

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting held on Friday 22nd March 2013 at 9.30 am in the Old Town Hall, Market Place, Faringdon

PRESENT: C/Cllr Mrs.J. Heathcoat (Chairman)
D/Cllr Cox
D/Cllr Sharp
Cllr Marsden
Cllr Price
Laura Hutchins, Highways, Oxfordshire County Council
Mr.C. Hulme, Thames Valley Police
Cheryl Reeves, Shared Equalities Officer, South & Vale

Members of Public
Richard Smith, Faringdon Community Bus
Gene Webb,

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs.D. Keany, Assistant Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr.K. Booth, Chamber of Commerce.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting 7th December 2012

The minutes were signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat had sent a letter of thanks to Mr. Szymura and reported Rev. David Williams who sits on the Oxfordshire bench will be attending meetings in the future.

Parking in Lechlade Road

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat asked for an update from Cllr Price and Cllr Marsden. Bob Adams, Oxfordshire County Council had advised the land is owned by Faringdon Town Council. Cllr Marsden will take this matter to Cllr Hickmore who is chairman of Planning & Highways Committee. Cllr Marsden queried which piece of land. C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat will forward email from resident to Cllr Marsden and Laura Hutchins.

Grit

Cllr Marsden queried if every parish gets allocated 1 tonne bag for example Gt Coxwell should get less. The distribution does not seem to get distributed equally.

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat explained the rural areas have difficult areas to do manually. Laura Hutchins advised Mr.Paul Wilson Adverse Weather Controller would be the person to contact but the Parish would be charged for any extra supplies.

C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat asked Laura Hutchins for feedback regarding the works that had been done in the Market Place outside Boots the Chemist.
Laura Hutchins reported the road is being monitored.
Cllr Marsden advised Laura Hutchins that there was a stream underneath the culvert.
Laura Hutchins will follow up as a matter of urgency and report back at the next meeting.

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat tabled a list of work

Councillor Community Budget a personal budget of £ 10k
£ 1k to Stanford-in-the-Vale 1st Responders funds to go towards the purchase of a new 4x4
£ 2k to Faringdon – Folly Trust for planting and general ground restoration work
£ 500 to South and Vale Carers to support work for local people
£ 2000 to Faringdon – Pump Room project for young people
£ 500 Faringdon, Family Centre to support a Mother and Baby breast feeding project
£ 500 Little Coxwell – renovation of pump
£3 1,500 Faringdon Play School
£ 700 Coleshill - for the purchase of a cider press. The apples in the village orchards are to be made into cider and sold in the village store.
£ 1300 to Faringdon – FAZE

County Councillors Highways fund £ 50k to be spent in the Faringdon Division and example of works undertaken is listed below.

Vehicle Automation Systems – Coxwell Road and London Street, Coleshill x 2 units
Gloucester Street – paviors, Marlborough Street – no entry, Market Place – no entry, Bromsgrove
Buscot, Faringdon and Great Coxwell, path clearance
Faringdon – Goodlake Avenue/Pye Street Realign kerb to widen carriage way
Faringdon A417 Lechlade Road clear footpath
Faringdon – repaint traffic roundabout, Lechlade Rd/Gravel Walk
Great Coxwell – planings on footpath behind stables

OCC Highways funded work

Buscot Wick/Coleshill junction – flood work
Buscot – road safety scheme
Eaton Hastings – A417 re-surfacing
Coleshill – lift pavement by church

Cllr Marsden queried the recent comments made by Cllr Rose, relating to pot-holes and the repair schedule.

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat reported Oxfordshire County Council advised that an additional £3.5m had been agreed at Cabinet which will be spent on road repair work.

Vehicles parking on the road leading to Gloucester Street car park
Mr.C. Hulme has been in talks with Mrs.H. Sherman, Clerk to the Faringdon Town Council Planning & Highways Committee. It is not Oxfordshire County Council Highways. The police could not support, it is private land. Formal parking restrictions could be implemented.

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat enquired could we speak to Faringdon Junior School.

Coxwell Street

Cllr Marsden queried the parking on the pavement – Disabled access very difficult.
Mr.C. Hulme reported you would have to be prepared to go to court to prove the footpath had been obstructed.

D/Cllr Cox had spoken with the police and they had said they do not want to keep ticketing.

D/Cllr Sharp asked if the PCSO's could patrol the area, same problem in Shellingford.
D/Cllr Cox will take Gloucester Street car park and Fernham Road to the next NAG proposed by D/Cllr Cox Deputy Chairman and seconded by Cllr Price. D/Cllr Cox will report back at the next meeting.

4. Public Speaking Time

Mr. Richard Smith was representing Faringdon Community Bus, he was enquiring about Coxwell Road, BT Utilities 4 way traffic lights near the Peugeot garage. This would cause considerable disruption especially in the morning.

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat explained normally that points raised in public speaking are not normally answered at the meeting, however checked Mr.C. Hulme as to whether the Police have received any notification from Oxfordshire County Council regarding the above temporary traffic order. Mr.C. Hulme stated if parked vehicles are a problem parking restrictions would be enforced, usually vehicles are compliant.

Cllr Price if cars are illegally parked on the left hand side this would be an issue. C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat requested that the first morning 25th March 2013 of the works be monitored by a PCSO.

