



## Sally's Summary

This regular feature will summarise the meetings and council work over the month.

### Facilities Committee 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020

- The councillors agreed to set up a working party to look at improving the Christmas lights display for next year.
- A list of free food sites is being investigated in Faringdon in order to provide a free foods map.
- The Wilderness: Paths have been recut, dead wood and rubbish is being cleared from the hedge ready to plant native hedging whips donated by the Woodland Trust.
- New designs for a sculptured recycle bin will be available at the next Facilities meeting.
- Improvements to the town centre, such as new bollards and art, are being explored. Designs will be available at the next meeting.
- Commercial bins are an issue in Southampton Street car park, the Town Council will aim to collaborate with the District Council to find an appropriate storing solution for the bins and stop fly tipping.



### Finance and Audit Committee

The meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> December set budgets to recommend to Council. The recommended precept request was also set at £435,577. Detailed budgets are available on our website. The committee also agreed to purchase tablets to enable councillors to fulfil their voluntary roles.

### 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021

- Information Centre footfall was good throughout December. Many local artists were able to sell their goods. The staff were thanked for their hard work.
- Financial reports were noted. Sadly, income is very low due to the pandemic.
- Council reserves will be transferred from Lloyds and Nat West to the CCLA fund with better interest rates.
- The financial risk assessment for 2021 was agreed.
- The committee agreed to release funding for the long-awaited Better Ways to School Programme, marking cycle and walking routes from Folly Park View to the local schools. This work will be undertaken by Oxfordshire County Council.
- Pay and appraisal schemes for Town Council staff have been reviewed.

## Planning and Highways 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

- Three planning applications were considered.
- The revision of the neighbourhood plan will be investigated when in person meetings return. Members will consider need and carry out a cost analysis to determine whether the plan is revised.

### Full Council meeting January 13<sup>th</sup> 2021



The Full Council meeting, held on the second Wednesday of every month, always includes a report from both County and District Councillors.

These reports are available in the meeting pack on our website.

- Cllr.Morgan was appointed as a member of the Finance and Audit Committee and our new member, Cllr.Brown joined the Facilities Committee.
- The calendar of meetings for April 2021 to March 2022 was approved and can be found on our website.
- **Budget 2021/22:** The budget was approved. Monies will be taken from reserves to cover loss of income due to the coronavirus pandemic and any capital projects; these include a mower and furniture for the Pump House. This results in a precept request of £435,577 which equates to £142.34 for a Band D property, a small increase of £2.19 per year (4p per week).

### Councillor Profile – Cllr. Steve Leniec

I was first elected in 1994 and have seen the Council evolve and develop into a team that works hard to look after the town and its residents. Faringdon has grown and changed and I believe the Council is in a good position to meet the challenges of these uncertain times.



My role as Chair of Finance is to work with the committee to ensure the Council is financially stable, able to meet its statutory responsibilities and react to changing circumstances without placing an excessive burden on council tax bills.

Away from the Council my interests are live music, most sport, walking and exploring the countryside on my mountain bike.

## Meetings in February

Full Council – 10<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7.15pm

Planning and Highways – 24<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7.15pm

Please join us via Microsoft Teams

Details, agendas and links are available on our website.

## Faringdon Foodbank

The Faringdon Foodbank is aimed at supporting people who are in financial crisis. Your local foodbank works with referral agencies to issue food vouchers to those in need of food. If you need a referral and support, please contact:

- Citizens Advice 0808 278 7907
- White Horse Medical Practice 01367 242388
- Vale of White Horse-Support 01235 422600
- Wantage Independent Advice Service 01235 765348
- LCSS (Locality and Community Support Service) South 0345 2412608
- Faringdon Churches Together 01367 243605 (Mairead Boyce)
- Your social worker, mental health adviser or any agency who offers you support
- Your Child's School

Faringdon Foodbank is held in the Town Council offices in The Pump House, 5 Market Place, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7HL. Open: Monday and Wednesday 10am to 12pm  
If you need support, please call:

07548 535855 (this number is only accessed during operating hours) or email [Faringdonfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:Faringdonfoodbank@gmail.com)

If you wish to donate, please bring donations to the Pump House on Monday and Wednesdays between 10am and 12pm. Each pack includes the following items:

tinned meat, tinned vegetables

soup, pasta, rice

tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce, lentils, beans, and pulses, cereal, tea/coffee

tinned fruit, biscuits

long life milk, fruit juice

toiletries, toilet rolls,

household cleaning products.

Anything from the above list is greatly appreciated.



## Snow Wardens WANTED!

The scheme seeks volunteers willing to organise the gritting of roads and pavements in the most needed areas during



periods of extreme cold weather.

The project, set up by the Town Council in December, is now looking for volunteers. Please visit the snow

warden page on our website, where you will find the information pack with a form to fill in and return to:

[marzia@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:marzia@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)

## 20MPH Speed Limit Good news!



Following the results of the speed limit survey in Faringdon, conducted by the Traffic monitoring team, the councillors discussed

the progression of the 20-mph scheme. It was agreed to move forward with the consultation, after requests from the community. The cost of the consultation will be covered by OCC. More updates coming to the next Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory meeting in March 2021.

## The Place

[www.theplace-faringdon.org](http://www.theplace-faringdon.org)

Email: [theplacefaringdon@spurgeons.org](mailto:theplacefaringdon@spurgeons.org)

Carole: 07973 678837 Lucy: 07973 678827

We cannot wait to when we can start

running face to face groups but, in the meantime, look forward to seeing you online. Online groups include:

Tuesday – New Parent, New Baby Group

Tuesday – Baby Massage

Thursday – Story/Singing Sessions

Thursday – Baby` Group

Contact us if you would like to join us at any of the above groups. They are a great way of getting to know other families and just to feel connected.

We also offer a clothes library for children aged one and under and have a wide range of maternity clothes available.

We understand how difficult life is at the moment and would love to hear from you.



Contact [office@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk) 01367 240281

[www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)