

MINUTES OF THE FARINGDON JOINT ECONOMIC FORUM (JEF) MEETING HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2010 AT 7PM IN THE OLD TOWN HALL, FARINGDON

1. Present:

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

Faringdon Town Council (FTC): Cllr Margaret Barker (Mayor), Cllr Jane Boulton, Cllr Andrew Marsden, Cllr Mike Wise.

'Other Organisations': Colin Desborough (Faringdon Association of Residents), Daphne Saunders (Faringdon Area Project).

Co-opted Members: Alison Moore (Women's Institute)

In attendance: Trudy Godfrey (JEF Secretary and VWHDC officer), Toby Warren (VWHDC officer), Sally Thurston (FTC officer), Eddie Williams (Faringdon Folly Tower Trust). Cllr John Gillman (observer).

2. Apologies for Absence

Nick Elwell, out-going JEF Chairman, Cllr Judith Heathcoat, Cllr Jim Halliday, Cllr Robert Sharp, Cllr Kevin Herber, Cllr Julie Farmer, Christopher Marriott.

3. Declarations of interest

None

4. Elections

Chairman

The Chairman was to be on rotation from "Vale" nominees. Cllr Cox was nominated by Cllr Jane Boulton and this was seconded by Cllr Thomson. JEF committee voted.

Decision: It was agreed that Cllr Cox would be chairman for the next 12 months.

Cllr Cox recorded his thanks to the out-going chairman.

Vice Chair

The Vice Chair was to be on rotation from "Town Council" nominees. Cllr Boulton was nominated by Cllr Cox and this was seconded by Mike Wise.

Decision: It was agreed that Cllr Boulton would be vice-chairman for the next 12 months.

Treasurer

Cllr Thomson nominated Cllr Sharp as treasurer in his absence and this was

seconded by Andrew Marsden.

Decision: It was agreed that Cllr Sharp would be treasurer.

5. Identification of new members

Eddie Williams (Folly Tower Trust) was nominated by Cllr Thomson and seconded by Cllr Cox.

Decision: It was agreed that Eddie Williams would become a voting member under "other organisations". All

Cllr Wise nominated Sjeourd Vogt (Pink Pigeons) as a co-opted member and agreed to approach him about this. Cllr Wise

6. Minutes of the meeting on 29 July 2010

The amended draft minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Decision. The minutes were agreed by the members and signed by Cllr Cox. All

Action: Trudy Godfrey to put the final minutes on Vale's web-site.

7. Matters arising

- Faringdon and Wantage Strategy and Action Plan – Trudy Godfrey explained that comments had been received from Faringdon Town Council and that Chris Tyson (Head of Economy, Leisure and Property) had responded formally to FTC. Cllr Cox asked whether JEF would respond collectively as a group.

- **Decision:** It was agreed that Cllr Cox would email Secretary to say the JEF agreed with the positive comments made by the Town Council and would not be responding separately. Cllr Cox

- Eddie Williams asked whether the JEF still owed the Folly Tower £1,000 for electrical work.

- **Action:** Cllr Thomson to ask Cllr Sharp whether the £1,000 had been paid to the Folly Tower and, if not, Cllr Sharp would make £1,000 payment. Cllr Thomson

8. Financial Position

- Cllr Thomson circulated a summary of receipts and payments made. As at 30 September 2010, there was a credit balance of £2,413.52 after payments of £2,700 and receipts of £2,200.
- Some discussion centred around the Vale's grant funding to the JEF (which is £1,200 p.a.) and whether the Vale should contribute which had

historically been used to pay administration expenses. Toby Warren advised that this could be retained by the JEF for 2010/11 and used to support administration costs related to projects deemed for the good of the town.

9. SEEDA funding and the JEF projects

- An allocation of £61,000 had provisionally been made to support 3 projects in the town: the Folly Tower, the skate park and walking / cycling route cards, subject to the fulfilment of a number of conditions. Focus on Faringdon as the accountable body provides a report to the JEF on progress made with SEEDA's Small Rural Towns funding but Focus on Faringdon were not represented at the meeting and had not submitted a written report to JEF. The Chairman undertook to contact Nick Elwell (a director of Focus on Faringdon) and request a report.
- **Action:** Cllr Cox to contact Nick Elwell to ask for a progress report on the status of all 3 projects and whether funding had been secured.
- **Action:** Nick Elwell to circulate a progress report to the JEF 5 days before each JEF meeting.
- **Secretary's note:** Nick Elwell e-mailed after the meeting to confirm that SEEDA funding was secure for all 3 project. However Mr Elwell should provide an update to the JEF on the 'web and cycling project' which had been amended since the original application.

Cllr Cox

Nick Elwell

10. Progress reports from:

- **Faringdon Area Project:** Daphne Saunders advised that the Health Group were looking into the lack of ante-natal preparation classes in Faringdon. It was possible that the Family Centre would provide them. Cllr Wise suggested that if the Family Centre needed financial support to run these classes, they should apply to the Town Council. A new health and social care leaflet has been prepared and a project group is looking at the feasibility of a local food distribution centre that supplies schools.
- **Faringdon Association of Residents:** Colin Desborough advised FAR were pursuing information on the proposed new primary school and medical centre. Cllr Cox provided some information about schools in Faringdon. It was noted that the proposal for a medical centre had not been made by the local planning authority. It had been made as part of a private sector development proposal.
- **Faringdon Farcycles:** Eddie Williams advised that 3 or 4 cycling groups met on Saturday mornings in Faringdon, comprising 20 – 30 people. This was organised by Mark Harrison and Eddie Williams agreed to invite Mark to future JEF meetings to update the group on the activities of Faringdon Farcycles.
- **Women's Institute:** Alison Moore advised they were waiting for a new lift to go into the Pump Rooms because the group was too

large for the Old Town Hall. Meetings were on the third Monday of every month and were well attended (by 30 or 40 people) and everyone was welcome.

