

**Minutes**  
**Meeting at Sudbury House Hotel on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

<b>Present</b>	Nick Elwell, President, John Davis, Denise Palmer, Daphne Saunders, Pat Saunders, Fiona Flint, Sarah Allen-Stevens, Clare Bowley, Christopher Marriott, Paul Brame, Simon Tiensa, Mike Heathcoat, Raoul van Eijndhoven, Peter Walker, Al Cane, Richard Pargeter, Cllr. Nick O’Keefe, Cllr. Margaret Barker, Cllr. Alison Thomson, Andrew Robertson, Gene Webb, Nick Burroughs, Jane Haynes
<b>Item 1</b>	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Cllr. Julie Farmer, John Morton, Cllr. Judy Heathcoat</p>
	<p>Nick welcomed all to the meeting. Before the meeting began Nick presented two cheques of £200.00 each to Richard Pargeter on behalf of the First Faringdon Scouts and to Laura &amp; Lewis Haynes who accepted the cheque on behalf of the Oxford Craniofacial Charitable Trust. These donations were made from the proceeds of the Black Tie Ball held in December 2008.</p>
<b>Item 2</b>	<p>Nick then introduced Nick Burroughs, Principle Planning Officer of the Vale of White Horse District Council who gave a presentation about the Local Development Framework (LDF) – Preferred Options and what it can mean for Faringdon. Mr Burroughs likened the LDF to a “lever arch file” that could be used as a working document that would allow for additions, alterations and deletions. Public consultation will begin on 16<sup>th</sup> January and any comments must be submitted by 27<sup>th</sup> February. Consultation meetings will be held across the Vale, including Faringdon Corn Exchange on 30<sup>th</sup> January where the exhibition will be available from 3 – 7pm and then a workshop will be held from 7 – 9pm.</p> <p>The Preferred Options suggest that Faringdon should accommodate 420 new houses on land to the south of Park Road and improvements to the town centre around Budgens and the Southampton Street car park The Preferred Options document can be viewed on the District Council website <a href="http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk">www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk</a> and comments can be submitted through the website, email or paper comments form sent to the Vale DC offices or to the Faringdon Town Council offices.</p> <p>The Government say that the completion of the proposed building should be as soon as possible and that construction must be complete by 2026.</p> <p>The District Council will look at the education provision in Faringdon and especially at the Primary provision, they will take advice from the County Council and there will be funding via 106 agreements for infrastructure developments. As discussion followed about the density of dwellings which will probably be 30 – 50 dwellings per hectare in Faringdon. Mr Burroughs also pointed out that around 168 dwellings will be affordable housing.</p> <p>Sarah pointed out that there will ne a net loss of employment land in Faringdon through the Preferred Options. Mr Burroughs confirmed that there will be employment land allocated in the development of the land, although he did point out that in previous developments employment land had been allocated but not taken up. Christopher pointed out that this was probably due to land owners holding on to the land until it could be sold for higher prices for housing. Mr Burroughs explained that there is no intention to disadvantage Faringdon and Sarah advised the District Council should take a serious look at this problem. Nick O’Keefe said that the quarry at</p>

