

## Minutes

**Meeting at Portwell Angel on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

<b>Present</b>	Nick Elwell, Fiona Flint, Paul Brame, Sarah Allen-Stevens, John Davis, Denise Palmer, Frank Pavy, John Morton, Christopher Marriott, Ivan Jarvis, Margaret Barker, Jan Francis, David Burn, Donald Caruthers, Trevor Wynn, Pat Saunders, Daphne Saunders, Richard Webber, Jane Haynes,
<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Apologies</b> Andrew Brown, Sarah Benson, Sarah Steel, Simon Tiensa
<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting &amp; Matters Arising</b> There were no minutes from the last meeting to discuss.
<b>Item 3</b>	<b>Membership Report</b> Report from Jane. No change in membership this month.
<b>Item 4</b>	<b>Financial Report</b> Treasurers report from John. Current funds are £450 in the current account and £6600.00 on deposit. There is also a loan to Focus on Faringdon of £1500.00 that will be repaid. The account balance changes mainly due to standing orders for membership - fees so far this year amount to £2000.00.
<b>Item 5</b>	<b>Publicity</b> Nick O’Keeffe has decided to resign as Publicity Officer. It appears that Nick did not agree with Nick Elwell's response to the Town Councils approval of the Tesco planning application.
<b>Item 6</b>	<p><b>Outside Committee Work</b></p> <p><i>Faringdon Area Project</i> – Jane reported that the Health and Social Care Group now has a regular meeting and is intending to reprint the popular Information Leaflet. Daphne has organised a meeting with David Buckle, CEO of Vale District Council for Thursday meeting will be attended by Sir Julian Rose.</p> <p><i>Joint Economic Forum</i> – Nick explained the background to the seven projects that were submitted to the Oxfordshire Rural Towns Network for funding. At a meeting of JEF on 29<sup>th</sup> July it was agreed that Focus on Faringdon CIC would be the accountable body and this means that the funding for the new skate park and renovation of the Folly and a communication project can now go ahead. Nick would like to thank Trudy Godfrey of the Vale District Council for the invaluable work that she has done to enable the projects to be started.</p> <p>Retail Group – Nick explained that we should be focusing on objections to an “out of town supermarket plan” rather than be against Tesco’s, he then asked for comments.</p> <p>Donald suggested that the planners must come to Faringdon to visit the site. Trevor felt that this was very important as Vale planners are detached from Faringdon. We must make sure that planners know that we are not against another supermarket, just not in the proposed position.</p> <p>Denise said that the proposed 135 free car parking spaces will kill off the town centre. Richard commented that planners are obliged to visit sites that may prove to be problematic and suggested that Chamber members should give a guided tour of the town. Nick has already been</p>

	<p>in touch with a planning consultant who has agreed to help and he suggested that the Community Bus should be hired to bring the planning committee to Faringdon. This was agreed. Parking was then discussed and questions raised to Richard regarding the free parking in Witney. Sarah noted that there will be a deficit in the next few years in the income generated by the parking in Faringdon. Richard suggested that the Chamber of Commerce should come up with an alternative way forward. Other issues that were discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shopkeepers who take up free space on the roadways because they do not want to pay to park all day.</li> <li>• Accessibility of the parking machines, especially for the elderly</li> <li>• People who were involved in the Arts Festival (and other voluntary events) being fined £80.00 whilst they were delivering to venues.</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that one hour free parking would encourage more people to visit the town centre and generate more trade.</p> <p>Christopher asked if the District Councils grant from Central Government was a proportion of the rateable values and suggested that if businesses closed in the town centre this would then mean that rents and rates would be reduced.</p> <p>Richard suggested that the Chamber should contact the local Planning Officer to find out what would be persuasive arguments against the plans and said that any arguments must be factual, and possibly backed up by some emotional content.</p> <p>It was felt that the Town Council have weakened that case against the proposed site by requesting early adoption of B2-B8 planning for Wicklesham Quarry. Some discussion followed and it was agreed that Nick will produce a response that will be emailed to members for comment before it goes to the planning consultant.</p>
<p><b>Item 7</b></p>	<p><b>Presidents Remarks</b></p> <p>Nick said that his comments had already been discussed in the item above.</p>
<p><b>Item 8</b></p>	<p><b>Future Meeting Dates</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be on <b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September</b> at 6pm Venue – to be confirmed</p>
	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Jane has received an email from Trading Standards who are offering free presentation to members. It was agreed that this would be a good presentation for the Breakfast Club. Paul to follow up.</p> <p>Fairford &amp; Lechlade Business Club’s Summer BBQ and fireworks will be held at Bushyleaze Lake on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August. Anyone who is interested in attending this networking event should contact Jane for details.</p> <p>Bromsgrove Day Centre has requested a donation to their funds from the Chamber. This was discussed and it was agreed that the Chamber will offer a donation from this years Christmas Ball.</p> <p>Margaret Barker will be using her year as Town Mayor to fund raise for two charities, Macmillan Nurses and Faringdon First Responders. She will be hosting various events and Chamber members are asked to support these.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 7:30pm</p>