

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 20 October 2009 at 7.15 pm in the June Rennie Room, Pump House, Faringdon

PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs M J Barker (in the Chair)
Mrs J Boulton
J C W Gillman
D Keeble
A Marsden
D Price
D/Cllr Mrs A Thomson

IN ATTENDANCE: Jacqui Cox, Oxfordshire County Council
David Groves, Oxfordshire County Council
1 member of public
Deputy Town Clerk
Assistant Clerk

In the absence of both the Planning & Highways Committee Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, it was proposed, seconded and CARRIED that the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mrs Barker act as Chairman for this meeting.

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Dr M L H Wise, N S O'Keeffe, A V Hickmore, K Herbert and J Boyle.
- 2. Minutes of Last Meeting: Tuesday, 29 September 2009**
Cllr Marsden noted that his apologies had not been recorded despite having advised the town council office and asked that the Minutes be amended accordingly. Following this amendment, the Minutes were AGREED and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- 3. Matters Arising**
Min 10: In response to a query from Cllr Marsden, the Deputy Town Clerk advised that three organisations had been approached and she was now awaiting further detailed responses from these organisations.
- 4. Public Question Time**
No questions had been received.
- 5. Public Speaking Time**
No member of the public wished to speak at this stage of the meeting.
- 6. Declarations of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest

At this stage of the meeting, the Chairman proposed that Agenda Item 9 referring to traffic planning in Faringdon be moved forward for discussion in order that the two representatives from Oxfordshire County Council could leave the meeting early. This proposal was seconded and CARRIED

7. Traffic Planning, Faringdon

David Groves (Development Control, OCC) and Jacqui Cox (Environment & Economy, Transport Planning, OCC) were introduced to the committee. It was noted that they had been invited to the meeting in order to discuss the A420 and Park Road particularly in view of the planned future development of Faringdon.

Mr Groves and Ms Cox outlined their respective roles in Oxfordshire County Council. The councillors then expressed their concerns regarding the problems associated with Park Road and also that there appeared to be no forward planning from Oxfordshire County Highways regarding traffic in Faringdon and wished the following points to be noted:

- Park Road is already overloaded. It was strongly felt that any future development in Faringdon would only exacerbate the problem and, therefore, it should be of primary consideration when planning any future developments in Faringdon;
- Park Road is a road which originally only led to the station and is not fit, in its current state, for existing circumstances let alone those in the future;
- the roundabout on the A420 into which Park Road feeds has only 3 roads feeding into it, not 4. This meant, therefore, that traffic driving through on the Oxford to Swindon route and the Swindon to Oxford route was more or less continuous thus making it difficult for traffic on Park Road to access the A420. The consequence of this meant a build-up of traffic on Park Road;
- in order to provide more access to the A420 from Faringdon, it was suggested that Stanford Road be opened up at the Stanford Road/A420 roundabout. However, it was noted that there could be some objections to the opening up of Stanford Road to the A420 as access into Stanford Road from London Street would be impossible for vehicles such as trucks and although restrictions could be applied, there was the issue of who would enforce these;
- drainage needed sorting out on Park Road as when it rained everything ground to a halt;
- there was no evidence of Park Road being improved and the question was asked how OCC justified the lack of any improvements when there was a development of 400 houses currently being built, with more development likely to take place in the future;
- access by red route buses should be considered. At present, strategic buses pass Faringdon because they cannot get into Faringdon.

Jacqui Cox stated that their work was restricted by financial resources and that the work for market towns was superseded by that for urban areas. She further advised that she had not been instructed to draw up any plans for Faringdon.

However she stated that OCC was looking at schemes under the Local Transport Plan (LTP) and suggested that if there were any schemes that Faringdon Town Council wished to be tested, these should be forwarded to the OCC as soon as possible. Schemes would be looked at towards the end of November and would come to the town council for comment as part of the overall consultation process.

The councillors felt that the District Council should have a traffic development plan for the area drawn up in consultation with the Parish/Town Council and OCC. It was proposed, seconded and CARRIED that a letter be written to the District Council asking that such a traffic action plan be drawn up (a) for the whole of Faringdon and the A420 and (b) specifically for Park Road.

Jacqui Cox advised that in view of the large housing development planned for Swindon, a study on the A420 is now being carried out by Swindon with OCC Highways although she did not know specific details and suggested that the town council contacted Owen South at OCC who was responsible for cross boundary discussions. Following this suggestion, it was AGREED that a letter be written to Owen South to ask him to consider the town council for its input in any such discussions.

The Chairman expressed thanks to Jacqui Cox and David Groves for attending the meeting.

8. Planning Applications were considered and decisions taken as follows:

GFA/3172/6 Change of use from a piano show room with a 2 bedroom first floor flat to a four bedroom house with a one bedroom annex
Ivory House, 40 Coxwell Street, Faringdon
For: Mr and Mrs Snuggs
NO OBJECTIONS

GFA/19770/1 Retrospective application for conversion of existing redundant building (with some demolition works), including raising the ridge height, constructing new dormers and roof lights to form 1x1 bedroom dwelling and 1x2 bedroom dwelling with parking. (Amendment to GFA/19770)
The Old Barn, Stanford Road, Faringdon
For: Miss J Carroll
NO OBJECTIONS

9. 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/20959 Demolition of existing conservatory. Erection of single storey rear extension
33 Elm Road, Faringdon
For: Mr Jeff Wells
(No objections – Planning & Highways Committee Meeting, 8.9.09)

GFA/5693/15-LB Replacement of existing fireplace in south lounge with one more in-keeping with the house
Hill Side, 79 London Street, Faringdon
For: Mr Barry Cockcroft
(No objections – Planning & Highways Committee Meeting, 8.9.09)

GFA/12807/12 Change of use of upper ground floor to a wine bar
Portwell House, 27 Market Place, Faringdon
For: Mr M Blatch
(Do not object – Planning & Highways Committee Meeting, 18.8.09)

(b) Work to Trees

(i) Notification from Vale of White Horse District Council was received and NOTED regarding proposed works to trees, as follows:-.

Remove 1 Western Red Cedar
32 London Street, Faringdon

(ii) Notification from Vale of White Horse District Council was received and it was NOTED that it had no objection to the following work to trees:

Various works
Faringdon Vicarage, Coach Lane, Faringdon

10. Faringdon Fossil Trust – SSSI

As the SSSI is within the Great Coxwell Parish boundary, councillors had been asked to consider Town Council applying for a re-designation of the Faringdon boundary to the A420. As neither the Committee Chairman nor the Vice-Chairman was present, it was proposed, seconded and CARRIED that this matter be deferred to the next scheduled meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee. D/Cllr Mrs Thomson agreed that she would advise D/Cllr R Cox that town council would be considering this possibility.

11. Proposed Waiting Restrictions – Canada Lane, Faringdon

Oxfordshire County Council is required to carry out a consultation process in order to obtain the views of the local community to ascertain whether a proposed Order should be progressed. The schedule detailing proposed waiting restrictions was received and considered. It was AGREED that although the town council had no objections, OCC should be asked as to who would be enforcing these lines as town council believed that unless enforcement was strictly carried out, the lines would have no effect at all in an area which was becoming very dangerous.

12. 2nd Quarterly Budget Report

The report was NOTED.

13. S106 Agreements

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that there were no further updates on current S106 agreements.

DRAFT