

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, 21 November 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

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 (Holiday)

PUBLIC MINUTES

1240 The Public part of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 October 2005 was noted.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1241 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

COMMUNICATIONS

A Turner and Partners - Proposed Vodafone Installation On Highways Verge, Frogmill Road (Adjacent to Frankley Industrial Estate), Frankley, Birmingham B45 0LD

The following letter from Turner and Partners advising of a proposal to site a radio base station in connection with Vodafone's 3G network on the highway verge adjacent to the Tay Road Industrial Estate was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 1)

Following some discussion it was suggested, and agreed, that the Council object to the siting of the radio base station at the proposed location 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.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Trefor-Jones and –

1242 **RESOLVED** That Turner and Partners be advised that the Council object to the proposed installation of a base radio station on Frogmill Road on the grounds set out in the foregoing preamble.

B Travel West Midlands – Morrisons' Supermarket, Bristol Road, Longbridge, Use of Store Car Park – 49A Service

1243 The following letter from Travel West Midlands advising that the 49A Service had been prevented from using the Store's Car Park during refurbishment work but that it was hoped that, subject to satisfactory trials, to resume using the car park on 24 November was noted -

(see interleaved document no. 2)

C Independent Remuneration Panel – Parish Council Allowances

1244 The Clerk reported that an Email from the Clerk to the Panel requesting whether the Council were satisfied with the current scheme or whether it would be seeking

changes during the review. The Council were additionally advised that the Chair of the Panel would be undertaking visit to the Parish in due course.

It was agreed that the current scheme be retained subject to consideration of any recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

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. 3)

Councillor Denny pointed out that contrary to the requirements of the application no accounts of the Forum had been submitted with the application. The Clerk accepted the oversight and gave an assurance that the Forum did produce annual audited accounts which were normally submitted with the applications.

Councillor Denny also raised the question of the lack of volunteers to deliver the magazines which was resulting in some areas not receiving its copies. The Clerk reported that following an article by Andy Ross in the July/August edition, 2 volunteers had come forward to deliver the magazines in their roads. However, he did accept that more volunteers were needed to ensure satisfactory distribution of the magazine.

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

- 1245 **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 £485 to pay for the printing costs of the September/October edition of the Frankley Neighbourhood News.

B Reaside Junior Cricket Club

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

(see interleaved document no. 4)

Additionally, a document, prepared by the Clerk setting out the local residents' concerns was also submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 5)

Councillor Denny pointed out that although the Cricket Club had been in existence for three years, Mr Rudge maintained that there were no accounts. He believed

that some records of the monetary transactions had to be kept however rudimentary and he noted that Mr Rudge had applied for funding from other organisations which in his experience would require some form of financial information to support the applications. He therefore proposed that consideration of the application be deferred and that the applicant be requested to submit financial information relating to the activities of the club however rudimentary they may be.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Denny, seconded by Councillor Hollis and –

- 1246 RESOLVED That the foregoing application for funding be deferred and that the applicant be requested to submit financial information, however rudimentary, relating to the club.

REPORT ON THE 2005 FRANKLEY SUMMER PLAYScheme

- 1247 The following report of the Margaret Wilson, the Play Scheme co-ordinator was noted -

(see interleaved document no. 6)

REVISED GRANT APPLICATION FORM

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

(see interleaved document no. 7)

While accepting the need to revise the current application form, Councillor Denny felt that the proposed form and accompanying notes were overly complicated given the size to grant usually requested and were, in places, unnecessarily repetitive. He therefore suggested that a Working Party be established to produce a new application form and notes for Council approval.

Upon receipt of nominations it was agreed that Councillors Linda Banks, Bruckshaw, Denny, Grey and Trefor-Jones be appointed to serve on the Working Party the Terms of reference of which was to produce a revised Grant Application Form and accompanying notes for consideration by the Council.

