

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Planning & Highways Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday 18 November 2008 at 7.15 pm
in the June Rennie Room, The Pump House, Market Place,
Faringdon**

PRESENT: Cllrs A V Hickmore (Chairman)
Mrs M J Barker
J Boyle
J C W Gillman
A Marsden
Dr M L H Wise

**IN ATTENDANCE: 11 members of public
1 member of press
Deputy Town Clerk.**

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs D Hughes, D Price and Mrs J Boulton.
- 2. Minutes of Last Meeting: Thursday, 6 November 2008**
The Minutes were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- 3. Matters Arising**
Min 8, Meeting 26.8.08: Planning Application GFA/20602/2-X: It was noted that as there had been no objections to this application, the Planning Officer had decided to deal with this application using delegated powers. However, in view of the delay in District Council considering this application it was felt this could have a detrimental effect on Faringdon's economy as businesses who had previously indicated interest in the proposed development were now beginning to look elsewhere. It was AGREED that Faringdon Town Council should write to the relevant Planning Officer to progress this application as quickly as possible.
Meetings, 28 October & 6 November: There were no matters arising.
- 4. Public Question Time**
No questions had been received.
- 5. Public Speaking Time**
A resident from Marlborough Street highlighted the difficulties experienced by residents in the town centre regarding parking on streets near their houses. He stated this was due to the parking restrictions currently in place and he asked whether Town Council could offer any assistance in this matter. The members noted that parking for residents in the town centre was difficult and it was AGREED that the Chairman would draw up a paper outlining possible ways that parking on the streets for residents could be achieved, this paper to be submitted to the next scheduled meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee for consideration.
- 6. Declarations of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest.

7. The following **Planning Applications** were considered:

GFA/4905/9

Variation of condition 4 of GFA/4905/6-X to allow for an amendment to the design of the access road to serve the permitted housing

The Willow House, 18 Coxwell Road, Faringdon

For: Cover Construction Co. Ltd

(One objection was received from a Faringdon resident)

OBJECT for the following reasons:

(a) Access/Egress Road:

- Access/egress for emergency vehicles extremely poor;
- Access/egress would be difficult for refuse vehicles and consequently all refuse for collection would be dumped outside the drive on Coxwell Road;
- Access/egress of vehicles is likely to create traffic congestion and possible accidents on Coxwell Road, already a busy road, as well as creating a hazard for pedestrians;
- Vehicles will not be able to pass each other on the access road;
- There should be a pavement along the whole access road providing a safe walking area for pedestrians;

(b) It was felt this was a retrospective application as work has already commenced.

It was AGREED that Cllr Dr Wise would attend the meeting of the VWHDC Development Control Committee when it considered this particular planning application. This is in line with Town Council policy that at the time Town Council objects to a planning application, a member is delegated to speak on behalf of the Town Council at the relevant VWHDC meeting.

**GFA/15496/12&
GFA/15496/13-LB**

Conversion of 2 no. ground floor store rooms to form 2 bedroom apartment with parking, bin and cycle storage and rear amenity space (re-submission)

50-54 London Street, Faringdon

For: Mr Richard Crewe

NO OBJECTIONS

8. **Work to Trees**

A Vale of White Horse District Council Notice of Intention to undertake the following work was received and NOTED

72 Park Road, Faringdon

20% reduction and crown lift to 1 x Beech

9. For Information

(a) A **Notice of Permission** from the Vale of White Horse District Council was received and NOTED in respect of the following planning application:-

GFA/739/13 Alterations to disused outbuildings to form additional
& GFA/739/14-LB hotel bedrooms
The Crown Hotel, 25 Market Place, Faringdon
For: Chapman Group Ltd.
(Do not object – Planning & Highways Committee Meeting, 7.10.08)

(b) *Thames Water Draft Water Resources Management Plan*: A letter dated 28 October 2008 was received from the Minister for the Natural and Marine Environment, Wildlife and Rural Affairs. This was in response to Town Council's letter regarding the benefits of using canal barges for transportation of materials in connection with the construction of Thames Water's proposed reservoir south-west of Abingdon. It was NOTED that the Minister had commented that if Thames Water's proposed Abingdon reservoir was to be taken forward in its final Water Resources Management Plan, the issues of transporting construction materials would need to be considered at any hearing relating to the planning application. The members agreed that Town Council should make representations at the hearing when the planning application is considered.

