

# FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

## **Minutes of a Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 14 April 2009 at 7.15 pm in the June Rennie Room, The Pump House, Market Place, Exchange, Faringdon**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs A V Hickmore (Chairman)  
Mrs M J Barker  
Mrs J Boulton  
D Hughes  
D Keeble  
A Marsden  
D Price  
N S O'Keeffe  
Dr M L H Wise  
D/Cllr Mrs A Thomson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 5 members of public  
Deputy Town Clerk

- 1. Apologies for Absence**  
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J C W Gillman.
- 2. Minutes of Last Meeting: Tuesday, 24 March 2009**  
The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- 3. Matters Arising**  
*Min 9, Redevelopment of Parking Provision at Untons Place, Faringdon:* In response to a query from Cllr Marsden the Deputy Town Clerk advised that there had been no response from VHA to date.  
*Min 11, Bollards in front of Corn Exchange:* As Cllr Price had not been present at the previous Planning & Highways Committee meeting, he expressed his concern, as Chairman of the Venues Committee, as to how this would affect access by hirers of the Corn Exchange. D/Cllr Mrs Thomson indicated that stallholders attending the regular monthly Craft Fair would find it extremely difficult to offload equipment and that this would deter their future attendance. Cllr Keeble suggested that as the area was quite large, bollards could possibly be installed on a line the width of a pavement, thus still allowing cars to park there but also providing a safe, unobstructed walkway for pedestrians. Cllr Hickmore suggested that planted troughs would be more attractive than bollards. However, it was NOTED that the Deputy Town Clerk was progressing the actions previously agreed by Committee. It was AGREED that the matter should also be referred to the Traffic Advisory Committee.
- 4. Public Question Time**  
No questions had been received.
- 5. Public Speaking Time**  
No member of the public wished to speak at this stage.

**6. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**7. The following Planning Application was considered and decision made:**

**GFA/20827**                      Erection of a single storey rear extension and conversion of part of garage for disabled use  
**61 Folly View Road, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 7DQ**  
For: Ms J Williams  
**NO OBJECTIONS**

**8. For Information**

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

**GFA/4905/9**                      Variation of condition 4 of GFA/4905/6 to allow for an amendment to the design of the access road to serve the permitted housing. (Part retrospective)  
**The Willow House, 18 Coxwell Road, Faringdon SN7 7EZ**  
For: Cover Construction Co. Ltd.  
***(Object – Planning & Highways Committee Meeting, 18.11.08)***

**9. VWHDC Core Strategy – Preferred Options Evidence Base**

Cllr Wise had been delegated authority by Committee to formulate comments on the Evidence Base in order that these could be submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council by the deadline of 30 March 2009. A copy of the comprehensive comments were received and NOTED.

The members FURTHER NOTED that the initial report drawn up by Cllr Hickmore together with the final comments submitted by Cllr Dr Wise had involved both councillors in much time-consuming work and the members expressed their thanks to both councillors.

The Committee expressed its deep concern that information advising that further documents had recently been added to the Evidence Base had only been received from VWHDC on 27 February 2009. As this was such a late date after the initial Core Strategy Preferred Options had been published, it had left very little time for due consideration of the documents by the deadline of 30 March 2009.

It was AGREED that both Cllr Hickmore's report and Cllr Dr Wise's submission should be sent to the various local organisations and townspeople who had commented on Town Council's original submission.

**10. S106 Agreements**

Concern was expressed by the committee that there had been no further movement on this matter despite having received assurances from Bloor Homes that they would honour their commitment to pay immediately an initial £30,000 as a contribution towards access for the disabled at the Pump House. It was NOTED that building work was progressing on the Park Road site with houses being occupied and it was felt that the terms of the S106 Agreement were not being properly met.

Following discussion it was AGREED that recommendation should be made to the Finance Committee that Town Council approaches Bloor Homes to advise that in light of the continued delay in payment of S106 monies, unless Town Council received immediately the initial £30,000 promised towards installation of the disabled lift in the Pump House, Town Council would be issuing a statutory notice through the County Court for payment of the whole amount due to Town Council under S106 contributions. However, it was hoped that this matter could be resolved amicably without recourse to legal action. The Deputy Town Clerk was asked to clarify, in the meantime, whether any money from Bloor Homes had been received by the District Council.

#### **11. Correspondence**

A letter was received from Mr & Mrs Schwab regarding Coxwell Pit SSSI and 'Community Area' off Fernham Road. It was NOTED that they had expressed their increasing concern and frustration at the ongoing lack of progress regarding the agreed transfer of the above-mentioned site from the ownership of Builders Ede to Town Council/Faringdon Fossil Trust and asked (a) why this had not yet taken place and (b) why Builders Ede appeared unwilling to pay the agreed amount of £20,000 for landscaping and fencing of the SSSI, community area and access path in the area to the south of Fernham Gate.

The Chairman advised that the Faringdon Fossil Trust had now been set up after difficulties experienced with the Charity Commission and that the matter of transfer of ownership was now with the respective solicitors. It was NOTED that the financial implications of this matter were due to be considered by the Finance Committee at its meeting on 29 April 2009.

The Chairman apologised on behalf of the Planning & Highways Committee that higher priority had not been given to this matter and although it was not in the remit of this Committee, it would nevertheless ensure that the matter would be progressed without delay by (a) clarifying with Builders Ede the situation regarding the £20,000 and (b) chasing up the solicitors.

D/Cllr Mrs Thomson asked that Builders Ede be reminded of their verbal agreement to provide fencing around the play area in Marlborough Gardens. Cllrs Price and O'Keeffe expressed their concern that if there was no legal agreement drawn up with Builders Ede to contribute this money, then expectations should not be raised too high. The Deputy Town Clerk was asked to clarify with VWHDC whether an S106 Agreement had been drawn up and, if so, to ascertain whether there was any basis for VWHDC to take legal action in obtaining the monies from Builders Ede.