

# FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 9 March 2010 at 7.15 pm in the June Rennie Room, the Pump House, Market Place, Faringdon

**PRESENT:** Cllrs A V Hickmore (Chairman)  
Mrs J Boulton  
K Herbert  
D Keeble  
A Marsden  
Dr M L H Wise

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

**47/10 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs D Price and Mrs M J Barker.

**48/10 Minutes of Last Meeting: Tuesday, 16 February 2010**

The Minutes were AGREED and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**49/10 Matters Arising**

*Min 34/10, Street Names*

*(a) Dowell Court:* It was NOTED that the VWHDC had advised that a proper sign for Dowell Court had been ordered and would soon be erected. The housing agency responsible for this development was hoping to hold a small ceremony to mark this new development to which Mr Dowell, brother of George Dowell, would be invited.

*(b) Development on land to rear of Winslow House, Coxwell Road:* It was NOTED that the Vale of White Horse District Council had advised that following submission of three possible street names by the Town Council, the developer had approved them all and had now asked the town council to choose one. It was AGREED that the name Stallard should be chosen and the District Council be advised accordingly.

*Min 38/10, Planning Application GFA/17445/1:* Cllr Keeble expressed his concern that although the majority vote of the committee had been to object to this planning application on the basis that town council policy is not to approve garages being converted into accommodation which could cause problems in the future with regard to car parking on the roads in the area, the committee had in fact approved a garage conversion last year. He therefore felt that there was inconsistency in this policy. It was AGREED that the policy would be reviewed at the next meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee.

*Min 40/10:* It was NOTED that the committee's comments had been forwarded to the civil & structural engineers. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that she had since been contacted by Oxfordshire Highways who had stated that once their assessment of the proposed layout had been carried out, the town council would be advised accordingly.

**50/10 Public Question Time**

No questions had been received.

**51/10 Public Speaking Time**

*Faringdon Fossil Trust:* A local resident enquired whether any further progress had been made regarding the transfer of land from Builders Ede to the town council. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that as far as she was aware this matter was still being followed up by the town clerk but that despite repeated attempts to obtain a response from Builders Ede, this had not been forthcoming.

In view of the length of time this matter was taking to be resolved, the Chairman confirmed that the Town Clerk would be asked to pursue this matter with some urgency.

**52/10 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**53/10 For Information**

*Work to Trees*

Notice of the following proposed work to trees was received from the Vale of White Horse District Council and NOTED:-

Various work to Willow, Ash, Lime, Yew, Horse Chestnut and Cherry trees at 56 London Street, Faringdon

**54/10 Oxfordshire Minerals & Waste Development Framework**

**Informal Consultation on land-won aggregates spatial strategy options**

A written report was received from Cllr Dr Wise following his attendance at a consultation meeting held by OCC at Standlake on 2 March 2010 in respect of the above. Cllr Dr Wise stated that the attendees were mainly representatives from parish councils in the area around the north and west Thames affected by gravel extraction and that they were given the opportunity to put their points of view on the various options regarding sand and gravel, soft sand and crushed rock. It was NOTED from Cllr Dr Wise's report that following the OCC workshops, the OCC would be considering the report of the facilitators and the results of technical assessments of the options. Wider consultation on the refined options would take place later in the year. The committee expressed its concern regarding the lack of long term planning and it was AGREED that Cllr Dr Wise would draw up a letter in this regard for the Deputy Town Clerk to send to Ed Vaizey MP with a copy to C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat.

**55/10 West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) – Core Strategy Preferred Approach**

A written report was tabled from Cllr A Hickmore on the WODC consultation document. He commented that the main areas that would affect Faringdon were (a) the expansion of Carterton with the shopping centre being significantly improved and about 1,000 new homes being built and

(b) the absence of any public transport links from Carterton to Faringdon. He recommended that the members read this document.

**56/10 Vale of White Horse District Council – Core Strategy**

An interim report from “Our Faringdon – Our Future” Working Party was tabled and considered. Cllr Hickmore stated that this report had been produced in response to an urgent request from a Principal Planning Officer at the District Council for the town council working party comments on the options and that it had already been forwarded to the district council. The Chairman proposed that the report be accepted and this proposal was seconded and CARRIED.

However, since the original request had been made and addressed, it had transpired that the request, in fact, had been for the town council’s official response to the Core Strategy Options (not the comments of the Working Party) which the Principal Planning Officer had stated had not been received by the District Council. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that this was incorrect as town council’s comments had been submitted both by email and post by the due deadline of 12 February and receipt of these comments had been duly acknowledged in writing by the VWHDC Principal Planner. The committee expressed its concern that there seemed to be a lack of communication between district council officers.

**57/10 S106 Agreements**

It was NOTED that no further updates on current S106 agreements had been received.

**58/10 Review of Faringdon Town Boundary**

Following information received from the Electoral Commission regarding possible reviews of boundaries, it was NOTED that The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 gave local government the power to take decisions about parish councils and that local electors may petition their principal council (in this case the Vale of White Horse District Council) for a community governance review to be undertaken. It was FURTHER NOTED that the petition must set out at least one recommendation that the petitioners want the review to consider making. It was therefore AGREED that Cllr Marsden, together with the Deputy Town Clerk, would draw up a paper for submission to the district council defining the area that required to be extended for submission.

**59/10 Faringdon Community Bus (FCB)**

A letter dated 20 February 2010 was received from Faringdon Community Bus Ltd regarding transport options relating to a possible planning application by Tesco for a store in Park Road and the possible servicing of the site by the community bus. It was NOTED that FCB felt it would be inappropriate for it to provide a shuttle service between the town centre and the new store which would result in it becoming a more commercial organization and as a group that operated using volunteers, it did not wish for this extra responsibility. It was AGREED that if a planning application was submitted by Tesco for a new store which subsequently received planning permission, as and when S106 discussions took place, town council should recommend that Tesco fund a bus.

**60/10 Annual Review of Town Council Development Strategy 2008-2026**

It was AGREED that the Chairman would review the development strategy and bring his report back to the next scheduled meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee.

DRAFT