

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting held on Friday 7th December 2012 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
Laura Hutchins, Highways, Oxfordshire County Council
Mr.C. Hulme, Thames Valley Police
C/Cllr Mrs.A. Fitzgerald-O'Connor
Mr.K. Booth, Chamber of Commerce

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs.D. Keany, Assistant Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr. Robin Szymura.

Mrs. Keany had received an email from Mr. Szymura – Magistrate resigning from the Traffic Advisory Committee due to workload commitments. C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat will write a letter of thanks to Mr. Szymura. C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat will email details through to Mrs. Keany of Mr. David Williams who sits on the Oxfordshire bench. A possible nomination as our JP representative.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting 14th September 2012

The minutes were signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat advised the 2 hour free parking signs were in place on the entrance roads into Faringdon and all surrounding areas.

Parking in Lechlade Road

Cllr Price has yet to speak to Cllr Marsden

Prohibition Road Sign

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat had seen an article in the Folly newspaper reporting that the new road prohibition notices had a slippery road surface. The surface has been checked and is not slippery. (OCC could not use substances that were slippery as this would cause a Health & Safety issue for traffic using the areas).

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat reported the red paint at the “T” junction of Bromesgrove with Marlborough Street has been installed.

Cllr Marsden queried any changes on the A420 for pedestrian crossing.
C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat advised that there was no OCC plan for a safe haven to be placed at the Fernham Road junction.

4. Public Speaking Time

No members of public present.

5. Area Stewards Report

Laura Hutchins Oxfordshire County Council Highways reported vegetation cut backs, ditches are the responsibility of adjoining landowners.

Oxfordshire County Council is not responsible for cutting back privately owned vegetation.

Farmers will be chased and advised to maintain ditches adjacent to their land.

Cllr Marsden queried new housing developments – who is responsible for shrubs planted.

Laura Hutchins advised house owners are usually responsible depending on the planning agreements for each site. The developer is usually responsible until full adoption of the site.

The Area Steward's fund has been used to install VAS's – Vehicle Activated Signs through rural Oxfordshire. The scheme is helping develop speed awareness.

Adverse weather

Oxfordshire experienced the worst flooding since 2007 between 22nd November 2012 and 30th November 2012.

During the recent flood Oxfordshire County Council Highways were asked to provide sandbags – Residents that have not used the sandbags have been asked to retain them. Residents that have used the sandbags are advised to refer to their relevant District Council website for disposal advice.

Salt bags were placed along the highways to treat water flowing onto the highways and protect the highway from the water turning to ice. Some of these bags were removed. Salt bags will be labelled in future.

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat advised the fire service had provided 6,000 sand bags for vulnerable people.

Grit bins have been installed and filled. They will not be refilled this winter.

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat praised the team for all their efforts.

Name the Gritter Competition

The competition was held on 6th December 2012 at Drayton Depot. A large group of people attended children, teachers and members of the media. Various names from Salt Shaker, Cruncher, True Grit to Mr. Meltdown full details can be found on the Area Stewards Newsletter.

Cllr Marsden commented the rainfall was not much greater than the usual expected amount at this time of year. The problem was the ground was already very wet.

Diane Keany reported to Laura Hutchins the large hole in the road in the Market Place outside Boots the Chemist. It had been reported via the normal route email to Highways. Several residents had complained to Faringdon Town Council about the condition of the road. Laura Hutchins to report back.

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat requested Laura Hutchins to report back.

D/Cllr Sharp queried if farmers clean ditches out close to the road, do they need permission or to put up signs.

Mr.C. Hulme advised put up warning signs to say you are working in the ditches. Take steps to protect the farmers when cleaning ditches in case of accidents.

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat reported £ 49,406.21 of Area Stewards funds has been spent. C/Cllr Mrs. Fitzgerald O'Connor has work applications that are currently going on the system for the Area Stewards fund in his Division.

6. District Traffic Matters

D/Cllr Cox reported sandbags are available from District Council. These are the new type of flood sacks.

D/Cllr Cox and Cllr Draper visited the Bloor Homes estate and sited 2 grit bins.

7. Any Other Business

C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat reported the problem on Swan Lane is in hand and is being dealt with by County Council. Residents of Swan Lane, when consulted in the past had not wanted the directional flow of traffic changed. Cllr Marsden observed that the way forward would be to make the entrance one way only.

Officers are liaising with the owners of the property. C/Cllr Mrs. Heathcoat will report back.

Parking problems Coxwell Street - Mrs. June Rennie, Town Clerk, Faringdon Town Council had received an email complaining about residents leaving cars parked on the single yellow line and part footpath, causing obstructions. Mrs. Rennie had asked if this matter could be discussed at the next Area Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting.

It was discussed and agreed that this is a Police matter. The Clerk will forward the email to Mr. Hulme.

Entrance road to Gloucester Street Park

Local residents parking on the bend of the road leading into the car park when dropping and collecting children from Faringdon Junior School. This is causing an obstruction and often quite dangerous. It was discussed and agreed that this is a Police matter – Mr. Hulme to action.

C/Cllr Mrs. Fitzgerald O'Connor advised Committee that the proposed planning application for a Gypsy/Travellers site near Cowans Camp on the A420 is not supported by the Watchfield Parish Council. This was noted.

8. Dates of Meeting for 2013

22 nd March 2013	-	The Old Town Hall
21 st June 2013	-	The Old Town Hall
27 th September 2013	-	The Old Town Hall
13 th December 2013	-	The Pump House