- 1248 RESOLVED That, for the period ending with the Annual meeting of the Council in May 2006, Councillors Linda Banks, Bruckshaw, Denny, Grey and Trefor-Jones be appointed to serve on the Grant application working Party the Terms of Reference of which is to produce, for consideration by the Council a revised Grant Application form together with the accompanying notes.

BUDGET 2006/2007

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 8)

Following a brief discussion it was agreed that the Parish Vehicle be disposed of and the recommended level of Reserves be £20,000.

- 1249 RESOLVED That the budgeted expenditure for the 2006/2007 Financial Year of £65,714, funded by a precept of £65,164 be approved and that, accordingly, a Precept of £65,164 be issued to Birmingham City Council as the billing authority.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 1250 The Clerk reported on the current situation regarding the proposed regeneration of the Centre. He reminded Members that the two options currently under consideration were as follows –

- Option 1 – Retention of the current Centre with additional buildings forming a square. Residential properties to be built on Sites A and B and, in accordance with the UDP, Light Industrial Units built on Site C.
- Option 2 – Demolition of the current Centre to be replaced by new shops and residential properties. Residential properties built on Sites A, B and C.

However, in making their assumptions to determine the viability of both options, the Consultants had used a residential property density which was higher than current local Planning policy would allow and they had also assumed that, in relation to Option 2, the UDP policy regarding the building of Light Industrial Units on Site C could be rescinded in favour of residential development. Additionally, both proposals included residential/commercial development on Sites A and B, but no account had been made to include in the development some open space as required by Nation Planning guidelines. It was therefore unlikely that Planning would approve the proposals in their present form. However, any significant reduction in residential density would affect the viability of the project to any potential developer. In addition, Housing had concerns regarding the 2nd option as it would lose the revenue from the current properties in the Centre. Nevertheless, the Officers Group was attempting to formulate an option which would be viable for a potential developer as well as meeting the concerns of the Housing and Planning departments.

In response to questions from Councillor Grey, the Clerk advised that the conditions attached to the EU funding which was used to remediate Site C was that the land could only be used for Industrial units. It would therefore be necessary for the City to make a case to the EU to lift that condition in the light of the current circumstances. However, Councillor Grey asserted that no EU money

was used to remediate Site C as it was not contaminated whereas Site D had been. He also expressed his concern over the apparent attitude of the Housing Department regarding the loss of revenue from the current properties and stated that although Housing received income from the properties there was little evidence that the income was ploughed back into the Centre. Additionally, he considered that the project was no further forward that when Contracts GalleyPearl had originally submitted its planning applications for Sites A and C three years ago. The Clerk advised that it was intended that senior officers of the Economic Development Department would be making a presentation to the Council in the New Year as part of the consultation process which would give Councillor Grey, and other Members, the opportunity to question the officers on the proposals.

CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

There was nothing to report.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

A Closure of New Inns Lane Subway, Frankley

- 1251 The Clerk advised that the Highways Engineers had recently circulated letter to local residents living adjacent to the subway advising of the proposal to close the subway. In addition, the Engineers had provided the Parish Council with a copy of the drawing of the proposed layout which was available for inspection at the parish office.

B Provision of Double Glazing

- 1252 The Clerk reported that Councillor Barton had recently distributed a letter to selected properties on the estate advising that Councillor John Lines, the Cabinet Member for Housing, had recently agreed to release £1.5millions to be used to over the next 12 months to provide council properties with new double glazed units.

PAYMENTS

A Business Visa Credit Card

- 1253 The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement was noted -
(see interleaved document no. 9)

B Schedule of Payments

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 10)

