

**MINUTES OF THE FARINGDON JOINT ECONOMIC FORUM (JEF)
MEETING HELD ON 17TH JANUARY 2013 AT 7:00PM IN THE OLD TOWN
HALL, FARINGDON**

1. Present:

Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC): Cllr Robert Sharp, Cllr Roger Cox, Cllr Alison Thomson.

Faringdon Town Council (FTC): Cllr Jane Boulton, Cllr Andrew Marsden.

Other organizations: Paul Brame (Chairman, and Chamber of Commerce), Sarah Allen Stevens (Chamber of Commerce), Mrs Daphne Saunders (FAP).

Non-voting members: Cllr Mike Wise (Mayor).

In attendance: Trudy Godfrey (economic development officer and minutes Secretary), County Cllr Judith Heathcoat,

Observers: Mark Harrison (Farcycles), Jerry Flinn (Folly Park View residents group).

Apologies: Cllr Ron Mansfield, Sally Thurston, David Williamson (Farcycles), Eddie Williams (Folly Trust), Cllr Mohinder Kainth, Cllr Jim Halliday, Cllr Julie Farmer, Colin Desborough (Faringdon Association of Residents).

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Minutes of meeting on 18th October 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2012 were accepted as true and accurate record.

4. High Street Innovation Fund (HSIF) and Portas Funds

Trudy Godfrey explained that the Vale had received £22,500 funding from the High Street Innovation fund and a further £10,000 from the Portas fund to deliver projects in Faringdon that would improve town centre vitality. A paper had been taken to Full Council at the Vale and authority had been given to act as accountable body for the purposes of the HSIF and Portas funding. Paul Brame had held a meeting in August with town centre businesses, retailers, Chamber members and representatives from both town and district councils to discuss projects that would improve town centre vitality. An ambitious list of projects had resulted from these projects and they formed the basis of the project list that was being considered at the meeting. As there was little capacity within the VWHDC to deliver this list of projects in Faringdon alongside funds that had

also been allocated HSIF for projects in Wantage, Abingdon and Botley, Ms Godfrey had written a request for proposal inviting consultants to bid to deliver these projects as 'Faringdon Town Team Administrator'. This tender document had been publicized widely and been promoted on www.faringdon.org and press releases written and published by local newspapers. Two bids had been received from candidates living within the town, and they had both been invited along to the meeting that evening to present their ideas. The voting members of the Joint Economic Form would then decide which candidate should be awarded the contract.

5. **Town Team Administrator presentations from candidates**

Presentations were received from:-

- Andy Hayter at 7.30pm
- Mirabelle Mack at 7.45pm

Both candidates delivered well. Candidate summaries were delivered by Cllr Roger Cox and Paul Brame. Voting members of the JEF voted in favour of Mirabelle Mack. Cllr Andrew Marsden advised that as the Vale was the accountable body and the projects were being delivered by the Town Team Administrator on behalf of the Vale, this would mean that all invoices had to be made out to the Vale of White Horse District Council.

Action: Trudy Godfrey to draft Town Team contract and have inception meeting with Mirabelle Mack to explain invoicing procedures etc.

Action: Paul Brame to meet with Mirabelle Mack in respect of the Landlords' register.

10. **Financial Report of JEF**

Cllr Sharp advised that the financial position remained unchanged since the last meeting. The current balance was £2,554.64. This included £1,000 grant income from the Vale. Grant of £500 was to be claimed from Faringdon Town Council. Sarah Allen Stevens proposed to accept the accounts, this was seconded by Cllr Roger Cox. All voted, all in favour. Motion passed.

11. **Any other business**

Trudy Godfrey circulated maps from the Southern Oxfordshire Oxtrails project that the VWHDC was leading on. If local businesses were interested in being part of the project, then all inquiries should be directed towards info@oxtrails.co.uk or telephone 01235 540346.

Cllr Alison Thomson explained that a blue plaque was to be mounted on the Folly Tower to help commemorate Lord Berners and to promote the Tower to visitors. She explained the cost of production, installation and drinks reception would be £600.

Cllr Roger Cox proposed that £300 funding would be allocated towards the project, this was seconded by Sarah Allen Stevens. All voted, all in favour. Motion passed.

Cllr Mike Wise advised that he attended an Action for Market Towns event in Kendal. Faringdon Folly Tower won the national award for the Action for Market Towns' community and environment section.

Mark Harrison advised that FollyFest was a new voluntary group that had been set up to put an arts festival in the centre of the town. They hoped to raise £10,000 to help finance it and were planning a programme of arts events, music and children's entertainment for a weekend in August 2013.

12. **Next meeting dates.** Dates of the next meetings are:

- **Thursday 18th July 2013**
- **Thursday 17th October 2013**

All meetings will be held in the Old Town Hall at 7pm.

Trudy Godfrey

Secretary

APPENDIX A

JEF MEMBERSHIP 2012/13

Voting members:

Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC):

- Cllr Roger Cox
- Cllr Mohinder Kainth
- Cllr Robert Sharp
- Cllr Alison Thomson
- Cllr Jim Halliday

Faringdon Town Council (FTC):

- Cllr Jane Boulton
- Cllr Julie Farmer
- Cllr Andrew Marsden
- Cllr Jack Smith
- Cllr. Karen Draper

‘Other Organizations’:

- Paul Brame (Faringdon Chamber of Commerce)
- Sarah Allen-Stevens (Faringdon Chamber of Commerce)
- Colin Desborough (Faringdon Association of Residents)
- Daphne Saunders (Faringdon Area Project)
- Eddie Williams (Faringdon Folly Tower Trust)

Non-Voting members:

- Mayor of Faringdon (Cllr Mike Wise)
- County Councillor for the Faringdon Division (Cllr Judith Heathcoat)

Co-opted members (non-voting, not more than four persons):

- Alison Moore (Women’s Institute)
- David Williamson (Chair of Faringdon Twinning)
- Sjoerd Vogt (Pink Pigeons)

Observer (non-voting):

- Cllr Elaine Ware (VWHDC)

In attendance (non-voting):

- Trudy Godfrey (VWHDC officer and minutes secretary)