

NEW FRANKLEY IN BIRMINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the New Frankley In Birmingham Parish Council held at St Christopher's Church Centre, New Street, Frankley on Monday, 18 July 2005 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Gareth Griffiths (In the Chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, Ian Bruckshaw, Eric Carter, Michael Denny, Bill Hollis, Len Lovett, Geoffrey Stephenson, Stephen Trefor-Jones, Joanna Walker and Geoff Williams

Also in attendance Mrs Barbara Harrison – Treasurer, Welcome Drop-in Centre
Mr Paul Jones – Chairman, Callowbrook Swifts JFC
Mr David Joynes – Management Committee, Reaside Centre
Mr Martin Packer – Lickey Park Estate Residents' Association
Ms Carol Scarr – Secretary, Callowbrook Swifts JFC

There were 3 other members of the public in attendance

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for his inability to attend the meeting was submitted on behalf of Richard Burden MP.

MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Lovett and –

- 1179 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20 June 2005, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1180 Hereon, the under mentioned Members declared their respective interests in the Agenda Items indicated below -

Councillor	Agenda Item	Interest
Linda Banks	Grant Application – Welcome Drop-in Centre	Personal and Prejudicial – Related to the applicant. Councillor left the room during consideration of the application.

Bill Hollis

Grant Application –
Reaside Centre

Personal and Prejudicial –
Member of the
Management Committee.
Councillor left the room
during consideration of
the application.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairperson announced that as a Member of the City Council's Standards Committee he had received an invitation to attend a Seminar in Solihull on 30 September the cost of which was £25.00. He added that as he would be attending as a Member of the City Council's Standards Committee the Clerk was of the opinion that the costs of attending the seminar would be met by the City Council. Nevertheless, he was seeking the Parish Council's approval for his attendance.

It was proposed by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Carter and –

- 1181 **RESOLVED:** That the attendance by Councillor Griffiths at a Standards Seminar to be held at the Civic Centre, Solihull on Friday 30 September, be authorised and that, if necessary, the attendance thereat be considered an approved duty for the purposes of claiming the appropriate allowances.

QUESTIONS

There were none.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENTAL, HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMMITTEE – 12 JULY 2005

- 1182 The following Minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 12 July 2005 were noted.

(see interleaved document no. 1)

APPLICATIONS FOR SECTION 137 FUNDING

A Welcome Drop-In Centre

The following application for funding of £450 to meet the start-up costs and the first 6 months rental was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 2)

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Trefor-Jones and –

- 1183 **RESOLVED:** That the Council, in accordance with its powers under Sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, agree to incur the following expenditure, which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the

interests of the area or of its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure; expenditure of £450 to meet the start-up costs and the first 6 months rental for the Centre.

B Reaside Centre – Replacement of Disco Equipment

The following application for funding for the replacement of the Centre's Disco Equipment was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 3)

The Clerk advised that following consultations with members of the Centre's management committee, the broken equipment which was to be replaced the deck and amplifier, the total cost of the replacement of which would amount to approximately £700. Additionally, the Clerk recommended that, as with the furniture bought for the centre earlier in the year, the Council purchase the equipment and lease it to the centre on a long term no cost lease.

Following some discussion during which Mr Joynes responded as appropriate to Members' questions it was proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Trefor-Jones and -

- 1184 RESOLVED: That the Council, in accordance with its powers under Sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, agree to incur the following expenditure, which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or of its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure; expenditure of up to £1000 including VAT to purchase sound equipment (mixer deck and amplifier) for the Centre's disco – the equipment to be purchased by the Council and leased to the Centre on a long term no cost lease.

NEW INNS LANE, FRANKLEY – REPORT OF SITE MEETING HELD ON 8 JULY 2005

The following report of Mr Packer, a representative of the Lickey Park Estate residents' association, was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 4)

In response to the Chairperson's invitation to add any further information, Mr Packer indicated that he had nothing further to add.

Upon being invited to address the meeting, Ms Scarr said that the reason why the Meadow was used was that the club had many more players than there were spaces for in the teams. Following consultations with Mr Rob Heard, Bromsgrove Council's Parks and Recreational Development Manager, BDC had agreed that the club could use the Meadow on the understanding that the public's access to the Meadow was maintained, and therefore the club ran training sessions/non-league games on the Meadow whilst the main playing field was in use. She added that prior to the use of the Meadow, the Club undertook a litter pick and removed canine faeces from the play area. Additionally, she further advised that the Meadow would be used during the summer months for cricket as the clubs' lease

with the school prohibited the use of the playing field during the school holidays.

