

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, 20 June 2005 at 1930
hours.

Present

Councillor Gareth Griffiths (In the Chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, Eric Carter, Michael Denny, Bill Hollis,
Len Lovett, Geoffrey Stephenson and Joanna Walker

Also in attendance Chris Smith – Frankley Youth Affairs Forum
PC Paul Perry – South Sector Crime Fighting Team
PC Dave Bradford – South Sector Crime Fighting Team
Wilf Price – Chair, Rednal Neighbourhood Forum

There were 3 members of the public in attendance

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ian Bruckshaw
(Holiday), Stephen Trefor-Jones (Attending another meeting) and Geoffrey
Williams (Medical Appointment)

MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Hollis, seconded by Councillor Linda Banks and –

- 1161 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 16
May 2005, having been previously circulated, were taken as read,
confirmed and signed.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

QUESTIONS

There were none.

THE NORTHFIELD DISTRICT OUR HOMES OPTION APPRAISAL

- 1162 The Clerk advised that at the meeting of the District Committee held on 11 June
2005, it was reported that, following analysis of the preferences given in the recent
Stock Option Appraisal survey, the results had been inconclusive with two options

(the Positive Retention option and the ALMO option) appearing to be the preferred options of all those who expressed a preference but with little to choose between the two. The District, therefore, would be undertaking a further survey in which tenants would be asked to express their preferred option from the Positive Retention option and the ALMO option.

APPLICATIONS FOR SECTION 137 FUNDING

Frankley Youth Affairs Forum Summer Camp

The following application for funding of £3,000 towards the costs of taking 24 young people to 2 three day camps at Blackwell Outdoor centre was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 1)

Chris Smith reported that following the previous meeting of the Council he had managed to secure alternative funding for the girls' camp and had arranged a cheaper camp at Brecon Beacon for the boys including the voluntary services of three members of staff (including himself) which had reduced the amount of grant required.

(see interleaved document no. 2)

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Linda Banks and –

- 1163 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 £1508 to meet the cost of providing a summer camp for 12 young men and 3 staff at Brecon Beacon.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT – YOUTH SHELTER

- 1164 Chris Smith advised that PC Andy Walker was currently on compassionate leave and was unable to attend but that he would be happy to answer any general questions the Members may have regarding the concept of a Youth Shelter. To that end, he circulated the following information sheet –

(see interleaved document no. 3)

Chris explained that, through the Safer Neighbourhoods Project, it had been identified that, whilst there was provision for the pre-teens in the area, there was little for the 12 to 16 year old range. Following consultation with members of that age group it transpired that what they wanted was an area in which they could 'hang out'. Currently they congregated around shops and houses which sometimes caused problems as often other residents felt intimidated by large groups of youths. With a youth shelter they would have somewhere which would be more suitable and which would be away from the local shops and houses. With regard to the proposed location, on the land off Boleyn Road, Chris indicated that residents of adjacent properties had been consulted and their concerns

LOSS OF RESPITE BEDS

The following letter from Mr Wilf Price, Chair of the Rednal Neighbourhood Forum was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 4)

Mr Price indicated that he was seeking the Council's support for the building of a purpose built respite and recovery home in south west Birmingham. Currently, because of the shortage of spare private and public beds in homes in south west Birmingham, carers, who were entitled to up to 28 days respite in a year, were often not able to get this break because of the lack of available respite beds.

Additionally, the lack of public and private beds in the area was a major cause of bed blocking. Elderly patients who needed a period of recovery or to be assessed before they could return home were having to stay in hospital for the assessment to be undertaken thus taking up a much needed hospital bed. If recovery beds were made available, those patients could be discharged from hospital and the assessment undertaken during their stay in a recovery bed thus freeing up hospital beds.

Mr Price reported that within the Social Services 10 year plan there was a proposal to build a specialist respite/recovery home. However, although that commitment had been included the plan since 1974, the proposal was of low priority and therefore not likely to come to fruition. For that reason he was requesting that the Parish Council support the provision of a specialist facility in south west Birmingham by urging the District Director to raise the matter with his fellow district directors in south west Birmingham with a view to making appropriate representations to the Social Services Director.

