



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

**Finance & Audit Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Members agreed to approve the proposed Services Assistant/Caretaker position for Faringdon Town Council (FTC). Please see further details below if you are interested in applying and visit [faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk) for more information on this and other positions:

**Faringdon Town Council**  
requires a Part-time

**Leisure Services Assistant / Caretaker**

21 hours per week, Saturday 9.00am to 1.30pm  
Remaining hours to be worked flexibly  
(includes some weekend/evening hours)

*Salary SCP 5: £12.85 per hour*

We are looking for a flexible and positive person to join our team. Good communication skills and an ability to work on own initiative are a must. Relevant experience would be advantageous although training will be provided.

**Duties will include:**

- Office and venue cleaning.
- General maintenance and re-decoration work.
- Venue set-up and security.
- Supporting the Tidy Team with adhoc maintenance tasks in the town.

Contact [townclerk@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk) / **01365 240281**. Deadline: 16th February

**Various grants** were agreed at the meeting. Those benefitting are Folly Fest, Oxfordshire Play Association and The Place. More information on our straight forward application process can be found under **Services** at [faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk).

In budget news, the 2025-26 budget has been approved of **£579,233**. This translates to an annual increase of **£6.79 / 4.2% for band D properties**.

**Full Council Meeting - 20th January**

County Cllr. Bethia Thomas answered questions on the government's proposals for local government reorganisation and possible changeover to unitary authorities, assuring councillors that everything will be done to ensure the continuation of high-quality services for residents. Cllr. Wise highlighted that there is a new Chair of **Le Mele Twinning Association** and that 2025 marks its **35<sup>th</sup> anniversary**.

The Council is due to receive the allotment site for Oriel Gardens, the development by Bloor Homes. We have been working with the **Allotment Society** on this fantastic new community amenity which features raised beds, a small orchard and parking.

We are delighted to report that a **new pedestrian/cycle gateway** has been installed at Fernham Road linking to Amphill Way/Lower Greensands. The Town Council purchased a small piece of land from the developers to enable this important connection to be made (the work was undertaken by Oxfordshire County Council).



**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 on agenda items - please come along and have your say.

<b>Planning &amp; Highways</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b>
<b>Grants &amp; Trusts</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025</b>
<b>Full Council</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>
<b>Planning &amp; Highways</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>

Contact:

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

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

## Insect Houses About Town



A competition, open to all, aiming to support FTC's environmental strategy was launched at last June's Green Day. It asked to name a simple concept for FTC to utilise that would help combat climate change as well as enhance the environment. A young resident's idea of bug houses won

out of numerous suggestions and this idea has been realised thanks to the kind donation of 12 insect houses from National Trust Buscot and Coleshill Estate (pictured). Council members have suggested ideas of where they might be placed including the Boules Court, the churchyard and allotments. Look out for these, they will be distributed across the town over the next few weeks.

**Next Councillor Surgery: The Lotus Retreat, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025.** Your Town Councillors will be available in the warmth of The Lotus Retreat, London Street, on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> February, from 10am until 12 noon. All are welcome to come and discuss any feedback you might have. Delicious coffee and treats will be readily available.

## Community Profile of Health & Wellbeing

Last year FTC asked the Oxfordshire Data Hub/Oxfordshire County Council to produce a Health and Wellbeing Profile for Faringdon which reveals some interesting findings. This research will help to inform the decisions we make for the community. The report might even be used by community groups as evidence to support their case for setting priorities or obtaining funding for their activities. The report is on our website under the **Council/Reports** page. Further information is also available at [data.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://data.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Faringdon Bench Trail

Work on the Faringdon Bench Trail has begun with the artist Nicola Henshaw sketching and carving out designs for the Geology-themed bench. These drawings are based on the sketches drawn by families at the August Play Day, the year before last. We look forward to seeing the set of benches installed across Faringdon in the warmer months. Below are photos of the work in progress:



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