

# **FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**

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

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

Clerk: Sally Thurston



## **Minutes of the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7pm in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon**

**Present:** Cllr Bentley (Chair)  
Cllr Boulton  
Cllr Burns  
Cllr Castle  
Cllr Leniec  
Cllr Morgan  
Cllr Smith  
Cllr Thomas  
Cllr Webb  
Cllr Wise

Staff Present:  
Sally Thurston – Town Clerk  
Margaret Nairne – Town Clerk's Assistant

2 Members of the public

### **1. Mayor's Opening Address**

Cllr. Bentley welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the meeting was intended to give the electorate of Faringdon the opportunity to propose how they would like the Faringdon Town Council budget to look in 2023 /2024.

Cllr. Bentley PROPOSED that Cllr. Leniec be invited to join the meeting as Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee, and this was SECONDED and AGREED.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Finn, Cllr Swallow

### **3. Minutes of the Town Meeting held on Wednesday 18th May 2022**

The minutes were signed as a correct record.

### **4. Matters Arising**

None

### **5. Town Council Budget and Precept for 2023/24**

- a) The meeting received a presentation from the Mayor and the chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee on the DRAFT budget proposal following the initial budget meetings. There will be another round of budget meetings in December where proposals will be re-considered, amended and finalised.

The final proposal will be considered and agreed at Full Council on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

b) Members received suggestions from residents for additional projects to be considered including:

- Request from The Wheatsheaf for regular deep cleaning and washing of pavements up London Street and in the town centre. Cleaning the pavements is the responsibility of the District Council and their contractors BIFFA and discussions have already taken place to encourage improvement to the town centre cleaning. The Clerk to look at costings and feasibility of further regular cleaning and feed this through the committee structure.
- Cllr Morgan asked about the newly refurbished library buying books for teen/Young Adults and can feedback to the library that they could apply for a relevant grant.

c) Members considered adding a budget for tackling Climate Change locally. The meeting discussed this suggestion of a budget and agreed that the Climate Change Working Party, on the basis of becoming a sub-committee, needs to draw together all the encouraging initiatives already taking place and then define the scope of further projects and initiatives.

The meeting then NOTED that the DRAFT proposal for the precept request for 2023/24, at this initial stage, is £496,142.

Using last year's Tax base figure this precept request would equate to a cost of £148.93 for a Band D property, an increase of around 2.36%.

## **6. Town Council Elections 2023**

The Mayor stated that the council is keen to encourage residents to stand for the role of councillor. There was a new postcard-sized leaflet available which will be developed further.

## **7. Public Speaking Time and General Discussion**

None

**The Meeting closed at: 7.54pm**