

# FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 5 May 2009 at 7.15 pm in the June Rennie Room, The Pump House, Market Place, Exchange, Faringdon

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Dr M L H Wise (in the Chair)  
Mrs M J Barker  
Mrs J Boulton  
D Hughes  
D Keeble  
A Marsden  
D Price

**IN ATTENDANCE: 1 member of public**  
Deputy Town Clerk

1. **Apologies for Absence**  
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A V Hickmore and J C W Gillman.
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting: Tuesday, 14 April 2009**  
*Min 10, 2<sup>nd</sup> para;* Cllr Mrs Barker pointed out that this minute should read "...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." This was AGREED and following this amendment, the Minutes were signed as a correct record.
3. **Matters Arising**  
*Min 14, P&H Meeting 10.2.09;* A written report from Cllr Hickmore was tabled in respect of a visit made to Faringdon Junior School by Cllrs Hickmore and Gillman on 30 April. Cllr Hickmore stated that the visit had been most informative and showed a successful school. However, it was NOTED that the school was unaware at this point in time as to how the educational part of the S106 money from the Bloor Homes Development was to be spent. The Head Teacher had suggested that it would be useful if Town Council could convene a meeting with officers from the LEA and the schools to discuss future provision of places in light of the population growth and it was AGREED that contact should be made by the Deputy Town Clerk with the local County Councillor Mrs J Heathcoat in this regard.  
*Min 11, Faringdon Fossil Trust:* It was NOTED that the Finance Committee had considered the financial implications of this matter and had approved the legal fees.
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. Planning Applications were considered and decisions made as follows:**

**GFA/3396/11** Stripping of existing felt roof covering and timber roof structure and replacement with new profiled metal roof cladding on steel trusses including works to rear elevation  
**Faringdon Garage, Marlborough Street, Faringdon**  
For: Fish Brothers (Swindon) Ltd  
**NO OBJECTIONS**

**GFA/15496/14-LB** Amendment to Listed Building application GFA/15496/13-LB to allow the creation of 1 no. window into bedroom 2  
**The Folly Inn, 54 London Street, Faringdon**  
For: Mr Richard Crewe  
**NO OBJECTIONS**

**GFA/13321/1** Change of use from agricultural to boat moorings and 8 car parking spaces  
**Land at Pidnell Farm, Radcot Road, Faringdon**  
For: R Bolter  
**NO OBJECTIONS**

**8. For Information**

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

**GFA/20786** Proposed loft conversion with side roof lights  
**41 Berners Way, Faringdon**  
For: Mr P St George-Yorke  
*(No objections – Planning & Highways Committee Meeting, 3.3.09)*

(b) Notification from the Vale of White Horse District Council was received and NOTED in respect of the withdrawal of the following planning application:

**GFA/5403/3** First floor rear extension providing master bedroom and en-suite bathroom  
**28 Highworth Road, Faringdon**  
For: Mrs A Evenden  
*(No objections – Planning & Highways Committee Meeting, 23.3.09)*

(c) *Local Development Framework (LDF)*: Two reports which had been forwarded to the Town Council by Mr T Allen-Stevens of Wicklesham Estates were received and considered.

The first report had been drawn up by Wicklesham Holdings outlining the justification, together with supporting evidence, for Wicklesham Quarry's inclusion in the Vale of White Horse District Council LDF.

The second report had been drawn up by Kemp & Kemp who had been commissioned by Mariotts Chartered Surveyors in January 2009 to undertake an independent review of the spatial requirements of businesses in the Faringdon area between 2009 and 2026.

Mr Allen-Stevens advised that the reports had been sent to the VWHDC in February 2009. Cllr Wise thanked Mr Allen-Stevens for the reports which were constructive documents. In reply, Mr Allen-Stevens commended the Town Council for its detailed paper submitted to the VWHDC in March in response to the consultation on the VWHDC LDF Evidence Base.

Mr Allen-Stevens also wished to bring to Town Council's attention the situation regarding Oxford's Bodleian Library's new depository which was due to be located in Swindon, the reason being that a suitable site could not be found in Oxfordshire due to Oxfordshire County's B8 policy. The members expressed their concern that any building associated with such an intrinsic part of Oxfordshire history should be located outside Oxfordshire and it was regretted that Wicklesham Quarry had not been considered as a possible site as this could also have provided employment in Faringdon. Mr Allen-Stevens was advised that he should take this matter up with the Oxford MPs and Ed Vaizey MP.

**9. Work to Trees**

Notification from the Vale of White Horse District Council was received and NOTED in respect of the following work to trees:

**Pollard 1 Lime Tree  
Front of 12 Gravel Walk, Faringdon**

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

It was NOTED that delegated members of the Town Council's Recreation & Open Spaces Committee were due, in the next few days, to meet a representative of a company appointed by the VWHDC to assess the leisure needs that would arise from various possible housing allocations across the Vale.

**11. S106 Agreements**

(a) *Bloor Homes Development:* Bloor Homes had advised that following negotiations with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and VWHDC regarding deferment of some of the S106 payments, they would be arranging payment of the initial £30,000 to the VWHDC who would, in turn, pass it to the Town Council. Bloor Homes had indicated that this would take place during the week commencing 20 April. However, the members NOTED that to date there had been no further movement on this matter.

(b) Information was received from Eynsham Parish Council regarding the operation of S106 agreements by West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) and the way in which the parish council dealt with applications to WODC for S106 contributions. However, it was NOTED that there appeared to be no apparent difference in WODC policy to that operated by VWHDC.

**12. Eastern Development Area – Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Review of Swindon’s Local Development Scheme**

Notification was received from Swindon Borough Council that the EDA SPD had now been published for public consultation, the deadline for comments being 15 June 2009. In view of the large development planned, the members felt that this would have a major impact on Faringdon.

However, it was NOTED that no mention had been made of the area on the western side of Swindon just as there had been no plans made by VWHDC for the eastern side of the Vale district and it was felt that as Faringdon fell on the demarcation line between the South East Region and the South West Region, each region felt that Faringdon was the other region’s responsibility. Cllr Price expressed his concern regarding the amount of traffic that already existed on the A420 and the effect that extra development in Swindon would have on this road which he felt should be designated as a trunk road.

Mr Allen-Stevens stated that this was the biggest development in the South West which happened to be on the boundary of Faringdon and potential problems could arise for Faringdon. It could either drain the life out of Faringdon or equally it could provide good opportunities for Faringdon.

The members felt that Swindon Borough Council (SBC) should take into account the effect that this proposed development would have on the hinterland. Following discussion, it was AGREED that authority be delegated to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to draw up comments for submission by Town Council to SBC, to be discussed further at the next meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee. The Deputy Town Clerk was requested, in the meantime, to contact other parish councils that would be affected to ascertain their views.

**13. Roadworks**

Written notification was received from Wales & West Utilities regarding works they would be carrying out with immediate effect in Faringdon which would affect Coxwell Street, Marlborough Street, Gravel Walk, Gloucester Street and Station Road. It was AGREED that this information should be passed to the community website, Faringdon Folly Newspaper and should also be shown on the Town Council’s website.

**14. Untons Place, Faringdon**

A letter dated 28 April 2009 was received from the Vale Housing Association regarding concerns expressed by the Town Council over parking in the above area. It was NOTED that it was the Association’s intention to carry out improvement works and that funding would be sought to do this in 2009/10. The members NOTED that the Association was currently in the process of putting together a range of options with a view to assessing the cost and feasibility and that residents would be consulted to obtain their views. The members looked forward to receiving copies of any proposals and hoped that this matter would come to a speedy resolution as it was a problem. The Deputy Town Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to the Association for its response.