

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, 19 December 2005 at 1930 hours.

Present

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

Also in attendance Councillor Keith Barton – Longbridge Ward Councillor
Mr S Rudge – Chairman, Callowbrook and Reaside Junior Cricket Club

There was one member of the public in attendance.

IN THE ABSENCE OF THE CHAIRPERSON, THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON, COUNCILLOR CARTER, TOOK THE CHAIR

COUNCILLOR CARTER IN THE CHAIR

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for his inability to attend the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Griffiths (illness)

PUBLIC MINUTES

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

- 1257 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 21 November 2005, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1258 Hereon, the under mentioned Members declared their respective interests in the Agenda Items indicated below -

Councillor	Agenda Item	Interest
Ian Bruckshaw	Application for Funding – Frankley Neighbourhood Forum	Personal and Prejudicial – Member of the Forum's Management Committee

Sidney Grey	Application for Funding – Frankley Neighbourhood Forum	Personal and Prejudicial – Member of the Forum’s Management Committee
Bill Hollis	Application for Funding – Frankley Neighbourhood Forum	Personal and Prejudicial – Member of the Forum’s Management Committee

CHAIRPERSON’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none

QUESTIONS

There were none.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 1259 In response to questions from Members, the Clerk advised that, if the proposal was adopted and the public participation took place prior to the Parish Council meeting commencing, should there be no items which the public wished to raise then the meeting could not commence until the stipulated time. He added that many parish councils allowed the public to raise issues prior to the meeting so as to enable them to express their views on items on the agenda which, under the current system they could not do. However, Members considered that the current system of permitting the public to speak at the discretion of the Chairperson during consideration of items on which they had an interest, but not take part in the discussion should continue; it was then up to the Chairperson to regulate who could speak and for how long. It was therefore agreed to retain the present system of allowing the public to raise matters of local concern during the adjourned part of the meeting at the conclusion of the public part of the agenda.

APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

A Frankley Neighbourhood Forum

The following application for funding of £485 for the printing of the last edition of the Neighbourhood News was submitted by the Forum –

(see interleaved document no. 1)

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Joanna Walker and –

- 1260 **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; a grant of £485 to pay for the printing costs of the December 05/January 06 edition of the Frankley Neighbourhood News.

B Callowbrook and Reaside Junior Cricket Club

The following application for funding of £400 towards the costs of cricket equipment was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 2)

Councillor Denny spoke in support of the application as it would encourage sport in the area.

It was proposed by Councillor Trefor-Jones, seconded by Councillor Joanna Walker and –

- 1261 RESOLVED That the Council, in accordance with its powers under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, 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 would benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure: a grant of £400 towards the cost of the purchase of an artificial wicket for the Callowbrook and Reaside Junior Cricket Club.

REVISED GRANT APPLICATION FORM

The following revised Grant Application form together with accompanying notes was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 3)

Subject to two amendments to the wording of Question 10 of the Application (the deletion of “and is all its equipment insured” of paragraph (i) and the replacement of “Child Protection” by “Safeguarding” in paragraph (iii)) it was proposed by Councillor Denny, seconded by Councillor Stephenson and -

- 1262 RESOLVED That the Grant Application form and accompanying notes as now submitted and amended be approved and be adopted with immediate effect.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/07588/05/NOT

**Frogmill Road, Highway verge adjacent to Frankley Industrial Estate,
Frankley, Birmingham**

**12 metre high timber telegraph pole with 3 no. antenna and equipment
cabinets and ancillary development**

It was pointed out that because of the regulations governing the consideration of planning applications for mobile phone masts, the City's Planning Committee had very little influence on the outcome of such applications and that, although it was accepted that the long term health effects of the pulsed radiation were not, at the moment, known, such objections could not be taken into account when determining application submitted by mobile phone operators. Nevertheless, it was agreed to forward the objections to the proposal made at the previous meeting.

