

Minutes
Annual General Meeting at Sudbury House Hotel on 18th March 2009

Present	Nick Elwell, President; John Davis, Treasurer; Raoul van Eijndhoven, Quidne IT; Paul Brame, Morgan Cole; John Morton, Gel Marketing; Sarah Allen-Stevens, Wicklesham Commercial Properties; Peter & Linda Walker, Gloucester House Dental Practice; Simon Tiensa, Budgens; Ashya Wright, Fusion Entertainments; Christopher Marriott, Marriotts; Nick O’Keeffe, Oxford Detective Bureau; Margaret Barker, Buildwright Development; Sue Fisher
Item 1	Apologies Ed Vaizey, MP; Tony Fecher; Cllr. Mrs Judith Heathcoat; Mike Heathcoat; Al Cane; Andrew Brown; Stella Kenrick; Denise Palmer; Daphne Saunders
Item 2	Welcome Nick welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Sudbury House for their generous hospitality.
Item 3	Minutes of Previous AGM The minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting were agreed and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.
Item 4	President’s Report Nick presented his report to the meeting, a copy of which is attached. He highlighted several points including; the successful incorporation of Focus on Faringdon CIC; the rapidly increasing visits to the new website, there have been over four hundred businesses located in or around Faringdon added to the new Business Directory; the Extraordinary General Meeting that was held to discuss the possible arrival of a new Tesco store in Faringdon; A Christmas Ball has again been planned for 2009, this event will take place at Sudbury House Hotel on 5 th December, ticket prices will remain the same as in previous years and donations will be made to local charities; the Faringdon Information Point that helps local clubs, associations and charities to access funding and provides information about volunteers and opportunities; the town Christmas Trees were again co-ordinated by Roger Watts on behalf of the Chamber and Nick thanked Roger for his continued work on this project.
Item 5	Treasurer’s Report John presented the annual accounts, a copy is attached. He noted that there is a small amount in the Supermarket Fund; this money was the result of donations toward the fight against Tesco. John thanked Vivienne Checkley of Bunting & Co for signing off the accounts again this year.
Item 6	Election of Officers Last year’s Officers were re-elected for a further term, this was proposed by Margaret Barker and seconded by Sarah Allen-Stevens. Nick O’Keeffe proposed a vote of thanks to the Officers for the hard work that they have done for the Chamber in 2008.
Item 7	Speaker Unfortunately, Ed Vaizey MP was unable to attend the meeting because his presence was needed in the House of Commons. He sent his apologies and has said that he hopes to visit Faringdon Chamber of Commerce as soon as possible.

<p>Item 8</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Sarah proposed that the Chamber should invest in a banner to be used at events so that members of the public could see when and how the Chamber are involved in supporting local events, such as the French Market and Festive Faringdon. Raoul and Simon have both offered contact information for companies who produce banners.</p> <p>Tesco's – Nick said that all has gone very quiet. The Vale District Council has recently completed a Retail Study and this study has made it very clear that a large Retail store is not needed in Faringdon. Nick said that he feels that there is a possibility that Tesco's have banked the land to prevent any other large retailer from coming to town. McColl's have recently changed their offer in the town and it is felt that this is probably a test for Tesco to prove that increased retail provision is needed. Nick pointed out that we cannot go any further with this until we find out what Tesco are proposing. Nick mentioned that he is currently talking to the Vale District Council regarding the future development of the Budgen's area.</p> <p>Retail Group – There are big changes being made by this group at present. It was felt that the majority of retailers in town are reluctant to help with any promotion of Faringdon and that apart from one or two individuals do not want to be involved in any events.</p> <p>Christmas Lights Committee – The Chamber is currently represented on this committee by John Morton. It was agreed that there would be a donation to the Christmas Lights of £150.00 again for Christmas 2009. It was noted that the Town Council appreciate the help that is given by the Chamber and the Retail Group to decorate the town at Christmas time.</p> <p>Subscription Rates – There have been changes to the subscription rates, there is currently a discount for those people who pay by standing order. John pointed out that members should check that they are paying the correct sum.</p> <p>London Marathon- Paul Brame is running the marathon this year and asked members to sponsor him. Donations will go to 5 charities, including Faringdon Family Centre.</p>
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