Gene Webb queried the parking survey that Bloor Homes had given money for a survey to be commissioned. Can Faringdon Town Council please ensure that this survey is carried out.

Gene Webb suggested Faringdon Town Council could take over the parking management, and could the County and District Council please put this on the Agenda Civil Parking Wardens.

Cllr Price reported the delay in the parking survey was discussed at a Faringdon Town Council Planning & Highways Committee meeting. Faringdon Town Council has been asked if the survey could be delayed. Cllr Price reported Faringdon Town Council has requested the parking survey to be carried out as soon as possible.

5. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

6. Area Stewards Report

Laura Hutchins gave a verbal report to say

The Area Stewardship Fund is now closed, all works are ordered and the works will be completed by 30th April 2013. The fund has been very successful in the Faringdon locality and works have been done to enhance the highway including lines and signs, footpath clearing, VASs, improved parking spaces and handrails. There will be nine localities next year with a budget of £100,000 each, and this budget is for highways maintenance works. Ideas are being collected for the new fund and will be discussed with the locality councillors after election in May, ready for the next meeting held in June. The first half of the programme is expected to be delivered over the summer months.

The recent cold weather has led to many defects appearing on our highways, and it has proved difficult to repair them. The operatives who repair defects have been engaged in winter service, gritting the highway and dealing with flooding. Those repairs which have been completed have sometimes proved unsatisfactory as the cold weather does not allow the tarmac to set and the repairs fail. To assist in managing these issues, Oxfordshire County Council cabinet has approved an additional £ 250,000 for highway maintenance. Press coverage is raising public awareness, and “Fix my street” has been made available on the internet to allow the public to report defects on line. This is proving very popular. A defect in Oxford generated 327 enquiries.

Ideas will be agreed and put in place in June/July.

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat requested ideas be sent to both Laura Hutchins and herself.

Cllr Marsden queried if the Highways budget includes verge cutting. Laura Hutchins advised the general policy is continuing.

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat advised county spring clean – website

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/report members of public can suggest areas that need attention.

Mr.C. Hulme queried are potholes still been filled. He also queried potholes have gone outside the 28 days. Laura Hutchins advised the maintenance budget is still going ahead, and requested that any potholes left unrepaired outside of the 28 day timescale limit be reported.

7. District Traffic Matters

D/Cllr Cox had spoken to John Backley the Vale Officer responsible for the parking survey, the survey has been delayed due to the possibility of Tesco’s coming to Faringdon, which would see an increase in traffic. He intends to get prices for the Faringdon parking survey during the first quarter of the new financial year 2013/14. The survey should then be carried out and completed by December 2013.

2 hours free parking will continue another year.

The Vale of White Horse District Council has looked at parking enforcement and does not intend to take on the responsibility for it.

Cllr Marsden enquired why quotes are only been obtained now. D/Cllr Cox explained the survey was not in the budget. Cllr Marsden queried if the money had been given to District Council why the money wasn't in the budget.

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat thanked D/Cllr Cox for following this up. The survey will be undertaken.

Cllr Price 106 money request came from Faringdon Town Council. Faringdon Town Council should have been informed about the delay.

8. Faringdon Audit

Cheryl Reeves of South & Vale explained that the request for the Vale Disability Access Group to submit an audit had come from Trudy Godfrey economic development. Cheryl Reeves had met with the Town Clerk of Faringdon June Rennie and it had been suggested that Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee look at this audit report at the next meeting.

Cheryl Reeves asked the Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee for any views.

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat stated that FATac is only an advisory committee, and many of the points raised in the report refer to areas that are in private ownership, are OCC Highways responsibility or JEFF's. The report should have been submitted to the FTC's Planning and Highways Committee.

D/Cllr Cox suggested to Cheryl Reeves to take this report back to District Council.

Laura Hutchins raised concerns that the report had originated from VWHDC and should have been discussed with OCC's Highways first before the commencement of the project by the Vale Disability Access Group. OCC is the Highways Authority and VWHDC Officers should have discussed with them in the first place.

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat suggested Cheryl Reeves contact Laura Hutchins to discuss this report in greater detail.

Cllr Marsden queried with Cheryl Reeves are you aware Faringdon has a Neighbourhood Plan. These items could be discussed and included in the Plan. The Vale is behind the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cheryl Reeves to liaise with Laura Hutchins of Oxfordshire County Council to discuss the safety issues. Further discussion will take place with Faringdon Town Council with regard to the Neighbourhood Plan.

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat advised the committee C/Cllr Anda Fitzgerald will not be continuing with the Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee and will write a letter of thanks.

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat reported it had been brought to her attention at Buscot Parish meeting the problem with speed on the A417 at Buscot, and asked Mr. Hulme if the police could monitor. The road already has a lot of road furniture, speed reduction roundals, village warning signs, red paint on the road – the word “slow”

Mr. Hulme advised C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat to go back to her monitoring team regarding data. Speed monitoring to carry out a survey speed limit of 40 mph. If speed monitoring shows data will advise Mr. Hulme.

D/Cllr Sharp informed that the mud left on the road from the quarries near Shellingford was dangerous. C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat reported that C/Cllr Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor has been in contact with Highways and the Company.