- 1166 RESOLVED: That the Northfield District Director be advised that the Parish Council supports the provision of a specialist respite/recovery home within the south west Birmingham area and that the Director be requested to take the matter up with his fellow district directors in south west Birmingham with a view to making appropriate representations to the Director of Social Services.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2005

A Annual Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2005

The following Annual Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2005 were submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 5)

The Clerk reported that although the Council had previously agreed the Annual Accounts, he had since been advised that the manner in which the Liabilities and Assets had been dealt with was incorrect. Therefore, a corrected set of Accounts was now submitted for Members' approval.

Additionally, following the advice of the Council's internal auditor, a revised set of the Supporting Notes was now submitted to replace those previously circulated.

(see interleaved document no 6)

- 1167 RESOLVED: That the Annual Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2005, as now submitted, be approved and that the Chairperson and Clerk be authorised to sign them on the Council's behalf.

B Annual Return – Section 1 – The Statement of Accounts

The following Statement of Accounts was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 7)

- 1168 RESOLVED: That the Statement of Accounts, as now submitted, be approved.

B Annual Return – Section 2 – Statement of Assurance

The following Statement of Assurance was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 8)

- 1169 RESOLVED: That the Statement of Assurance, as now submitted, be approved.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members were advised that an appeal had been submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister against the City Council's decision to refuse the applications submitted by Contracts Galleypearl Ltd in respect of Sites A and C, New Street, Frankley. As one of the consultees when the applications were originally considered, the Council has been advised by the City Council that, should it so wish, it could make representations on the applications direct to the Planning Inspector. Accordingly, draft representations were submitted for Members' consideration.

**Site A, New Street, Frankley
Proposed Retail Development**

A draft submission to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of Site A was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 9)

- 1170 RESOLVED: That the draft submission be approved for onward transmission to the Planning Inspectorate.

**Site C, New Street, Frankley
Erection of two units for class B1, B2 and B8 and ancillary A1 use, car parking and service area**

A draft submission to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of Site C was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 10)

- 1171 RESOLVED: That the draft submission be approved for onward transmission to the Planning Inspectorate.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- A S/01970/05/BCC**
Holly Hill Nursery and Infant School, New Street Frankley, B45 0EU
Erection of extension to nursery to incorporate a children's centre (Sure Start) including 73 place childcare facility, associated meeting, function and multi use rooms, and alterations to existing parking area.

(see interleaved document no. 11)

- 1172 Members were advised that at its meeting on 26 May 2005, the Planning Committee resolved that Planning Consent should be granted subject to the conditions appended to the decision letter.

- B S/01719/05/FUL**
67 Charnwood Close, Rubery B45 0JX
Erection of first-floor side extension

(see interleaved document no. 12)

- 1173 Members were advised that, using the powers delegated to the Planning Officers by the Planning Committee, following due consideration of all the comments made regarding the application, it was agreed that Planning Consent should be granted subject to the conditions appended to the letter.

- C S/01434/05/FUL**
Land adjacent to 54 Radnor Close, Longbridge B45 0JN
Erection of single storey side and rear extension

(see interleaved document no. 13)

- 1174 Members were advised that, using the powers delegated to the Planning Officers by the Planning Committee, following due consideration of all the comments made regarding the application, it was agreed that Planning Consent should be granted subject to the conditions appended to the letter.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

There was nothing to report.

CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

There was nothing to report.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Frankley Church Community Project – Annual General Meeting

- 1175 Councillor Denny reminded Members that the AGM of the Project was to be held

on Thursday 30 Jun at 7.30pm at the Rectory, Frankley Green. There would be a pig roast and guests were urged to bring a bottle of wine.

