

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

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Clerk: Katherine Doughty



Minutes of the Community and Partnerships Committee Meeting held on Monday 29th September 2025 at 7pm in the Jubilee Room, Pump House, Faringdon

Present: Cllr. Castle (Chair)
Cllr. Farmer
Cllr. Ford
Cllr. Lunn
Cllr. Webb

In attendance: Katherine Doughty, Town Clerk
Margaret Nairne, Town Clerk's Assistant
1 member of the public

1/3/25 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Leniec.

2/3/25 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th June 2025 were SIGNED as a correct record.

3/3/25 Declarations of Interest

None.

4/3/25 Public Question and Speaking Time

None.

5/3/25 Items for Information and Action List

- a) Members NOTED the Action List and items for information.
Clerk to investigate possibility of having buskers/music in the Market Place on a Saturday morning.

Research to be done on local markets with reference to reviving the market in Farindgon Market Place.

Mayor to approach FCC about the community being able to have shared use of the facilities at the school.

6/3/25 Partnerships Update

Members NOTED updates from a variety of partners to include:

- a) The Pump House Project: Members welcomed Ainslie who gave a short update on their recent work.

Ainslee Williams introduced herself as Trustee for 3 years and introduced the new Managing Director of the Pump House Project. The Pump House Project (PHP) receive 500 visitors per week through all their services offered and around 30 active volunteers including counsellors for COGS.

The group will be looking at 5-years of funding from Heritage Lottery Fund. It was noted that Faringdon is well-catered for sports but although there many arts clubs and societies, there is not so much for the arts, specifically theatre. They have re-established connections with The Place so that people can be signposted better to where they can find appropriate support. Also looking at older people demographic and offering classes for older residents. Have met Social Prescriber from White Horse Medical Practice to discuss areas that PHP might help with. Youth engagement: 30+ people involved with Urban Movement classes including trained leaders.

There are pockets of poverty in the town e.g. residents with no access to internet or mobile phones and they may need signposting to other agencies and help. The Hearth at PHP has been helping those with specific domestic needs. They have been working with Asylum Welcome in Oxford for some needs as well as with the Food Bank run from Faringdon Town Council. They would like to establish better connections with agencies and charities locally so that they collaborate better to support those with various needs.

Cllr. Farmer queried original purpose of PHP which was aimed at young people and a need for activities for them. PHP acknowledged that their purposes have expanded but are looking at where their focus should be. PHP has limited space which serves many purposes and demands. They recognise that more activities for young people would be good but it is a challenge meeting demand and associated costs. The PHP have ideas coming online for young people e.g. modern street dance, DJ-ing, which may need grant funding help.

PHP still looking for bigger premises and are keen to find somewhere not too far from the centre of town and are exploring possibilities.

Clerk to help draft a letter for the PHP in support of their application for 5 years of funding.

- b) Food Bank. Members agreed to thank Adele for her exemplary hard work as Food Bank Manager over the past 2 years.
- c) Community Larder – NOTED
- d) OPA, Junior Youth Group: Oxfordshire Play Association will be returning our unspent grant to us. Members discussed possibilities for the future as they are keen to support groups for young people and be included again on the next C & P meeting agenda.
- e) Citizen's Advice – not received.
- f) Root & Branch – NOTED.

7/3/25 The Place

- a) Members NOTED an update report.
- b) Members discussed entering into a Partnership Agreement following changes in organisational arrangements. It was agreed that the Clerk should draft a Partnership Agreement and take to Full Council for approval.

8/3/25 Community Engagement and Events

- a) Members NOTED community engagement undertaken by Councillors.
- b) Members NOTED a report from the latest Councillor Surgery held on 5th August and proposed forthcoming surgery dates to fall on Farmer's Market Tuesdays in association with the District/County Councillors and Police. It was agreed to continue these quarterly into 2025/26.
- b) Members NOTED a report on the successful August Play Day 2025 event and noted that play days provide us with opportunities for engagement with young people and residents. Members agreed to take part in this again in 2026.

9/3/25 Cinema

- a) Members NOTED an update report on the Outdoor Cinema. Members discussed possibilities for next year and will review and consider again at next meeting including choosing the best date.
- b) Members NOTED an update report on the Community Cinema.

10/3/25 Community Larder

Members NOTED an update report, discussed the operation of the Community Larder and the costs. Considering the drop in membership numbers, it was agreed that the Council should seek the community's feedback on its continuation, via an article in The Advertiser.

11/3/25 Tourist Bus Update

- a) Members NOTED bus data for the 2025 season to date.
- b) Members considered continuing the Faringdon Tourist Bus service for the summer 2026 season and agreed to discuss with Faringdon United Charity who have indicated they may like to be involved in the project next year with some modifications.

12/3/25 Christmas Lights 2025 event

- a) Members considered quotes and Cllr. Castle PROPOSED, Cllr. Farmer SECONDED and it was RESOLVED to approve a 3-year contract for Christmas lights and Christmas trees work from Faringdon Electrical Services.
- b) Members received and considered a programme for Festive Faringdon and NOTED the agreed events and Christmas lights budget.
- c) It was agreed that the Clerk would send out a Councillor rota in due course.

13/3/25 Agenda items for the next meeting

Items for 1st December 2025 must be sent to the Clerk by Tuesday 25th November 2025.

Meeting ended at 8.15 pm