

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10 February 2009 at 7.15 pm in the June Rennie Room, The Pump House, Market Place, Exchange, Faringdon

PRESENT: Cllrs A V Hickmore (Chairman)
Mrs J Boulton
J C W Gillman
D Keeble
N S O'Keeffe
D Price
A Marsden
Dr M H L Wise

IN ATTENDANCE: 7 members of public
Deputy Town Clerk

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Boyle, Mrs M J Barker and D/Cllr Mrs A Thomson.
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting: Tuesday, 20 January 2009**
The Minutes were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
3. **Matters Arising**
There were no matters arising.
4. **Public Question Time**
No questions had been received.
5. **Public Speaking Time**
Faringdon Fossil Trust: A local resident had noted that on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting, there was an item regarding the transfer of land to the Town Council and he wished to discuss this matter. He was advised that as this matter was due to be discussed by the Town Council he should attend its meeting to raise his query. For information purposes, the Chairman, who also sat as a Trustee of the Fossil Trust, outlined the Trust's objectives.
6. **Declarations of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest.
7. **Planning Applications** were considered and decisions made as follows::

GFA/20774 Erection of first floor rear extension
8 Town End Road, Faringdon
For: Mr Matthew Kelly
NO OBJECTIONS

GFA/19649/3 Erection of 11 affordable houses (5x2 bed & 6x3 bed) with parking and access road (land behind Winslow House)
**Land adjoining Coxwell House and Winslow House,
Coxwell Road, Faringdon**
For: Cotswold Homes & South Oxfordshire H.A.

It was NOTED that this planning application had originally been forwarded to the Town Council with the reference number GFA/19649/3 (development of land adjoining Coxwell House and Winslow House in Coxwell Road). A letter was received in the Town Council office on 9 February advising that the application had been given the wrong reference number and that it had now been amended to GFA/16464/4. The Clerk was asked to point out to VWHDC that had the meeting of its Planning & Highways Committee been held earlier than its scheduled date of 10 February, this could have resulted in comments being made which were, in fact, not relevant to the application.

A local resident raised his objections to the planning application on the basis that the number of houses proposed was too high for the area under consideration.

OBJECT on the following basis:

- (a) overdevelopment – density of housing too high for the area;
- (b) inadequate parking space;
- (c) as the size of these properties would indicate that they are presumably built for families, there is insufficient garden space and no access to allotments;
- (d) this development, with its own separate entrance, would appear to go against VWHDC policy that affordable housing should be spread throughout developments and not grouped together.

The Clerk was also asked to point out to VWHDC that the plans from Trower Davies and the plan from Phoenix Design were inconsistent and the members would like clarification on this point.

8. For Information

(a) Notices of Permission were received from the Vale of White Horse District Council and NOTED in respect of the following applications:-

GFA/19939/2 Proposed single detached garage to new detached property
62 Coxwell Road, Faringdon
For: Mr Edward Young
*(No objections – Planning & Highways Committee Meeting,
9.12.08)*

GFA/10178/3 Erection of Nine 2 and 3 bedroom dwellings and car parking (revised design)
49A Bromsgrove, Faringdon
For: Cotswold Homes Ltd
(Objected – Planning & Highways Committee Meeting, 9.12.08)

GFA/3261/4 Demolition of existing conservatory. Erection of a conservatory.
28 Gravel Walk, Faringdon
For: Mrs Phillips
No objections – Planning & Highways Committee Meeting, 6.1.09)

9. Work to Trees

Notification was received and NOTED from the Vale of White Horse District Council that the following works to trees have been approved:

Reduce by 20% one Goat Willow
Gloucester House, Gloucester Street, Faringdon

Re-pollard one Lime Tree
16 Stanford Road, Faringdon

10. Vale of White Horse District Council Local Development Framework Preferred Options Consultation

(a) Comments were received from relevant interested parties in respect of the Executive Summary drawn up following the issues discussed at Planning & Highways Committee meeting on 6 January 2009.

A copy of Faringdon Town Council's draft response to the VWHDC Preferred Options was then considered.

With regard to para 2.16 in the response, Cllr Price felt that more emphasis should be put on a comprehensive upgrade of the A420 given the large development planned in Swindon which would have a considerable impact on the road. It was AGREED that the comments made should be strengthened to take this into account.

Cllr Gillman made the point that companies in Faringdon are having to move elsewhere due to lack of employment land being available in Faringdon.

A paper from Wicklesham Estates regarding Swindon's prospects and their relevance to Faringdon's local economy was tabled and considered. It was AGREED that this should be attached as an appendix to Town Council's response.

A response from Faringdon Area Project was tabled by its Chairman, Mrs D Saunders. It was NOTED that this was based on social aspects and it was AGREED that this paper should be added as an appendix to Town Council's response.

It was AGREED that the amended response, together with appendices, would be presented to Town Council for approval at its next meeting in order that the document could be submitted to VWHDC by the deadline of 27 February 2009.

Thanks were expressed by the members to the Chairman for the effort he had put into this response.

(b) Verbal reports from Cllrs Mrs Boulton and Dr Wise were received following their attendance at a VWHDC Special Discussion Group for Town/Parish Councils held on Thursday, 22 January 2009.

They stated that this was very similar to the VWHDC exhibition which took place in the Corn Exchange on the 30 January 2009.

They NOTED that the bulk of development was taking place on the eastern side of the Vale area which would mean a long drive to work for those residents in Faringdon seeking employment and it was felt that the Western part of the Vale was being ignored. It was further noted that although Faringdon is included in the South East strategy it is not one of the sub regions.

Thanks were expressed to Cllrs Mrs Boulton and Dr Wise for attending the Special Discussion Group. It was NOTED that D/Cllr Mrs Thomson had also attended.

11. Proposed Development on Fernham Road

Correspondence from Great Coxwell Parish Council and a local resident regarding the above was received. It was NOTED that the land in question was, in fact, in Great Coxwell Parish and not that of Faringdon. With regard to the builders' debris and large containers that had recently been put on the land, it was suggested that Great Coxwell Parish Council should contact the District Council's Environment Enforcement Officer.

12. Redevelopment of Parking Provision at Untons Place, Faringdon

The Chairman stated that a local resident had asked the committee to consider this matter. The area had been originally intended for people over 50 but with the increased pressure on houses, families had been housed there and car parking had become difficult. It was AGREED that this matter should be deferred to the next scheduled meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee in order that members could put forward suggestions for consideration.

13. S106 Agreements

(a) A paper prepared by Cllr Hickmore and detailing a breakdown of agreed Planning Obligations (Bloor Homes) was received. It was NOTED that the community bus was not an FTC administered project and therefore the total for FTC administered projects should read £180,000.

(b) It was NOTED that there was no further news on S106 agreements.

14. Invitation from Faringdon Infant and Junior Schools for members to attend a tour of the schools

It was AGREED that this would be an excellent opportunity for members to visit the schools and hear about the schools' plans for the future. The Clerk advised that she was awaiting suitable dates from the Head Teacher of Faringdon Junior School.

15. Planning Categories

A list detailing the various planning categories was received and NOTED.