

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

The Pump House, 5 Market Place FARINGDON, Oxfordshire, SN7 7HL

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Clerk: Sally Thurston



Minutes of the Community and Partnerships Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd December 2020 via Teams virtual conference

1/2/20 Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Martin

Sjoerd Vogt (Tennis Club)

2/2/20 Roll Call

Chair welcomed the start of the meeting and reminded that the meeting was being recorded

Cllrs present: Bethia Thomas (Chair)

Kiera Bentley

Peter Castle

Kimberly Morgan

Liz Swallow

Mike Wise

In attendance : Kristine Douglas (Yoco)

David Williamson (Farcycles & Twinning)

Representative of Faringdon Brownies

Mairead Boyce (Faringdon Foodbank)

1 Member of the Public

Sally Thurston Town Clerk,

Marzia Sellitti Deputy Town Clerk

Jo King Town Clerks Assistant

3/2/20 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the Community and Partnership Committee meeting held on Wednesday 30th September were SIGNED as a correct record

4/2/20 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Thomas declared an interest in item 6,13 and 16 (as a member of the Twinning Association, Flowers for Molly).

Cllr. Wise declared an interest on item 6 (as a member of the Twinning Association)

5/2/20 Public Question and Speaking Time

None

6/2/20 Partnerships Update

Members NOTED an update from the following partner agencies:

- Farcycles and Twinning- David Williamson spoke about the success of the cycle park in town, which is attracting increasingly more people into Faringdon. A new gym equipment has been installed in the cycle park and that this was highly used in the weekends. It was NOTED that the better ways to school is still progressing very slowly despite the emphasis of OCC on sustainable transports and cycling routes. It is hoped that the Twinning Ass. can return to normal in 2021
- Yoco - Christine Douglas spoke about Yoco holding weekly virtual classes and mentioned a new Programme being launched Couch to 5K to keep young people fit. It was NOTED that a new Kenya trip will be planned when the Pandemic will be over.
- A representative of the Brownies spoke about the ongoing action carried by the group in Faringdon, with weekly online meeting and craft activities.

7/2/20 The Place

Members NOTED a progress report from The Place. The report highlighted:

- Wednesday 2nd December the Place had the first face to face interaction in the new venue
- The baby massage group will meet in the first week of January
- Volunteering meetings are ongoing and successful.

8/2/20 Precept 2021/22

- a) Members NOTED a financial report
- b) Members NOTED a reduction in income in and expenditure for cinema.
It was PROPOSED to approve the recommended draft budgets of £16,885 for 2021/22 to take to the next finance meeting. This was SECONDED and RESOLVED.
- c) Members NOTED that no capital expenditure projects were put forward for 2021/22

9/2/20 Community Engagement

- a) Members NOTED an update on recent community engagement.
- b) Members NOTED a program for future events in Faringdon.

10/2/20 Safer Streets Partnerships

- a) Members NOTED an update from Cllr. Bentley on closing streets in Faringdon to play. Members acknowledged that there is potential for a collaboration with the Playing out organisation. The idea will entail to identify potential areas, consulting residents, for temporary streets closure to allow children to play safely from traffic. It was PROPOSED to investigate this project further to present a costed proposal which included officer time and membership of an existing organisation which provided support.
- b) Members NOTED an update on the progress of a partnership to make streets around schools safer. This will be investigated further by Cllr. Thomas and Cllr. Swallow in conjunction with the Deputy Town Clerk. It was NOTED that the Town Clerk would investigate the StreetTag App, Introduced by VoWHDC which encouraged walking to school

11/2/20 Food Bank

Members NOTED an update from the Food bank. The update highlighted:

- The Town Council is still operating the Food Bank due to the Pandemic
- The food bank as seen an increase in numbers recently, particularly families
- Community members and businesses were thanked for their generosity
- The town council staff were thanked for the remarkable work done during a very difficult period

12/2/20 Community Fridge

Due to the absence of Cllr. Smith, leading the project, this discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

13/2/20 Youth Grants

- a) Members received a recommendation from the Youth Grants Working Party to award full grants to the following:
Faringdon Brownies –£ 1328
Yoco- £ 2000.
Faringdon Junior School- £ 2000 for the purchase of chrome books (conditions apply)
It was PROPOSED to award a full grant for the organisations. This was SECONDED and RESOLVED
- b) Members NOTED a request from the Grant Sub-committee to award a £2000 grant to Be Free Young Carers from the youth grant budget. It was PROPOSED to approve the request. This was SECONDED and RESOLVED.

14/2/20 Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust

Members NOTED an update on the development partnership to develop wildlife sites in Faringdon. The Town Clerk has contacted the organisation and is currently waiting for a response.

15/2/20 Community Warden Schemes

Members received and NOTED that two information packs have been created in respect of the footpath warden scheme and the snow warden scheme and are ready to be promoted to recruit volunteers. It was PROPOSED to approve the schemes. This was SECONDED and RESOLVED

16/2/20 Boxes of Joy

Members NOTED an update on a new project from community initiative 'Boxes of Joy' by 'Flowers for Molly'. It was NOTED that Cllr. Wise (in the role of Mayor) will sign the Christmas card accompanying the boxes of joy.

17/2/20 Items for Information

- Members NOTED an update on the Portway Underpass. Communication with the District is ongoing, but no work will be undertaken until well into the next year.
- Members NOTED the Christmas lights have been switched on in Town. The light switch has been recorded live on social media.
- Members NOTED an idea to improve the Park opposite the Swan and include a tribute to our twin town Le Mele.
- Members NOTED that a survey was recently published online allowing local business to register their name in the new town welcome pack. The survey has received many positive responses with a total number of 54 registrations.
- Members NOTED a community survey was recently published and had a huge success collecting over 160 responses.
- Members NOTED that the new town welcome packs are almost ready and will be soon distributed by the Information Centre

18/2/20 To consider agenda items for the next meeting

- Faringdon Free Food map
- To bring to the Facilities committee a recommendation for a capital project for new Christmas Lights
- To bring to the Facilities improvements to the Park opposite the Swan
- To bring to Facilities the possibilities of a dog fence area in parks for dog walking.

Meeting closed at 20:45