- **Community and Tourist Information Centre:** Sally Thurston advised that the Tourist office was busy and now had Christmas cards for sale. Last year they sold £6,000 worth of cards and profits went to good causes.
- **Folly Tower Trust:** Eddie Williams advised that the Folly Tower now had raised all the money it needed to begin the renovations. Building contractors would start work in November.
- **Twinning News:** Cllr Mike Wise advised that a twinning visit was planned for November to Le Mele. There had been a successful youth exchange in July involving 14 young people.
- **Pink Pigeons:** the Pink Pigeons were actively promoting art and works of art in Faringdon. Various schemes were being developed, with assistance from Abigail Brown (the Vale's Arts Development officer). Cllr Wise agreed to invite Sjeourd Vogt (Pink Pigeons) as a co-opted member.
- **Action:** Cllr Wise agreed to invite Sjeourd Vogt (Pink Pigeons) as a co-opted member.

Cllr Wise

11. Economic Development News from Abingdon and Wantage

- Toby Warren advised that the Choose Abingdon Partnership Annual General Meeting was to be held on Monday 11 October. There were 3 main projects being taken by the Partnership at the current time:
 - The town maps were being refurbished
 - The shoppers loyalty card scheme was being launched in the Market Place on Saturday 16 October.
 - The web-site launch would coincide with the loyalty card scheme launch.
- **Action:** Cllr Jane Boulton to ask Dawn Pulker about wider promotion of the Retailer Buy Back Scheme in Faringdon.
- **Action:** Toby Warren to give details of the list of organisations involved in the Choose Abingdon Partnership
- Trudy Godfrey advised that Wantage Town Council was actively implementing the town's SEEDA funded projects. The Market Place improvements were being planned, applications for the shop front improvement scheme were being developed (and promoted and administered by the Vale), the Letcombe Brook project was progressing with the new trails and the walking / cycling route cards project had had

Cllr Boulton

Toby Warren

their first community consultation event. Trudy Godfrey was also working with the Wantage Betjeman Festival committee to develop the Festival programme and apply for funding on their behalf (from the Oxfordshire Stronger Communities [OSCA] Fund).

Cllr Mike Wise

- **Action:** Cllr Mike Wise to raise the OSCA fund with the Town Council and get their view on the possibility of applying to the fund to improve broadband access in Faringdon.
- **Action:** Secretary – OSCA fund to be Agenda item for next meeting
- **Action:** Toby Warren to email JEF with details of the BT ‘race for infinity’ – to encourage telephone subscribers to register their interest in favour of high speed broadband. If Faringdon got behind this campaign they may have a chance of persuading BT to upgrade the exchange.

Secretary Toby
Warren All

14. Any other business

- Cllr Boulton inquired whether Faringdon would hold a ‘Faringdon in Bloom’ competition this year.
- **Action:** Cllr Boulton to investigate and report at next JEF meeting
- **Action:** Secretary to add Faringdon in Bloom as Agenda item
- Eddie Williams mentioned that Faringdon had had two civil wars – perhaps Leader funding and s106 funds could pay for some street art to commemorate this.
- **Action:** Secretary to add Agenda items for next meeting:
 - Financial Position of JEF
 - Faringdon in Bloom
 - Civil War and Public Art
 - 2011 Heritage Weekend
 - 650 Years of Justice of the Peace

Cllr Boulton

Secretary.

Secretary.

14. Next Meetings

Secretary

The next meetings will take place on:

- Thursday 13th January 2011
- Thursday 14th April 2011
- Thursday 14th July 2011
- Thursday 6th October 2011
- All will take place at 7pm in the Old Town Hall.

- Action: Secretary to make room bookings for next year.

Secretary

Trudy Godfrey

T Godfrey
Secretary

APPENDIX 1:
JEF MEMBERSHIP 2010/11

Voting members:

Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC):

- Cllr Roger Cox
- Cllr Matthew Barber
- Cllr Jim Halliday
- Cllr Robert Sharp
- Cllr Alison Thomson

Faringdon Town Council (FTC):

- Cllr Jane Boulton
- Cllr Julie Farmer
- Cllr Kevin Herbert
- Cllr Andrew Marsden
- Cllr Mike Wise

Other Organisations:

- Nick Elwell (Faringdon Chamber of Commerce)
- Christopher Marriott (Faringdon Chamber of Commerce)
- Colin Desborough (Faringdon Association of Residents)
- Daphne Saunders (Faringdon Area Project)
- Eddie Williams (Faringdon Folly Tower Trust)

Non-Voting members:

- County Councillor for the Faringdon Division - Cllr Judith Heathcoat
- Chairman of the Vale of White Horse District Council - Cllr Beth Fleming
- Mayor of Faringdon - non-voting Cllr Margaret Barker

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

- Tim Evans (Chair of Faringdon Twinning)
- Alison Moore (Women's Institute)
- Eddie Williams (Faringdon Folly Tower Trust)
- Sjeournd Vogt (Pink Pigeons)

Observer (non-voting):

- Cllr Richard Gibson (VWHDC)
- Cllr John Gillman

In attendance (non-voting):

- Toby Warren (VWHDC officer)
- Sally Thurston (FTC officer)
- Trudy Godfrey (VWHDC officer and minutes secretary).