

Minutes
Meeting at Brunel House Hotel on 15th April 2009

Present	Nick Elwell, President, , Fiona Flint, John Morton, Denise Palmer, John Davis, Jane Haynes
Item 1	Apologies Clare Bowley, Paul Brame, Cllr Judith Heathcoat, Cllr Margaret Barker, Ashya Wright, Christopher Marriott, Cllr Julie Farmer
Item 2	Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising The minutes of the February meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.
Item 3	Membership Report No new members since the last meeting. Paid membership subscriptions for 2009 currently stand at £1650.00, although there will still be money to come in through standing order payments.
Item 4	Finance report There is £468.00 on current account and £6200.00 on deposit account. The account balances were discussed and as yet there are no plans to use the money held.
Item 5	Publicity No publicity this month.
Item 6	Retail Group Denise, Matt and Dawn of the Retail Group are considering the possibility of joining the Chamber as members, in order to give the Retailers of Faringdon a forum. Matt is keen to do some joint advertising for shops and businesses in the centre of town. It was suggested that a leaflet could be produced on a quarterly basis, with a “glossy” version to be produced near to Christmas to include a discount throughout the town (this will be discussed at a future meeting). Jane to contact Matt to find out if he would like to front this project with the Chamber. It was agreed that any advertising distribution should include Highworth and Shrivenham. Simon Tiensa has offered to help with producing a new leaflet. A discussion followed about how best this help could be utilised. The questionnaire that Focus on Faringdon produced last year was very successful and once the feedback has been analysed it will be necessary to develop a new set of questions to define what it is that local people want for the town. It was suggested that the Buy Back scheme should be included in the next questionnaire. Tesco up-date: Nick reported that although Tesco have now purchased the land that they need, he felt that it is now unlikely that they will attempt any development of the site. The site will be land banked and following the work that the District Council has done on the Local Development Framework it was felt that it would be unlikely that the District Council would approve any plans for Tesco in Faringdon in the near future. John had a report that showed that the number of paid parking places is dropping on an annual basis.

	<p>Clare questioned the Buy Back scheme; she felt that people were not aware. Denise will speak to Signarama with a view to ordering some larger signs for the car parks. A loyalty scheme was suggested and it was felt that a town wide scheme would be a good idea, but Denise questioned how this would work and it was agreed that this should be researched further.</p>
Item 7	<p>Presidents Remarks</p> <p>Nick presented the new Focus on Faringdon Town Guide. It was very well received and it was agreed that this was a huge improvement on the current offering. A discussion followed regarding the distribution of the Guide. Nick was keen to stress that the guide was aimed at people who want it (residents and visitors to the town) rather than delivering it to all of the homes.</p> <p>New Online Business Directory – this is now up and running. Thanks go to Faringdon.org for their help and support. Chamber members should check their entry and let Jane know of any changes required.</p> <p>A420 Roundabouts – Denise asked the Chamber to support the Retail Group in this project. A letter was received by Denise from Oxfordshire Highways to say that the planned development of the A420 roundabouts would no longer be able to go ahead because of staff changes. Jane has written a letter to Ralph Grant and is currently awaiting a response. It was agreed that Jane would follow this up and also send copies of the letters to Ed Vaizey. John will also take a copy of the letter to the next Traffic Advisory Group.</p>
Item 8	<p>Future Meeting Dates</p> <p>Ideas for speakers for this year's meetings are needed. Please contact Jane will topics that you would like to hear about or with ideas for speakers.</p> <p>Next Meeting: Wednesday 20th May at 6pm at Brunel House.</p>
Item 10	<p>AOB</p> <p>Meeting closed at 19:30pm</p>