



**Clerk's Corner** – Your new Town Clerk, Katherine Doughty, summarises recent meetings below. Please see our website for detailed minutes:

**To introduce myself**

The word 'Clerk' comes from the Latin word Clericus

meaning someone who could read and write (in the Middle Ages). The title feels non-descriptive in the modern world (it is certainly a job that requires more than literacy), however it is a title I am proud to hold in my new workplace of your Town Council. I have been a Clerk for 20 years and have spent the last 7 of those with Eynsham Parish Council. Whilst working full-time, I am also studying for my degree in Community Governance to inform my job. Subjects such as law, development, planning and project management are learnt over a 6-year period (I am currently in my fifth year). I look forward to seeing you around Faringdon soon, *Katherine Doughty*.

**Planning and Highways Committee meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

It was agreed that the Clerk is to send a list to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) of streets deemed as traffic sensitive, i.e. streets where roadworks will cause major delays and disruption to traffic, as part of a consultation. The streets include Gloucester Street, Marlborough Street, Church Street, Gravel Walk and London Street.

**Finance and Grants Committees – 29<sup>th</sup> July**

Local organisations were awarded grants in the form of money or venue hire including: *Bass Therapy J-Fest, Faringdon Arts Society and The Pump House Project*. Other central businesses were awarded Planting and Painting funding as part of our aim to keep our town looking smart. We look forward to seeing the fruits of this.

Faringdon Town Council (FTC) are exploring possibilities of enhancing the space of **Town Park** after the success of planting young trees in the area.

The committee accepted a quote, to be approved at Full Council, for **the renovation of Canada Lane's phone box to house a defibrillator** from Community Heartbeat – this will use Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money. After FTC's Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) safety inspection of its play areas, repair work at **Tucker Park** is planned. This will be funded from the Council's play areas maintenance budget.

We will focus on further improvements to **Oakwood Park** in due course. You might have noticed a new fireman's pole has been installed (pictured).

It was agreed for necessary **lift repairs** at the Pump House and the Old Town Hall will be funded from the asset repairs and maintenance budget.



In response to a **long-standing need for community space**, Members discussed an early-stage proposal for a community sports hall and a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at Folly Sports Park. Following a positive research meeting that identified this as a large-scale project, the Council has agreed to allocate research and development funds to progress the project.

**Planning and Highways Committee meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> August**

The committee considered 3 planning applications which it had no objections to. **Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders** were noted (for highway maintenance). The Clerk is to request that the Council is notified of all orders including those for utilities and planning developments so that residents are made fully aware of planned disruptions.

The repeated repairs to the **bus lane in the Market Place** was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk will request that OCC undertake a structural survey to investigate the problem to help inform future highway work. This led to discussions about the assessment of the town centre for businesses and what improvements could be considered. It was agreed that the FTC will consider this at a forthcoming informal Strategic Planning meeting. Agenda items for the next Planning Committee include repairs required to walls that are health and safety concerns and require maintenance.

**Upcoming Council Meetings**

Links to join remotely are available on our website: [www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk) and on the council's Facebook page. At each meeting, there is always an opportunity for the public to speak - please come along and have your say.

<b>Facilities</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024</b>
<b>Full Council</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b>
<b>Planning &amp; Highways</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024</b>
<b>Community &amp; Partnerships</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b>

## Councillor Surgery a Success!

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August saw the third Councillor Surgery of 2024 at the sunny Farmers' Market. The Mayor and his Vice; Councillors (Cllrs.) Castle and Boulton helped nine visitors: the highest number to date! Feedback has been shared with appropriate contacts at the Council. FTC warmly welcome you to the next surgery on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024, 10am-12 noon** in FTC's Museum.



## Artist of the Month

Faringdon Information Centre is pleased to welcome **Kathryn Dyche** as our Artist of the month for September.

Kathryn is a ceramic artist whose clay journey first began while living in Ohio, USA. Moving back to the UK in 2020, her work covers wheel thrown and sculptural pieces influenced by a love of texture, natural objects and organic forms. Created with stoneware clay all works are fired in an electric kiln.



Kathryn is a member of Faringdon Art Society and West Oxfordshire Arts. To see a collection of her ceramics please **visit the Information Centre throughout September: open Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm and 9.30am to 1pm on Saturday.**

## Remembrance Exhibition: 8th & 9th November

The War Memorial Trust and the Royal British Legion will be holding an exhibition of war time memorabilia in the Old Town Hall to reflect on the impact of wars on local families.

If you have any memorabilia, stories, photographs or documents from World Wars I or II, or any other relevant artifacts you would like to share, or if you could help man the exhibition, please email **adele@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk**

Rest assured, precious items too valuable to exhibit can be photocopied and the Trust will look after and return original items to their owners.

The exhibition will be open from **10am until 3pm on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th November, and after the Remembrance Day ceremony on Sunday 10th November until 1pm.**



## August Play Day

The sun shone for the August Play Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> August at Tuckers Park. Many Faringdon families flocked to the free play event which FTC helped fund. They could enjoy activities

including bubble making, wall climbing and zorbing. FTC were present under their gazebo with a popular fossil finding activity supported by the Oxfordshire Geology Trust (OGT) showcasing impressive specimens. Mayor Cllr. Castle welcomed families. Many thanks to the OGT **[www.oxfordshiregeologytrust.org.uk](http://www.oxfordshiregeologytrust.org.uk)** for their time and expertise.

## All aboard the new exhibition in the FTC Museum

A new temporary exhibition is now open at FTC's Museum called **'Are We Nearly There Yet?: 4,000 Years of Transport'**. This exciting exhibition spans the ages from hunter-gatherers, through to the Romans, Civil War and the



Industrial Revolution showing the effect of transport on our town. Pictured here is our Facilities Manager busy installing it. Opening times follow the Information Centre's: **Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm and 9.30am to 1pm on Saturday.**

## Let's Beat Litter!

This summer, residents are encouraged to '♥ your area' by properly disposing of litter and keeping our parks and streets clean. Vale of White Horse District Council (VoWHDC) has launched a campaign to tackle littering, with new signage in key areas reminding everyone to bin their litter or take it home. Let's all take pride in our community and keep Faringdon beautiful for everyone to enjoy!

