

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

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

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Clerk: Sally Thurston



**The Parish of Great Faringdon in the County of Oxfordshire
Minutes of the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
held in the Jubilee Room, The Pump House, Market Place, Faringdon SN7 7HL
on Wednesday 31st May 2023 at 7.30pm**

In Attendance:

Town Councillors:

Peter Castle (Chair)
Jane Boulton
Julie Farmer
Angela Finn
Alan Ford
Rufus Lunn
Kimberly Morgan (online)
David Norris
Gene Webb
Mark Wild
Mike Wise
Lucy Edwards – District Councillor

Staff Present:

Sally Thurston – Town Clerk
Margaret Nairne – Town Clerk's Assistant
Sarah Johnson – Facilities and Services Manager

8 members of the public (1 online)

1. Mayor's Opening Address

Cllr. Castle welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave an address touching on his aspirations for the town including economic and social development of the town centre; sponsoring youth activities; pushing the climate change agenda; continuing Town Council support and encouragement for initiatives such as The Place, the Pump House Project and The Wilderness.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Leniec, C/Cllr. Thomas

3. Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 16th November 2022.

The minutes were signed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

Members NOTED that quotes are being obtained for jet-washing the town centre pavements.

5. Reports

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

- 1) Reports from Town Council Committees
 - a. Finance and Audit – Cllr. Finn
 - b. Planning and Highways – Cllr. Wise
 - c. Facilities – Cllr. Webb
 - d. Community and Partnerships – Cllr. Morgan
 - e. Working Parties
 - Climate Change – Cllr. Webb
 - Town Centre Regeneration – Cllr. Webb
 - f. Chairman’s activity report – Keira Bentley
- 2) Reports from
 - (a) Tucker’s Recreation Ground Trust
 - (b) Faringdon War Memorial Trust
- 3) County Councillor’s Report.
No report received
- 4) District Councillors’ Report.
D/Cllr. Lucy Edwards introduced herself to the meeting and outlined her intentions as a new District Councillor.
- 5) Reports from Local Organisations
 - a. Faringdon Fire station
 - b. Faringdon United Charity
 - c. The Folly Trust
 - d. Faringdon Community Bus
 - e. Quakers
 - f. Westmill Solar
 - g. French Twinning
 - h. Faringdon Artistic Skaters
 - i. Faringdon Writers
- 6) Reports from Grant Recipients
 - a. The Place
 - b. Vale Community Impact
 - c. Faringdon Community College
 - d. Oxfordshire Play Association Youth Club and Play Day
 - e. Folly Fest
 - f. Faringdon Whist Club
 - g. Faringdon Netball Club
 - h. Public Access Defibrillator Committee
 - i. Farcycles

6. What Does Faringdon Need?

Cllr. Castle led a discussion about what residents would like to see the Town Council do over the next four years. Residents suggested ideas such as:

- More Maypole dancing
- An extended programme of town events:
 - Specific (e.g Christmas) markets

- Repeat or similar to previous successful events such as the Blackbird Day and the Giraffe Walk.
- Possible long-term aspiration to create “living streets” and “low-traffic neighbourhood”, specifically in the Market Place.

7. Recreation Space in Faringdon

Cllr. Castle led a discussion on current situation and future need for outdoor and indoor recreational space. The town needs extra space for outdoor sport – specifically a MUGA – sports such as netball, football, basketball, hockey all need more space in Faringdon. The idea of a community building was raised again and Cllr. Castle put out a call for ideas on available space or buildings.

8. Public Speaking Time and General Discussion

A resident applauded the installation (by the District Council) of the electric car charging stations in the Southampton Street car park, noting that although not fully utilised yet, they are likely to be in the future, and they are therefore an asset to Faringdon. Cllr. Castle noted that although the Co-Wheels electric car project had not been given the go-ahead, other electric car hire clubs may be considered in the future subsequent to other towns pioneering the operation of such clubs.

Meeting ended at 8.56 pm