

Minutes
Meeting at Portwell Angel on Monday 12th April 2010

Present	Nick Elwell, Fiona Flint, Paul Brame, Sarah Allen-Stevens, John Davis, Denise Palmer, Sue Fisher, Rachel Goddard, Frank Pavy, Ian Lloyd, John Morton, Tony Fecher Simon Tiensa, Jane Haynes,
Item 1	Apologies Christopher Marriott, Sarah Steel
Item 2	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising</p> <p>The minutes from the last meeting were agreed and signed as a true record. John Davis commented that it was difficult to find the minutes on the website. Jane to investigate.</p>
Item 3	<p>Membership Report</p> <p>Report from Jane. Chamber currently has 37 members. Jane introduced two new members, Ian Lloyd and Ed Preece.</p>
Item 4	<p>Financial Report</p> <p>Treasurers report from John. Current funds are £8375 with £250 in the current account. Membership fees so far this year amount to £1840, around ten members currently pays by quarterly standing order. John advised that he will now be away until August.</p>
Item 5	<p>Our Faringdon, Our Future</p> <p>Sarah has been working hard to prepare a report on employment land for this Town Council working party response to the VWHDC draft Core Strategy Plans.</p> <p>The District Council plans to 2026 include 420 new homes at the Bloor Homes site and remove 4ha of employment land including the Rogers Gardenstone site. There will be an estimated increase in population of 2500. No employment provisions made, although it seems that any planned jobs will be located on the eastern side of the Vale. Sarah asked that her working figure of 38% of residents should be able to work in Faringdon. This figure was reached by looking at the figures from the 2002 Healthcheck when the town was seen to be a dormitory town and then where the town wants to be by 2011. 38% was discussed and agreed.</p> <p>Terry Gash of DPDS is to send Sarah a spec as to what is required for a complete Retail Study. Further investigation will be needed.</p> <p>Parking is the other topic that the Chamber has been asked to look at. This is an ongoing problem in Faringdon. Witney was mentioned as a good example, with free parking and very easy access now that the development is complete. Simon mentioned that he had spoken to a District Councillor who told him that the Faringdon car parks raise around £45,000 per annum for the District Council. It was also felt that the District Council will state that if the Retail offer is correct then parking charges are irrelevant. It has been suggested that Faringdon should request that the first two hours parking should be free however looking at the numbers of vehicles parked, i.e. 0-1 hour – 50%; 2-3 hours – 40% and 3+ hours – 10% any any such reduction would make a very large hole in revenue. It was pointed out that the parking restrictions in the Market Place are not monitored. A discussion about parking followed and it was agreed that the Chamber will press for one hour free parking in all car parks. It was felt that it will be necessary to find out what it costs the District Council to run the car parks. Sarah and Ian will investigate</p>

	<p>this and report back at the next meeting.</p>
<p>Item 6</p>	<p>Presidents Remarks</p> <p>The French Market was held on March 28th and it was felt that this was very disappointing. Only six stalls arrived and Nick pointed out that the road closures and administration take up considerable time. It was suggested that any future markets should move back into the Market Place and that a German/Italian market should be sought for the Festive Faringdon event.</p> <p>The Focus on Wantage guide has now been printed and ready for distribution. Nick mentioned that Focus On is currently investigating similar guides for Abingdon, Didcot and Newbury.</p> <p>The Faringdon Arts festival 2010 will be organised by Focus On. The festival will take place from the 5th -11th July and will include more art than there has been over the last couple of years. Poetry, photography competitions, exhibitions and music. The festival will be advertised in Ocelot magazine, e-festivals on-line, town websites, concertina-style programme of events and the Focus On website. On Tuesday 6th July there will be the South East Market Towns awards held in the Pump Rooms and a larger than normal market will be arranged, the stall holders including local farmers will be asked to stay on longer. Volunteers are needed to help with the Festival and members should contact Nick if they are able to help.</p> <p>Nick is currently Chairman of the Joint Economic Forum; this group have recently secured funding for a new Community Bus, repairs/refurbishment to the Folly Tower and building of the much awaited Skate Park.</p>
<p>Item 7</p>	<p>Future Meeting Dates</p> <p>The next meeting will be on Monday 10th May at 6pm at Faringdon Business Centre and the speaker will be Mary Thomas of Concise Training. Mary will tell us why we should be using LinkedIn. This is a follow on from her successful presentation at the recent AGM,</p>
<p>Item 8</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Jane has received a note of thanks from Vivienne Checkly for the flowers that were sending to her last month.</p> <p>Christmas Lights – It was noted that there were problems with the lights last year; however the same company has retained the contract for 2010. It was noted that the Town Council will hold back some of the money until all is well. John advised that there will soon be a need to replace many of the lights and decisions need to be made as to whether a new ring main should be installed or if the lights should all be changed to LED. This was discussed and it was agreed that funding for a large project should be sought. Denise said the the Retail Group will continue to support the lights.</p> <p>Chamber Christmas Ball – The date for this years Ball will be Friday 3rd December. Tickets will be available soon!!</p> <p>Meeting closed at 7:40pm</p>