

**The Minutes of Extra Ordinary Farringdon Parish Council Meeting held
02/04/26 Thursday 7.30pm Farringdon Village Hall.**

Chair J H opened meeting 7.30pm .

1.Attendees:

*Farringdon Parish Council Chair J Hutchings, Vice Chair J Chanot, Cllr B Pearce, Cllr. A Fletcher, Cllr J Bird Parish Clerk A Sayers
District Cllr Eleanor Rylance, EDDC Director of Place Andy Wood
Over 30 members of the public attended*

2. Response by Farringdon Parish Council to government decision not to include Marlcombe in National New Towns List.

Chair JH permitted questions from the public and Cllr E R and EDDC A W assisted with answers to queries. A W advised that the new Local Plan did not need to be revisited. Their target is 800 new homes per year the new town is the key proposal . A report to central govt. was put forward in 2025 . Marlcombe was one of 12 recommendations for new towns. On 23/03/26 the govt. responded and cut the shortlist down to 7 new towns near larger urban areas (closest to here is Bristol) The govt. has advised that the other 5 locations are still credible development opportunities. Therefore the Local Plan does not need to be revisited. There is potential to access new financial funding through Homes England. A W assured the PC that it would be infrastructure led.

Farringdon residents advised the PC they still had many concerns relating to infrastructure, services, environment, loss of agricultural land for food etc. It was queried why did EDDC not discuss this at an open meeting as soon as the central govt. decision was announced? A W advised that at the "hearing days" there will be an opportunity to put concerns forward. (19th May Local Plan consultation.)

Chair J H thanked Cllr E R and EDDC A W for attending.

Cllr JB read out in full proposed Open Letter from Farringdon PC to be sent to EDDC in light of the government decision.:The letter outlined several concerns and called upon EDDC to :-

- pause the further promotion of the Marlcombe proposal in its current form*
- Formally acknowledge that the withdrawal of Government support represents a material change in strategic context*
- Reassess the proposal with full and proper weight given to the clearly expressed opposition of the affected parish and the risks now inherent in proceeding*

FPC agreed that any decision to continue regardless would be understood locally not as a technical necessity but as a deliberate policy choice taken in the absence of both national endorsement and local democratic support. The Parish Council is clear that such a course would have lasting implications for trust in local planning and governance.

(Full Open Letter details have been published on the Farringdon Facebook and the FPC website- they will also be in The Flyer in due course)

3. Other related Parish Council Matters *none*

4. Confirmation of next PC meeting *FPC confirmed meeting scheduled for Tuesday 14 April 2026*

5. Chair to close meeting. *Chair JH thanked everyone for attending & closed meeting at 8.40pm*

Parish Clerk