

## Minutes

**Meeting at Brunel House Hotel on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

<b>Present</b>	Nick Elwell, President, Fiona Flint, Simon Tiensa, , PC Mike Bennett, Julie Farmer, Clare Bowley, Denise Palmer, John Morton, Lou Guthrie, Frank Pavy, Tony Fecher, Matt Morrison-Clark, Andrew Brown, Jane Haynes
<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Apologies</b> Jo Naylor, Christopher Marriott, John Davis
<b>Item 2</b>	<p><b>Minutes of Last Meeting &amp; Matters Arising</b></p> <p>The minutes from the last meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.</p> <p>Following the last meeting, Mike has spoken to the Probation Service and they have agreed that it will be possible for probationers to remove the wall in the Southampton Street Car Park. However, the ownership of the wall must be confirmed and permission sought in order to carry out the removal.</p> <p>With effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> November Alison Smith will be the new Crime Reduction Officer for Faringdon. She will be based at Wantage Police Station and will be able to provide advice on security; CCTV etc. mike suggested that she should be invited to a future meeting.</p> <p>Climate Change Roadshow. Thanks to Frank for fronting this event. The feedback from attendees was good. It was noted that apart from the speakers and Chamber members, there were very few people attending.</p> <p>Andi Cunningham was not available for this meeting and so Mike gave a brief description of the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) The group meets every six weeks and covers the Faringdon and Shrivenham area. It is made up of local representatives from the Faringdon, Police, Housing Department, Ministry of Defence Police, etc. They discuss local problems and identify issues that will be taken forward and dealt with. Actions will be reported on at the next meeting. The group carries considerable weight locally and is in direct contact with the Head of the Council and the Chief Constable.</p>
<b>Item 3</b>	<p><b>Membership Report</b></p> <p>No new members since last month.</p>
<b>Item 4</b>	<p><b>Finance report</b></p> <p>John provided a Financial Report. The balance of the current account is £142.49 and there is currently £6,620.53 held on deposit.</p>
<b>Item 5</b>	<p><b>Retail Group</b></p> <p>Denise reported that the French Market has been booked for the Festive Faringdon event on 28<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p>Retail Questionnaire – Darren visited all of the Retailers and invited help to compile the new questionnaire. Everyone was enthusiastic but unable to provide any help. Nick said that we will try to get this done in time for Christmas.</p> <p>Adam is printing a Christmas leaflet and Nick asked if all of the retailers should get together to do this. Following some discussion it was agreed that this should be done. Nick then introduced Lou Guthrie who works on the Focus On guides and she has offered to help to get the retailers in</p>

	<p>Faringdon involved.</p> <p>Cark Park Survey – Jane advised that the District Council are conducting a new survey in the Vale over the next month. It was felt that this was not widely known about. Jane will send details to all Chamber members.</p>
<b>Item 6</b>	<p><b>Faringdon Area Project</b></p> <p>Julie reported that the new Health and Social Care Group are making good progress. There will be a new leaflet printed in the next few weeks that will provide useful information about services that are available to residents of the town. She pointed out that the group is becoming widely known and that various Healthcare providers are now seeking out the group to ask for feedback on proposed services and changes.</p> <p>Funding for Action Plan Projects. Focus On put together a bid document on behalf of Faringdon Area Project, but the Town Council decided that they wanted to include other projects such as repair work in the Cemetery and renovation of the Corn Exchange. It was felt that these projects are not necessarily fundable as funding is already in place. The Town Council appear to have come in behind Focus On and overridden the work that has already been done. Oliver O'Dell has been employed to work on the bid. At the insistance of the Town Council his time will be paid for by Faringdon Area Project. Nick explained that one of the ideas was to develop the Pump Rooms as a Learning Centre with meeting rooms and conference centre. Julie pointed out that the Pump Rooms does not currently meet its costs and the community use is very low. JEFF will be the major stakeholder and all projects to be funded will be approved by this group. The SEEDA "Rules" for funding refer to the Action Plan process and Nick is concerned that the introduction of "new ideas" at this stage may not be acceptable to SEEDA or Leader. He is working with Oliver on this.</p>
<b>Item 7</b>	<p><b>Presidents Remarks</b></p> <p>Nick explained that much of his time this month has been given to the funding issues as raised in the last item. He pointed out that at a recent meeting attended by a Town Councillor it was agreed that the two organisations should work together. The Town Council have not notified the Chamber about the proposed development of the Pump Rooms and as this project will involve the business community if it is to succeed, this is a missed opportunity. This oversight only highlights the fact that there is still a considerable way to go.</p>
<b>Item 8</b>	<p><b>Future Meeting Dates</b></p> <p>Next Meeting: <b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm at Brunel House.</b></p>
<b>Item 9</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Oxfordshire Town Chamber Network – Nick and Jane attended the recent AGM and gave feedback from the event. OTCN would like to ask members to make a contribution. They have suggested either a flat fee of £200.00 per group or £5 per member. Discussion followed and it was agreed that we would agreed to the flat fee option.</p> <p>Critchleys HR – Fiona McClure has offered to speak to a future meeting about this new service provided by Critchleys. Jane will contact her to arrange a date.</p> <p><b>Diary Dates:</b></p> <p>Fairford &amp; Lechlade Breakfast Meeting Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 8:00am at the Riverside Pub Lechlade.</p> <p>Track &amp; Turf Show 2009 Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September from 10:00 – 5:00 at Farmer Gows this is in support of Help For Heroes</p> <p>Faringdon Business Breakfast Club Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30 am at Brunel House.</p>