Street Signs

- 1176 Following on from the item raised at the last Council meeting regarding the untidy state of some of the street signs on the Estate, Councillor Carter reported that having telephoned the Transportation Depart to report the problem, he had been advised to provide the Department with a list of signs together with their locations that required attention and the requests would be considered. Councillor Carter therefore requested Members to make a note of those signs on the Estate which required attention and he would pass the list onto the Transportation Department.

PAYMENTS

A Business Visa Credit Card

- 1177 The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement was noted -

(see interleaved document no. 14)

B Schedule of Payments

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 15)

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

- 1178 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At 2000 hours, the meeting adjourned to enable the Members of the Public to raise issues of concern.

Parish Council Tax

Mr Freeman of Lyall Gardens expressed his concern over the 84% increase in the Parish Council Tax for the current year. As he considered that he received no benefit from the Council he had contacted the Council to ascertain whether there was an appeals mechanism that he could invoke to exempt him from the Tax. Upon contacting the Council office he requested information regarding and appeals process but the responses which he received were, in his opinion, unhelpful.

He was concerned that there appeared to be nothing to stop the Council increasing the Tax by 100% next year and the year after and whilst there may be no legal mechanism to exempt him from the Tax, he suggested that the Council ought to consider introducing an appeals process for tax payers such as him.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which the Clerk confirmed that legislatively, there was no appeals process which Mr Freeman could invoke which would exempt him from paying the Tax. Councillor Carter referred to the considerable capital investment which had been invested in Frankley by the City Council as a result of the lobbying by the Parish Council. However, Mr Freeman did not consider that the Council was of any benefit to him personally and felt that householders should have to option to opt out of paying.

Traffic Management – New Inns Lane

Mr Packer, Chair of the Lickey Park Estate Residents' Association requested that the Parish Council support the association's campaign for the introduction of traffic calming measures on New Inns Lane. For Members' information he submitted a letter which was to be circulated to all 122 households on the estate.

(see interleaved document no. 16)

Mr Packer then went on to explain the reason for the campaign for the introduction of traffic calming measures was as a result of the dangers caused by the indiscriminate parking of parents and spectators in New Inns Lane when attending football matches and training sessions on the Reaside School playing field during the weekends in the football season. The problems with the inconsiderate parking had lead to a number of accidents and near misses for the residents of the estate when turning into and out of Thurloe Crescent.

Following some further discussion as to what measures Mr Packer would like to see introduced, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Councillor Gregory (City Council Cabinet Member for Transportation and Street Services), the three Ward Councillors, Richard Burden MP and Neil Dancer, Chief Highways Engineer advising of the Council's support for the introduction of traffic calming measures in New Inns Lane and urging the that City Council give favourable consideration to the proposal.

However, the Clerk pointed out that in view of the concerns raised by residents of Lickey Park when the Parish Council had previously suggested that Parking Restrictions be introduced on New Inns Lane to tackle the problems of the parking, any proposals would have to include provisions for Thurloe Crescent, Lyall Gardens and Woodham Close so that the parking problem would not merely be transferred from New Inns Lane to the roads in the Lickey Park Estate.

Frankley Crime Stoppers Update

On behalf of the Safer Neighbourhood Group, Chris Smith circulated an information sheet advising of the launch of the project –

(see interleaved document no. 17)

Forestdale School Playing Field

P C Perry advised that he had spoken to Sue Robertson, Head Teacher of Forestdale Primary School, regarding the possibility of the school leasing its

playing field, which was currently not used or maintained, to the Parish Council at a peppercorn rental. It was hoped that, if an agreement could be reached, then the City Council and the Parish Council could bring the field back into community use. Such a project he felt could address a lot of the anti-social behaviour which currently occurred in the vicinity. He reported that a qualified football coach had indicated that he would be willing to run training sessions on the field should the project succeed. In response to questions from Members regarding the effect on residents living in adjacent properties, P C Perry gave an assurance that residents would be fully consulted to obtain their co-operation in what he believed would be a worth-while community project.

There being no more matters to be raised, at 2036 hours the Chairperson reconvened the meeting.

The meeting ended at 2036 hours.

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Chairperson