	<p>Wicklesham should be included in the plan and that it was important to provide employment provision to prevent the Faringdon from becoming a dormitory town.</p> <p>Daphne questioned the need for a density of 50 dwellings per hectare; she felt that this would not allow for gardens or large enough rooms for families to grow. Mr Burroughs agreed and said that land should be included for allotments.</p> <p>Nick said that the Chamber of Commerce would be responding to the Preferred Options document and urged members of the Chamber to also respond individually.</p> <p>Mr Burroughs was asked why the Tesco development has not been included. He replied that, so far, there has been no formal approach from Tesco and felt that this would be a separate issue and should be reflected and then if necessary included in future/revised plans. He also pointed out that Tesco will provide a number of experts who can prove that the store is needed in Faringdon and he urged residents to put their views to the District Council now.</p>
<b>Item 3</b>	<p><b>Minutes of Last Meeting &amp; Matters Arising</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising from the last meeting. Nick did point out that he does receive email and verbal comments on previous minutes. The minutes for the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> November were agreed and signed as a true record.</p>
<b>Item 4</b>	<p><b>Membership Report</b></p> <p>18 members have, so far, have paid their 2009 subscription, mainly people who pay by standing order or BACS. Jane urged members who pay annually to send their payment as soon as possible please.</p> <p>A question was received regarding the payments for quarterly standing orders and Nick pointed out that this type of payment reduced admin costs and the take up of renewal is higher. Anyone who would like to change to this type of payment should contact Jane.</p>
<b>Item 5</b>	<p><b>Membership</b></p> <p>No report available this month</p>
<b>Item 6</b>	<p><b>Publicity</b></p> <p>There has not been a report in the Folly newspaper for a while, Nick O'Keefe explained that a report will be sent to Al for publication this month.</p>
<b>Item 7</b>	<p><b>Outside Meeting Reports</b></p> <p><i>Traffic Advisory Group</i> – John is the Chamber representative for this group and at a recent meeting it was confirmed that the yellow lines in Swan Lane would be in place by the end of December (this is not yet done). The main talking point of the meeting was the issue of larger buses causing problems in the Market Place. The bus companies have requested different pick up points or routes. Nick pointed out that this would not alleviate the problem, just move it elsewhere in the town... It was agreed that the issue must be addressed and following some discussion it was agreed that the Chamber will support the Traffic Advisory Group and the Town Council in any way that it can to find a solution to this ongoing problem.</p> <p><i>Town Council Planning &amp; Highways Committee</i> – Nick attended a recent meeting of this committee where the LDF, Preferred Options was discussed. There are a number of areas where the Chamber agrees with the Town Council and it was felt that we need to develop a way of putting our ideas over. Nick encouraged all Chamber members to look at the plan and said that he will provide pointers for individuals to use, should they wish to do so. Nick pointed out that it is important that the proposed development of Swindon East should be taken into account. Nick invited all members to feedback their thoughts, information and ideas.</p> <p>Nick will ask for feedback and agreement on the Faringdon Business Strategy before it is made public.</p>

	<p><i>Faringdon Joint Economic Forum</i> – Nick has been elected at Vice-Chair of this group. The Forum has recently sponsored the Focus on Faringdon questionnaire and is currently looking for enterprising ways to develop commercial projects in Faringdon.</p> <p><i>Faringdon Area Project</i> – Daphne said that the new Healthcheck Action Plan was now printed and available and would be launched at the forthcoming AGM. There is a Health Group meeting to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> January at Brunel House and all are welcome to attend, this group are looking at issues around health care and services and are looking to increase awareness of what is available to resident.</p>
<b>Item 8</b>	<p><b>Presidents Remarks</b></p> <p><i>Focus on Faringdon Questionnaire</i> – This has been a very successful exercise, the response to the questionnaire has been over 300 and we are still receiving responses. Nick is collating the information and a report will be written. Another questionnaire will go out at the end of February to define further the retail needs of residents.</p> <p><i>Tesco Online Poll</i> – This has been an interesting exercise that has brought traffic to the Focus on Faringdon website. The poll started off suggesting a two thirds majority saying “No” to Tesco. However, the “Yes” for Tesco vote increased significantly over a very short period of time (when only 3 people were logged in!) indicating that someone had over-ridden the one vote per person limitation. Nick pointed out that this was a fun poll and the result should not be taken too seriously.</p>
<b>Item 9</b>	<p><b>Future Meeting Dates</b></p> <p>Ideas for speakers for this year's meetings are needed. Please contact Jane with topics that you would like to hear about or with ideas for speakers.</p> <p>Next Meeting: <b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b> – Brunel House at 6pm</p> <p>AGM: <b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b> at Sudbury House Hotel at 6pm. Speaker for this meeting will be Ed Viazey, Shadow Minister for the Arts and MP for Wantage &amp; Didcot.</p>
<b>Item 10</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>A letter of thanks was received from Chamber member Geoff Robins of Faringdon Golf Course for the Chamber's letter of support for his planning submission that has recently been granted.</p> <p>The Folly Tower will be open on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January from 4 – 8pm. It will be a chance to see the Star at close quarters before it is removed. Town Mayor has provided the Folly Trust with a large number of daffodil bulbs and volunteers are needed to help with the planting. Raoul will advise the date.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 20:00</p>