

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 Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7.00pm held virtually using Teams.

Cllr. Wise welcomed everyone to the meeting held via Microsoft Teams Video Conferencing. Members were reminded that the meeting was being recorded. All reports discussed in meeting were displayed on website prior to the meeting.

In Attendance:

Town Councillors:

Mike Wise (Town Mayor)
Kiera Bentley
Jane Boulton
Rosalind Burns
Peter Castle
James Famakin
Angela Finn
Steve Leniec
Lucy Martin
Kimberly Morgan
Stephen Smith
Liz Swallow
Bethia Thomas

District Councillors:

David Grant
Bethia Thomas

County Councillor

Judith Heathcoat

Staff Present:

Sally Thurston – Town Clerk
Marzia Selitti – Deputy Town Clerk
Liz Billson – Assistant Town Clerk
Joanne King – Town Clerks Assistant

10 members of the public

1. Mayor's Opening Address

Cllr. Wise welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Wise gave an address which included:

- Activities and events throughout the year
- A list of achievements made by the Council were highlighted in this year's annual report.

Cllr. Wise PROPOSED that Cllr. Steve Leniec, a resident of Eaton Hastings, be invited to join the meeting as Town Councillor/Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee, this was AGREED.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr David Brown

Martin Gillet Playdays

Becky Rimmer, Oxfordshire Fire Service

3. Minutes of the Town Meeting held on Monday 2nd December 2020.

The minutes were signed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Solar Streets initiative – Andy Tunstall

A community initiative to install photovoltaic solar panels at low cost through bulk installation if ten or more houses were to sign up. Installation would be tailored to individual householder circumstances following a preliminary survey to check that roof orientation qualified (south or east/west facing). An installation of ten solar panels (4.6 kW) could cost ~£4,100, lower than commercial rates.

A public meeting to be held in conjunction with Climate Change Working Party.

Following Questions were asked.

- Can batteries be installed? yes.
- Can houses in conservation areas have them installed? listed houses no, houses in conservation areas roofs that face the street – need to ask permission from Vale of White Horse District Council.
- What is the benefit to householder? It was explained that Solar Streets hope to see a better price scheme, saving on electricity, in summer exporting electricity, investment over 25-year period life, average house sees return in approx. nine years.
- Were other companies approached? Faringdon Town Council researched this project, company came highly recommended from successful implementations within other towns.
- Are grants available? None at moment but perhaps further investigation.

Thames Valley police officers arrived at this item and gave their report.

6. Reports

The following reports were received and NOTED. (Available in appendix 1)

1. Reports from Town Council Committees

- a. Town Council Committees Finance and Audit – Cllr Leniec
 - No questions, Cllr Bentley explained the budget for Facilities due to COV19 and no/projected income from hire, the £15,000 associated costs would come from reserves and not the precept.
- b. Planning and Highways – Cllr Boulton
 - No questions
- c. Facilities – Cllr Bentley

- No questions
 - d. Community and Partnerships – Cllr Thomas
 - No questions
 - e. Working parties
 - No questions
 - f. Chair’s activities – Cllr Wise
 - No questions
2. Reports from
- a. Tucker’s Recreation Ground Trust – Cllr Martin
 - No questions
 - b. Faringdon War Memorial Trust – Cllr Castle
 - No questions
3. County Councillor’s Report
Following questions were raised.
- Details of resurfacing in the market square? Works in progress, OCC working in conjunction with Faringdon Town Council to agree suitable timeframe.
 - Status of Park Road resurfacing? There is currently disruption on this road due to major building works therefore the resurfacing is on hold until completed, the resurfacing along with replacing the entrance signs is scheduled within the programme in the coming year.
 - Bus Lane road markings not been replaced, discussed.
 - Cllr Wise thanked Cllr Heathcoat for all her hard work over the years and wished her a well-earned retirement.
4. District Councillors’ Report
Following questions were raised.
- Status of affordable and sociable housing within the Vale of the White Horse? D/Cllrs to investigate figures and investigate South Oxfordshire money pot. It was NOTED that the majority of major planning applications quota for affordable homes had been reached and the District Council was looking into supplying affordability for both purchase and running costs.
 - What is the progress on adopting Folly View estate? Investigation is still underway.
 - Parking enforcement: how will it operate and where do the monies go? Still under review but OCC the lead authority and officers will liaise with Faringdon Town Council.
 - Comment from resident: Vale business support grant was fantastic and much appreciated by small businesses.
5. Reports from Local Organisations
- a. Twinning Association
 - b. Neighbourhood Action Group
 - c. Bromsgrove Day Centre
 - d. Faringdon Fire Station
6. Reports from grant recipients
- a. Farcycles

- b. Folly Trust
- c. Play Day
- d. Faringdon Brownies
- e. Faringdon Junior School
- f. Vale Community Impact

Cllr Wise thanked all the groups/organisations for their hard work, time, and contribution in making these groups an asset to Faringdon.

7. Public Speaking Time and General Discussion

- a. Announcement: Faringdon Town Council in conjunction with Earth and Faith will be planting trees in November. D/Cllr Grant highlighted a project from the District Council that will show land suitable for planting in the Autumn.

The following questions were asked:

- b. Connection of footpath and bridge from Home Bargains/Travel Lodge/supermarket estate to Folly Park.
Previous planning applications have indicated connectivity but unfortunately ownership of parts of the route and planning conditions were not in place. Going forward, agreement on land which is, or will be, subject to planning would be sought, with the aim of ensuring clauses/agreements/ responsibility to be in place to ensure connectivity is gained.
- c. Why is there is no pedestrian crossing on Henry Blake Way opposite Waitrose? C/Cllr Heathcoat informed that this was a private road and not subject to legal highway regulations – recommended to be brought to the next FATAAC meeting.
- d. Who is progressing the new Christmas lights? A Faringdon Town Council Working Party would be meeting in June, it was highlighted that they were working with a small budget. A Christmas lantern parade was suggested.