Willes Close as allotments in the forthcoming year, and Cllr. Mrs. Boulton explained that, because of the covenant which exists on the land and the lack of access, no progress could be made at the present time.

D/Cllr. Mrs. Thomson enquired about the timescale for the refurbishment of the Corn Exchange and was told that it was hoped to carry out the work during August 2010. The work would include new toilets, secondary glazing, improved lighting, redecoration and repairs to the floor. D/Cllr. Mrs. Thomson complained about the lack of fencing around the Marlborough Gardens play area. Whilst it was pointed out that this is a District Council maintained park, it was agreed that the Town Council should be exerting pressure on the VWHDC to install fencing funded by S106 contributions from the Coxwell Road development.

Ms. Gene Webb asked when the proposed improvements in the Town Park would be carried out, and Cllr. Hickmore replied that this was a JET project and it was hoped the project would be completed in Spring 2010.

## **7. Faringdon Folly Tower**

Ms. Gene Webb reported to the meeting that, on behalf of the Folly Tower Trust, she would be applying for a Woodland Development Grant to fund a development programme and on going maintenance to the woodland. To support the application, it was necessary to demonstrate community involvement and urged everyone present to fill in the questionnaire, which she handed round.