

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, 17 October 2005 at 1930
hours.

Present

Councillor Gareth Griffiths (In the Chair)

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

Also in Ms Linda Bidder – Teaching Assistant, Community High
attendance School

There was one other member of the public in attendance

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of
Councillor Trefor-Jones (Work) and Councillor Williams (Medical appointment)

PUBLIC MINUTES

- 1218 The Public part of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 September
2005 was noted.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none

QUESTIONS

Children's Centre

- 1219 Councillor Denny announced that the final document in a complicated process had
been signed in connection with the Centre and that the Government Funding
would now become available. The process had been somewhat convoluted
because the Methodist Church, the land owner, had leased the land for the
building to the City and the City had then leased the building back the Church in
such a way which satisfied the legal requirements. The City had then licensed the
'Lead Body' (the school governors who were trustees for the school) to run the
Centre in accordance with national legislation and finally, the Lead Body had
signed a Conditions of Grant Aid so that it could receive the funding available to

support the running of the Centre from the City. He then went on to refer to the parking problems which would arise once the Centre was operational as the parking provision for the Schools' staff had already been displaced by the building of the Centre and there would be the additional staff from the Centre to accommodate. The current parking provision around the Health Centre/School would not be large enough to accommodate all the vehicles belonging to the staff and visitors attending the Health Centre, the Children's Centre, the Library and the Schools. He therefore requested that the Council make appropriate representations to get the parking provision increased. The Clerk undertook to raise the question at the next meeting of the Regeneration Officers Group.

ALLEGATION OF MISCONDUCT

- 1220 It was noted that, at the beginning of September, Mr Packer, a resident of Lickey Park Estate, submitted a series of complaints regarding the Clerk's conduct which, he contended amounted to misconduct. As the allegation involved the Clerk and not the Council and, if proven, could have led to disciplinary action being taken against the Clerk, the Chairperson, on receipt of advice from the Clerk, agreed that it would be more appropriate for the allegation to be considered by the Staffing Committee which could, should the allegations be proven, determine what disciplinary action if any should be taken without the need to convene another meeting.

The meeting of the Staffing Committee took place on Monday 3 October and following consideration of all the evidence presented the Committee determined the allegation to be unsubstantiated and therefore dismissed them.

PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE HELD ON 3 OCTOBER 2005

- 1221 The Public part of the Minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held on 3 October 2005 was noted.

(see interleaved document no. 1)

NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Neighbourhood Advice – Service Review

The Clerk explained that the Northfield District was about to undertake a number of service reviews and it had been agreed at the meeting of the District Committee on 8 October to invite a representative of the Parish Council to serve on the team undertaking the review of the Neighbourhood Advice Service.

Councillor Carter indicated his willingness to serve on the review team and in the absence of any further nominations it was –

- 1222 **RESOLVED** That, for the period ending with the annual meeting of the Council in May 2006, Councillor Carter be nominated to serve on the District's Neighbourhood Advice Service review team.

Community Libraries – Service Review

The Clerk reported that the District Librarian, Mr Dennis Lovatt, had approached him at the District Assembly Convention with a request for a Councillor to serve on the team which would be undertaking a service review in respect of the Community Library Service.

Councillor Denny indicated his willingness to be nominated and, in the absence of any further nominations, it was –

- 1223 RESOLVED That, for the period ending with the annual meeting of the Council in May 2006, Councillor Denny be nominated to serve on the District's Community Libraries Service review team.

APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

A Frankley Kids Club

The following application for funding of £600 was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 2)

In response to a question from Councillor Denny, the Clerk advised that it was his understanding that all the staff working with the Children who attended the Club had the necessary qualifications to work with and supervise Children.

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

- 1224 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 £600 as a contribution towards the costs of running the Frankley Kids Club which provides varied activities for youngsters of between 5 and 11 years of age on Saturday Mornings between 10.00am and 1.00pm.

B Frankley Community High School/Community leisure Centre

The following application for funding of £200/250 was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 3)

Ms Bidder, a teaching assistant at the school gave a brief explanation of the proposal. The proposed pool/garden, which was within the school campus, would attempt to show children just how important the environment was and would involve participation by children who needed an outlet at school in order to bring them out. It was also hoped to involve members of Tudor Rose who would supply the plants for the garden around the pond. Eventually, it was proposed to extend the project by involving the children in gardening tasks within the community.

In response to a question from Councillor Denny regarding the availability of the

project to the wider community given its location within the School, Ms Bidder stated that the pool and surrounding gardens would be available, for example, as a picnic area for children attending the Summer and Easter play schemes, members of the Tudor Rose as well as those children attending the school.

It was proposed by Councillor Griffiths that £250 be approved, seconded by Councillor Denny and –

- 1225 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 £250 towards the cost of building a garden within the school/leisure centre grounds for the benefit of the community.

REVISED GRANT APPLICATION FORM

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

(see interleaved document no. 4)

- 1226 The Clerk explained that, in the past, a number of Members had voiced an opinion that the present application process did not require the applicants to provide enough information on which the Council could make an informed decision. The purpose of the proposed form was therefore, not to stop organisations from applying for grants but ensuring that more information as to the aims of the organisation and whether alternative sources of funding had been explored were included in the application form.

The Clerk hoped that Members would make suggestions regarding the content of the form which could be incorporated into the revised form which would then be submitted for formal approval to the next meeting of the Council.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT – 30 SEPTEMBER 2005

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 5)

The Clerk reported that the Neighbourhood Forum had contributed £1,100 towards the cost of printing the Neighbourhood News which did not appear in the figures now submitted.