1263 RESOLVED That the Planning Committee be advised that this Parish Council objects to the proposed installation of a Mobile Phone Mast on the highway verge adjacent to the Frankley Industrial Estate on the following grounds –

- The long term effects on health of the pulsed microwave emissions from the station were unknown;
- The siting of the cabinets on the verge was felt to be inappropriate; and
- The fact that it was proposed that the pole be made out of wood to replicate a telegraph pole would mean that the cables to the antennae would be sited externally and could be subject to vandalism.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

On the invitation of the Chairperson, Councillor Barton advised that he had recently attended an meeting with Councillor Randal Brew, Chair of the Northfield District Committee, and Ifor Jones, District Director at which the regeneration projects in south west Birmingham were discussed. When the Frankley Centre scheme was discussed, it had been reported that, as the scheme would involve a loss of rental income to the Housing Department and as there was no capital funding available for the scheme, Councillor Lines, the Cabinet Member for Housing would veto the scheme when it was discussed at Cabinet.

Councillor Grey expressed the Council's concern should Councillor Lines take that action. Since the transfer of Frankley from Bromsgrove District and Hereford and Worcester County Councils into Birmingham, the residents of Frankley had fought strenuously for the redevelopment of the Centre, apparently now, to no avail. Prior to the transfer ten years ago, the Centre and surrounding land had been neglected by Bromsgrove and despite the best efforts of the residents Birmingham had, in his opinion, taken little or no action to arrest that decline. He considered that, unless the Centre and surrounding area was the subject of redevelopment in the not too distant future, the decline would continue to such a point that the City would be unable to rent out the shops because the area would be so unattractive to prospective retailers. He went onto question where rental income from the shops was spent as it was certainly not, in his opinion, reinvested in the Centre. He suggested therefore that the Council write to Councillor Lines expressing its concerns at his apparent lack of support for the regeneration of the Centre.

Councillor Denny added that the residents of Frankley whose aspirations had been raised both by the City's officers and the Consultants would felt let down if the current regeneration proposals were vetoed. This was an important matter as it involved the future viability of the Centre which would have wider implications for the whole area. He suggested that the Council establish a small working group to

establish what was happening.

However, it was felt that the Clerk, who was a member of the Frankley Officer's Working Group, should write in the first instance to Councillor Lines and Judith Parry-Evans of the South West Area Regeneration Team, seeking clarification of the situation. Once the facts of the matter had been established then Council could determine what action it should take.

- 1264 RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to Councillor Lines, Cabinet Member for Housing, and Judith Parry-Evans, Head of the South West Area Regeneration Team, expressing the Council's concerns at the apparent lack of support for the Frankley Centre regeneration proposals and seeking clarification of the current situation.

CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

At the invitation of the Chairperson, Councillor Barton reported that although CENTRO had identified its contribution towards the funding for the extension, the scheme's progress depended on the Strategic Rail Authority providing the balance. Unfortunately, while the City Council and CENTRO recognised the importance of the extension to the south west area, the scheme was one of at least 60 which were vying for limited funding.

Councillor Grey stressed the importance of the extension not only to Frankley but to the whole of the south west area. With the loss of the employment resulting from the closure of MG Rover and its local suppliers, most of the new job opportunities were in the north and east of Birmingham. In order to take advantage of those opportunities, the area needed the rail link. He went onto question why Advantage West Midlands did not invest in the link as the link would not only increase employment opportunities for Frankley residents but for the whole of the south west of Birmingham.

On the proposition of the Chairperson, it was –

- 1265 RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to CENTRO to establish the current situation.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Experimental Traffic Regulation Order – New Inns Lane

- 1266 The Chairperson reported that the double yellow lines had been introduced around the junction of Thurloe Crescent and New Inns Lane last week. The Clerk reported that Mr Robson had emailed him to advise that three cars had parked on both sides of the road in Thurloe Crescent causing problem for residents exiting and entering the crescent and, additionally, a vehicle had completely ignored the parking regulations. It was agreed that the City's Parking Enforcement officers be requested to carry out regular inspections of the area during the weekend and enforce the regulations as required. It was hoped that the issuing of a few tickets for contravening the parking regulations would serve as a warning to other inconsiderate motorists.

Councillor Barton reported that he was trying the progress the dropped kerb and

gated entrance to the playing field as quickly as possible together with the provision of the fibre matting for a carpark for approximately 50 vehicles. It was hoped that the introduction of these measures would alleviate the parking problems on New Inns Lane and the Lickey Park estate

PAYMENTS

A Business Visa Credit Card

1267 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 Williams, seconded by Councillor Joanna Walker and –

1268 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At 2040 hours, the meeting adjourned to enable the Members of the Public to raise issues of concern.

There being no issues to be raised by the public the meeting was reconvened at 2040 hours.

The meeting ended at 2041 hours.

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Chairperson