

# **FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**

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

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Clerk: Sally Thurston



## **Minutes of the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING held on MONDAY 04<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 7.30pm in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon**

<b>In attendance:</b>	<p>Cllrs: Mike Wise (Town Mayor) Kiera Bentley Jane Boulton Rosalind Burns Peter Castle Steve Leniec Lucy Martin Kimberly Morgan Stephen Smith Liz Swallow</p> <p>5 Members of the public</p> <p>Staff Present: Sally Thurston – Town Clerk Marzia Selletti – Deputy Town Clerk Joanne King – Town Clerk 's Assistant</p>
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Mayor's Opening Address</b> Cllr. Mike Wise welcomed everyone to the meeting, outlined the format for the meeting and explained that the meeting was intended to give the electorate of Faringdon the opportunity to review the Faringdon Town Council draft budget proposals for 2020 /2021. He added that the meeting was also an opportunity for members of the public to bring forward suggestions for additional items to be included in the budget.</p> <p>Cllr. Wise PROPOSED that Cllr. Steve Leniec, a resident of Eaton Hastings, be invited to join the meeting as Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee, this was AGREED.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b> Cllrs Julie Farmer, Angela Finn and Bethia Thomas</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the Town Meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019</b> These were signed as a correct record.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b> None</p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Town Council Budget and Precept for 2020/21</b> a) The meeting received a presentation from Cllr. Leniec, Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, on the DRAFT budget proposal based on the initial budget recommendations of the committees. There would be another round of budget meetings in January where proposals would be re-considered, amended and finalised. All meetings were open to the public and would be held in the Jubilee Room at 7.15pm as follows: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Community and Partnerships Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January - Facilities Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January – Finance and Audit. It was NOTED that, at this initial stage, the DRAFT precept proposal for 2020/21 was £409,432.</p>

	<p>The final proposal would be considered and agreed at Full Council on Wednesday 22nd January 2020.</p> <p>The tax base for 2020/21 had been received from the District Council; this was 2,921.4 (an increase of 119.5 over the 2019-20 tax base.) Dividing the precept request by the tax base gave a proposed council tax of £140.15 for a Band D property, an increase of 3.27% over the 2019-20 figure.</p> <p>Residents were then invited to join the Chairs of Finance and Audit, Planning, Facilities and Communities and Partnership, and the Mayor for round-table discussions on the relative Committee proposals for future projects and to make suggestions for additional works. The meeting resumed with a feedback session from the round-table discussions.</p> <p>Finance and Audit, Cllr Leniec: A proposal for a youth project was advised to apply for grant.</p> <p>Facilities, Cllr Bentley: Ideas to promote the circular walk, to engage with the public better, to promote the Wilderness Project, an outdoor gym and soft play area for under five-year olds were proposed.</p> <p>Community and Partnerships, Cllr Swallow: Ideas for apple days, foraging walks to utilise the free foods planting, action groups and how to get involved were proposed</p> <p>New ideas, Cllr Wise: Among ideas discussed were a community fridge, playing-out days, dog-friendly Faringdon and rights-of-way.</p>
6.	<p><b>Climate Change update</b> Cllr Swallow reported that a Working Party had been set up in July 2019 and that after a positive public meeting four action groups had been set up to progress activities.</p>
7.	<p><b>Public speaking and general discussion</b> Residents were informed of the intent to set up a Working Party to review the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan (FNP). The FNP had been formally made as part of the Local Plan in January 2016 but since then the Town had grown and changed, and therefore needed to evolve and reflect the aspirations of a new generation.</p> <p>Open discussion and questions: A member of the public asked about the status of the Budgen's development as it was a key site within the Town. The developers' proposals were outlined but a full planning application had not yet been submitted. A member of the public asked about the status of Faringdon Town Councils' licence application for outside table and chairs. This needed to be re-submitted as a full application with permission as the Town Council were not the landowners.</p>

**The Meeting closed at: 8:56pm**