10. Finance

(a) The half-yearly report to 30 September 2008 was received and NOTED;

(b) Precept 2009/10:

The Chairman proposed that the following budget should be approved and this proposal was seconded and CARRIED.

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| Cleaning of Bus Shelters | £720 |
| Vandalism Costs (Bus Shelters) | £1000 |
| Travel Expenses (for members to attend meetings of VWHDC Development Control Committee when making objections to planning applications on behalf of Town Council) | £100 |
| Costs of Opinion Polls to be carried out in respect of future developments in Faringdon | £5000 |

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| Litter Bins for bus shelters | £349 |
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Cllr Gillman raised the issue of road sign clutter and asked that this be considered within the budget. However, it was agreed that this matter should be discussed with the District Council and should not be included in the budget.

11. Faringdon Chamber of Commerce Questionnaire

A questionnaire from the Faringdon Chamber of Commerce regarding the future business, economic and social development of Faringdon, its surrounding villages and Vale of White Horse was received and considered.

It was AGREED that a copy of the Town Council's Development Strategy for Faringdon 2008-2026 should be forwarded to the Chamber of Commerce in response to this questionnaire.

12. Gravel Walk – Installation of Gas Main

It was NOTED that Town Council had not been informed of this work and it was AGREED that a letter should be written to Oxfordshire County Council asking what action was being taken to finish the work as soon as possible.

13. Preliminary Information

(a) *Possible Future Retail Development on land North of Faringdon Junior School.* The Chairman advised that details on this proposal had just been received and although the proposal was in its very early stages, the Town Council's Development Strategy for Faringdon 2008-2026 had been amended to include it under the Retail Section.

(b) *Neurological Centre, Fernham Gate:* Two members of the public raised their concern regarding this possible development. It was NOTED that they had already submitted questions in respect of this matter to the Town Council at its meeting held on 12 November 2008 and that answers to these questions had been given at that meeting. However, the Chairman explained in detail to them the procedure which is followed by District Council and Town Council when planning applications are submitted for consideration. Advice was also given to the residents on how to submit objections to a planning application to the relevant planning authority.

(c) *Wicklesham Quarry Business Park:* The site-owner, Tom Allen-Stevens, outlined details of a proposal to develop the quarry as a new business park. A copy of a draft press release due to be issued in respect of this proposed development was also received and the members approved the reference made therein to the Town Council's support for such a development in its Development Strategy for Faringdon 2008-2026.

14. Future Development in the Vale – Core Strategy Preferred Options

A letter dated 6 November 2008 was received from the Vale of White Horse District Council advising that public consultation in respect of the above would commence on 16 January 2009 for a six week period to 27 February. The District Council had asked for widespread publicity for the exhibitions and workshops forming part of this consultation and it was AGREED that Town Council would arrange for details to be publicised on the Town Council website, in the Town Council newsletter and would also liaise with the Faringdon Folly Newspaper.

15. Vale of White Horse District Council draft Core Strategy Preferred Options Report

A request for confidentiality had been made by the Vale of White Horse District Council in respect of its Draft Preferred Options Report as this report was not yet in the public domain. The Chairman, therefore, proposed that in accordance with Town Council Standing Order No. 65 the public, including the press, be temporarily excluded from the meeting whilst this item was discussed. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Boyle and CARRIED.

It was NOTED that District Council was seeking a view from Town Council on the draft preferred options report dated 15 October, 2008, a copy of which had been provided to Town Council.

Following suggestions from members for some extra details to be included in the Faringdon section, the members approved the document and stated this was a good document which should be read in conjunction with Town Council's Development Strategy for Faringdon 2008-2026