

**Minutes**  
**Meeting at Brunel House Hotel on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

<b>Present</b>	Nick Elwell, President, Paul Brame, John Morton, Fiona Flint, Sarah Allen-Stevens, Christopher Marriott, Raoul van Eijndhoven, Julie Farmer, Nick O’Keeffe, Matt Morrison-Clark, Jane Haynes
<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Apologies</b> Vivienne Checkley, Denise Palmer, Tony Fecher
<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting &amp; Matters Arising</b> The minutes of the February meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.
<b>Item 3</b>	<b>Membership Report</b> No new members since the last meeting.
<b>Item 4</b>	<b>Finance report</b> John was unavailable and no report was presented.
<b>Item 5</b>	<b>Retail Group</b> <p>Jane read an email from Denise that raised the point that recently the retail units that have become available in the town centre have been allowed to become residential property. Nick O’Keeffe responded that the Town Council is very keen that retail outlets are kept as such and have objected when planning comes through only to have this objection over-turned on appeal to the District Council. Christopher also pointed out that when recent sales were offered as retail there was no interest, hence the sale as residential.</p> <p>Buyback Scheme – Denise reported that she has commissioned metal notices for both of the car parks to highlight the scheme and these signs will be erected soon. Nick O’Keeffe said that the Town Council are very pleased that the Retailers are being proactive and this is being dealt with.</p> <p>Budgen’s will soon have Community Boards at the front of the store; these are being designed by Faringdon Junior School.</p> <p>Heritage Day – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2009 This event is being organised by Sally Thurston of the Community and Tourist Information Centre. Jane explained what the day would include and encouraged the Retail outlets to support this event and some shop owners have already agreed to open on the day. Jane asked if the Chamber would support this event. This was agreed and the Chamber has agreed to purchase the banners that will advertise the event. Al Cane is organising this and the cost will be around £150.00 for three banners.</p>
<b>Item 6</b>	<b>Faringdon Area Project</b> Julie gave an insight into the work of the newly created Health & Social Care Group. This group was created through the 2008 Action Plan and they have meetings every six weeks. They are currently working on publishing a fact sheet for residents to explain what health services are available, such as travel to and from, and parking at, local hospitals. The group is currently looking for grant funding of around £5,000.00 to get this project completed. Members of the

	<p>group are also members of the PCT and Oxfordshire LINK – Gene Webb was recently elected onto this group and is working hard to represent the needs of Faringdon. Through meetings of the Link group it is clear that Faringdon has been pushed to the back of the queue, but the Health &amp; Social Care Group is making a difference. Julie explained that the Faringdon First Responders are an excellent group but there are certain emergencies that they are not allowed to attend and this means a long wait for medical care from a paramedic. She pointed out that the current road works in Faringdon are causing problems for the First Responders making it difficult for them to get to emergencies.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Christopher pointed out that Retailers might be eligible for a rating rebate if they can prove that the road works are causing adverse conditions for them. Matt will contact the Retailers to find out if there is a problem. Jane will add this information to the website.</p>
<b>Item 7</b>	<p><b>Presidents Remarks</b></p> <p>Nick explained that in the last month there has been a great deal of work carried out on the Focus on Faringdon website, the Business Directory is now well used. Chamber minutes are now available on the website and also there is a new blog that members can use.</p> <p>We are currently working with Wantage Chamber to develop their town guide and we would like to do similar with Abingdon, although this is proving to be quite difficult.</p> <p>There is to be a Town Partnership Manager for Abingdon. This position is being funded by Vale of White Horse District Council, Abingdon Town Council and Abingdon Chamber of Commerce. Sara pointed out that this idea has already been tried in Faringdon in 2002; the Partnership Manager was based in Abingdon and visited the town once or twice a week. The project was unsuccessful and was dropped.</p>
<b>Item 8</b>	<p><b>Future Meeting Dates</b></p> <p>Next Meeting: <b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm at Brunel House.</b></p> <p>The visitor at this meeting will be local MP, Ed Vaizey. A series of questions were discussed and will be sent to Ed before the meeting.</p>
<b>Item 9</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>There will be a report in the July edition of The Folly that will include discussions and dates from this meeting.</p> <p>Buscot Cricket Club is looking for substantial funds to re-thatch and extend their clubhouse. It was suggested that they use the Information Point based at the Business Centre to search for grant making bodies that could help.</p> <p>2010 will be the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Folly Tower. It is hoped that there will be a weekend of events to celebrate and this will include a flypast by the Red Arrows.</p> <p><b><i>Change of Day for Chamber Meetings – With effect from the September meeting the Chamber of Commerce will meet on the second Monday of the month.</i></b></p> <p><i>Diary Dates</i></p> <p><b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July</b> – Faringdon Business Breakfast Club. Speaker this month is from BT Tradespace. The Club regularly attracts 12 – 30 attendees and there will be a series of good speakers over the next few months.</p> <p><b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July</b> – Faringdon Arts Festival offers of help to Julie Farmer please</p> <p><b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July</b> – South East Market Towns Awards will be held at Sudbury House Hotel. Representatives of 19 Market Towns from across the South East will be in Faringdon. Jane is looking for local food producers who would like an exhibition space at this event.</p> <p><b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September</b> – Heritage Day. Faringdon will be taking part in this national event and Sally Thurston of the CTIC is currently looking for people who would like to help.</p> <p><b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b> – Faringdon Ball, sponsored by Faringdon Chamber of Commerce.</p>

	<p>7:30pm at Sudbury House Hotel. This event will be slightly different to the previous years. There will be a Gourmet 4 –course meal, ½ bottle wine and dancing to Life &amp; Soul. The cost of a ticket will be £50.00 (tables with 10-12 people will get 1 place free) As in previous years all profits will go to local charities (ideas for recipients are welcome). The Ball will be promoted more widely this year, especially to all local businesses as an idea for their Christmas Party.</p>
	<p><b>Meeting closed at 8:20pm</b></p>