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

- 1254 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

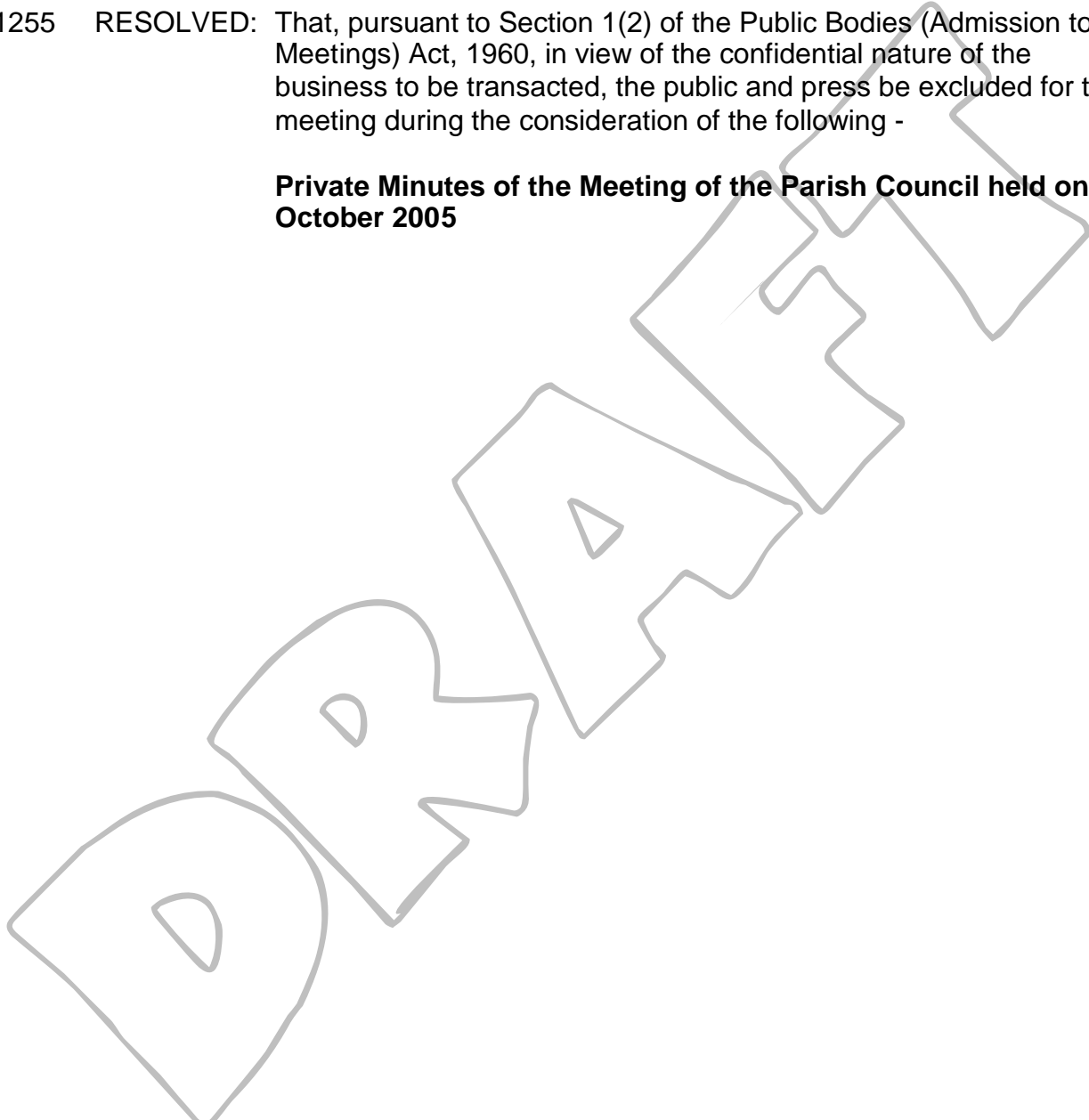
LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were none

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

- 1255 RESOLVED: That, pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded for the meeting during the consideration of the following -

Private Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17 October 2005



PRIVATE MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL – 17 OCTOBER 2005

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

- 1256 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Private part of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 17 October 2005, having been previously circulated, were, together with Minutes relating to the Public Part of the meeting submitted earlier, taken as read, confirmed and signed.

The Meeting ended at 2044 hours

.....
Chairperson

