



## Sally's Summary

This regular feature will include a round up from the meetings over the month. Full minutes are available on our website.

### Full Council 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Our new County Councillor, Bethia Thomas, gave her first report. Cllr. Thomas highlighted that she was currently investigating why the heating system, scheduled to be fitted in the new Faringdon school, is gas and will need to be retrofitted in the future to make it energy efficient. The full report is available on our website, along with the District Councillors report, on our news page.

Our new Town Mayor, Cllr. Bentley also gave her first report. Which detailed her first engagements as mayor which included presenting a lifetime achievement award at Shrivenham Military College and visits to the town market.



The annual accounts were approved. An overview of the accounts is available on our website. Anyone wishing to view detailed accounts can do so by contacting Sally Thurston on 01367 240281 or emailing [sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)

The Council offered its Congratulations to Farcycles on their Queens Award for Voluntary Services.

Offensive stickers had been placed around Faringdon. Tidy team has been asked to remove them.

Biffa Street cleaner John Miller was thanked for his excellent contribution towards keeping the Town tidy.

### The Former Volunteer Public House

The Town Council is working hard to ensure that the Town Centre remains a place where the community can come together. With this in mind, and with the aim of protecting retail space, the council agreed:

1. To purchase the retail space in the former Volunteer, using CIL funding and reserves. Subject to satisfactory surveys and legal advice.
2. Investigate the purchase of the freehold for the whole building.
3. Seek grant funding for a refit.
4. Seek a tenant who brings community value to the town centre. Discussions are currently underway with Farcycles for a permanent location for their community bike repair shop.

### Meetings in July

**Tuesday July 6<sup>th</sup>** – Facilities Committee -7.15pm in the Corn Exchange.

**Tuesday July 13<sup>th</sup>** – Full Council - -7.15pm in the Corn Exchange.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July** – Grant Sub Committee – 6pm online

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July** – Finance and Audit – 7.15pm in the Pump House - CV-19 restrictions permitting.

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July** – Planning and Highways – 7.15pm in the Pump House - CV-19 restrictions permitting.

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

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

## Dogs and Vandalism at Tuckers Park

At the meeting of Tuckers Recreation Ground Trust on 2<sup>nd</sup> June two serious issues were raised

### Dogs

The trust received reports that children had been frightened by off lead dogs whilst playing at the park. It was also reported that dog poo is still a problem. Dogs are currently welcome on leads and to be walked around the periphery of the park. The Trust will put signs up asking owners to respect the on-lead



policy, pick up poo and to keep dogs off the football pitch. The issues will be reviewed over the summer but if the rules are not adhered to the trust will consider a ban on dogs in the park, which would be very sad.

### Vandalism

The play park was vandalised last month. The vandalism cost almost £600 to repair. This has been reported to the police, if you have any information, or witness any anti-social behaviour please call 101.

### The Old Town Hall



Members of the Faringdon War Memorial Trust heard, at their meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, that the renovations of the Old Town Hall and on track to be completed in late August. The work has been possible with a grant of £66,050 from FCC Communities Foundation, a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community through the Landfill Communities Fund.



### Councillor Vacancy – Join our team!

The council has been informed that an election has not been called to fill our current councillor vacancy. We will therefore co-opt a councillor at the next meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July. If you are interested in becoming a councillor, please contact Sally Thurston for details. 01367 240281 [sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)

### Play Day Returns to Faringdon – date for your diary!

The Town Council and Oxfordshire Play Association will bring another FREE Play Day to Tuckers Park on August 6<sup>th</sup> 11am to 3pm. Please keep an eye on our website and social media for details

### Saturday Market every Saturday

Join us for our weekly Saturday Market from 10am to 1pm in the Market Place. To book a stall please contact: [Liz@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Liz@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)



### **Councillor Profile Cllr. Bethia Thomas**

It has been a hectic few months for me, and I would like to explain how the recent elections have changed my roles at each of the councils. I continue in my role as a town councillor, as well one of your district councillors in partnership with David Grant. With my success in the May elections, I am now also your representative at Oxfordshire County Council. This may seem like a lot to take on, but actually it really helps to have a unified voice across all three levels of council, working with officers at the town council to make sure that we get the best deal for Faringdon in all aspects of our lives. At county level these include issues relating to education, health and social care, roads and highways, the fire service, and libraries; at district we are concerned with planning, rubbish collection, and our leisure centre and parks. Town council has a role in all of these. As you can see, councils are important to all our lives and the teams at each council, officers and elected representatives, do work hard for Faringdon, and I am grateful that you have put your trust in me to tackle issues at all three levels of council.



[Cllr.thomas@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.thomas@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)

### **Faringdon Virtual Open Gardens 2021**

First launched last year, Faringdon Virtual Open Gardens returns for 2021, giving Faringdon residents the chance to share images of their green spaces.

Spread the joy of gardening and send in photos of your garden so we can compile them to make a virtual tour of Faringdon's gardens.

Small or large garden, a single bloom, window box or allotment, we would love to see what you are growing! Get the whole family involved, it would be great to see

photos from Faringdon's Junior Gardeners, it could be cress grown in a tub, a growing sunflower, a picture made from flowers and leaves or even a mud pie! Send your photos to [adele@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:adele@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk) by the 31st of July 2021.



### **Faringdon branches out!**

Faringdon Town Council has teamed up with Earth and Faith to promote a tree planting campaign that everyone can join in. Help us plant lots of trees for our future - for this town, and for the planet.



Our aim is to start planting in November, just as the world's leaders begin the vital Climate Conference in Glasgow. All life on the planet is in danger from global warming and the disasters it brings. One big thing we can do that really helps is to plant more trees. Earth & Faith, with support from Faringdon Town Council, will provide all the details you need to make your plans and apply for your trees, ready for the winter planting season. The trees can be



for your own garden, or a larger project. There are FREE trees to be had for schools and community groups. There is also the option, if you wish, to dedicate your tree(s) to the Queen's Green Canopy campaign, planting trees in honour of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Read more and start planning now. Get the information you need from the Faringdon Information Centre, the Mustard Seed Shop, local websites and Facebook groups. Branch out with us in 2021!

### **July Artist of the month**

Faringdon Information Centre would like to welcome Nesren from Highworth Candles as our artist of the month.

Highworth Candles is a small business in the countryside of Wiltshire established one year ago during the lockdown, specialising in hand crafting high-quality soy candles using



only natural ingredients. The process of creating soy candles has a small environmental impact compared to paraffin candles. Soy wax comes from vegetables, making it a sustainable resource. Highworth Candles are ideal for those looking to keep their air quality at a healthy level and to benefit from a stronger fragrance. To buy one of Nesren's beautifully scented candles please visit the Faringdon Information Centre open Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm and 9:30am to 1pm on Saturdays.



### **Museum Re-opens**

The Faringdon museum in the Information Centre, 5 Market Place has re-opened. We currently have a Lord Berners Exhibition, so please pop in and take a look!

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