In response to a question from Councillor Trefor-Jones, Ms Scarr advised that although the club had acquired planning approval for changing rooms and a car park on the playing field, because of problems with the joint funding of the changing rooms with the school, that project had fallen through. However, the club did have the funds for the hard standing for the car park but not for the dropped kerb at the proposed entrance. She added that the club was in the process of attempting to raise the funding for the entrance but that it was not known when it would achieve the necessary funding.

It was noted that despite the undertaking given by the Constituency Engineer, Andy Dimmock, at the site meeting on 8 July that the holly bushes on the Birmingham side of New Inns Lane would be trimmed back as a matter of urgency so as to improve visibility around the left handed curve, the work still had to be undertaken. The Clerk undertook to chase Mr Dimmock for the work to be completed.

1185 RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT – 30 JUNE 2005

1186 The following report of the Clerk setting out the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2005 was noted –

(see interleaved document no. 4)

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

There was nothing to report.

CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

There was nothing to report.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

A Neighbourhood Office

1187 The Clerk reported that at the meeting of the District Committee the previous Saturday, approval had been given for the submission of a bid for £25,000 to improve the joint working of the District by combining resources and access for 3 service areas at the Library/Community Centre by the building of new office space to be primarily used for neighbourhood office work. In response to concerns raised

by Ward Councillor Barton regarding the future of the current office space, the District Director advised that because of Health and Safety considerations which required at least three staff to be present to enable the current office to open, long-term staffing problems had meant that the office had been unable to be opened for some considerable time. It was hoped that the new office would enable the service to be provided on a permanent basis as fewer staff would be required to operate it. However, Councillor Barton continued to express his concern as to the future use of the current office as the opening of the alternative provision in the Library complex would leave the shop in the centre empty. However, the Director indicated that the office would be used by the District possibly for use by the Neighbourhood Caretakers although Councillor Barton felt that use to be inappropriate.

Members echoed Councillor Barton's concerns regarding the future use of the Office's current premises should it move to the Library complex. Whilst Members welcomed the fact that the proposal would mean that the service, which had been unavailable because of staffing problems for several weeks, would once more be available to local residents, it was felt that more efforts should have been made to re-open the current premises shop. Councillor Denny pointed out that Tracey Nicholls had, on a number of occasions, promised that the shop would reopen and he felt that that undertaking should now be honoured. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Ms Nicholls to express the Council's concern regarding the move.

B CCTV

- 1188 The Clerk reported the PC Frank Moncrieffe, a member of the South Sector Crime Fighting Team, had recently undertaken a survey of the shops in the centre and had, as part of that survey, recommended that those shops without CCTV provision seriously consider the installation of such a system.

However, a number of Members questioned the efficacy of installing a CCTV system given that there had been no occasions in the past where those who manned the office on a regular basis had felt themselves to be threatened by clients even on those rare occasions where the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson or the Clerk had been by themselves in the office. Additionally, it was pointed out that the low-cost systems although initially appearing to offer value for money would in most cases not provide a picture of sufficient clarity to be used by the Police.

Nevertheless, it was agreed that the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairperson, investigate the cost of a suitable system and to report back to the Council at a later date.

PAYMENTS

A Business Visa Credit Card

- 1189 The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement was noted -

(see interleaved document no. 4)

B Schedule of Payments

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 5)

It was proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Williams and –

1190 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At 2011 hours, the meeting adjourned to enable the Members of the Public to raise issues of concern.

Rubbish at the rear of Stronsay and Rea Fordway

Mrs Ridler requested that the rubbish on the footpath alongside the River Rea between Stronsay and Rea Fordway be removed. The Vice-Chairperson undertook to request that the Neighbourhood Caretakers clean up the area in question.

Bulk Collection

In response to a question from Mrs Ridler as to the date of the next Bulk Collection, the Vice-Chairperson advised that no date had been set but that if Mrs Ridler had rubbish requiring removal then she should ring 303 1112 which was a free service for the removal of bulk items operated by the City Council.

There being no more matters to be raised, at 2014 hours the Chairperson reconvened the meeting.

The meeting ended at 2014 hours.

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Chairperson