- 1227 RESOLVED That the report be noted.

DRAFT BUDGET 2006/2007

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 6)

- 1228 The Clerk explained that the report set out suggested levels of expenditure and the associated precept for the consideration of the Members. The report would be submitted again to the next meeting at which any suggestions from Members would be incorporated into the final document. Specifically, the question as to whether or not to continue with the Parish Vehicle and the level of reserves to be maintained needed to be considered. It was vital for the Council to set a minimum level for the reserves and to agree action to maintain that level as in the past two years expenditure had exceeded income and the reserves depleted but no action had been taken to make up the loss.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 1229 The following extract from the papers presented to the South West Birmingham – Discussion on Future Strategy seminar which was held at the Council House on 21 September 2005 was noted.

Frankley Centre is located at the South west extreme of Birmingham and approximately 7 miles from the city centre. The centre has a range of facilities, which serves the wider estate of some 7,000 residents. There is a shopping centre with flats above, 2 schools, a library, church centre, health centre a dental and doctor's surgery and a public house.

The centre is important in the life of the estate. It provides a focus for social, educational and commercial activities. The buildings were originally developed to a high standard but the centre now has a run down appearance and suffers from a range of problems e.g. deterioration of the buildings, crime, litter, graffiti, vandalism of property and anti social uses.

The area benefits from a thriving parish council, whose members are highly committed and have a strong sense of local identity.

Working in partnership with the New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council, Birmingham City Council appointed a team of consultants to prepare a regeneration strategy for Frankley Centre, in consultation with local stakeholders. Upon completion, it is envisaged that the report will be adopted as formal planning guidance for Frankley. The consultants were appointed in July 2004.

A walking audit and several workshops took place throughout October 2004, to give local people and community groups an opportunity to express their views and identify opportunities for the future. As a result of this, a number of development options were put forward which incorporated these views.

In April 2005 a bid was made to the Capital Investment Fund for £1.385m for the Frankley Regeneration Scheme. This will contribute towards feasibility and site investigation, site assembly, including buying back of commercial leases, CPO's demolition, preliminary works, environmental enhancements, safety measures, community facilities and possibly a contribution towards reconstruction of the commercial units. Additional funding should come from private investment, earmarked capital receipts, service resources and S106 agreements.

An exhibition was set up in May 2005 for further consultation, in tandem with the Housing Options Appraisal and a web site has been established to allow the community to access updates and input their concerns. The final report, due for completion by August 2005 will include a sustainability study analysis and proposals for the way forward. The project will shortly enter the Capital Gateway Process.

This project has been exemplary in representing best practice in community involvement and consultation by giving local people the opportunity to help shape the future of Frankley Centre.

It is also an opportunity to create a holistic regeneration project utilising the skills used in City Centre projects and transferring these to other parts of the City. In some ways this is a pilot and the lessons we learn in Frankley, will guide us in working in other areas.

CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

There was nothing to report.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Travel West Midlands 49A 'Bus – Morrisons' Store, Bristol Road South, Longbridge

- 1230 Councillor Hollis reported that Morrisons had recently stopped the 49A 'Bus from using its car park as a dropping off/picking up point and were allegedly asking Travel West Midlands for £15,000 per annum to reinstate the facility. He was concerned that, because of Morrisons' actions, fewer people would use the service which could result in it being withdrawn.

Councillor Grey suggested that the reason why Morrisons had stopped the 'Bus from using its car park could be because of the recent extension to the store and the need to maximise the space on the car park. However, he suggested that the Council write to Morrisons to obtain its point of view and, additionally, write to Travel West Midlands to see what alternative provision it was going to make on the 49A route if, as seemed to be the case, the 'Buses were going to be prevented from using the carpark.

Experimental Traffic Regulation Order – Junction of New Inns Lane and Thurloe Crescent.

- 1231 The Clerk reported that Mr Kamal Ubhi, Senior District Engineer, Local Services – Northfield had recently circulated to every house on the Lickey Park Estate, details

of the proposed Traffic Regulation Order together with a covering letter – a copy of which was available for the inspection of Members.

Bulk Collection – Mowbray Close, Fabian Close and Windsor Close

- 1232 Councillor Hollis reported that a number of residents of Mowbray, Fabian and Windsor Closes had recently placed their bulky items out on Holly Hill Road for collection rather than in the closes as requested. However, the Chairperson pointed out that a number of houses in those closes had no access to the front, apart from through the house, from the rear and it was possible that was the reason why the occupants had placed the items on Holly Hill Road for collection.

Northfield District Assembly Convention – 15 October 2005

- 1233 Referring to the above assembly which had been held on the previous Saturday, Councillor Grey stated that he was pleased to see that the devolution of City Council services was progressing. However, he was disappointed to note that at the Convention, there had been no mention of any transport policy for the District, particularly the extension of the Cross City Line. There was also, in his opinion, room for improvement in inter-departmental communication between City Council officers which in some cases was sadly lacking.

Christmas Meal

- 1234 It was suggested, and agreed that the Christmas Meal this year be held at the Brewers Fayre Travel Inn on the Great Park. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain details and circulate them to Members.

PAYMENTS

A Business Visa Credit Card

- 1235 The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement was noted -
(see interleaved document no. 7)

B Schedule of Payments

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -
(see interleaved document no. 8)

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

- 1236 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At 2017 hours, the meeting adjourned to enable the Members of the Public to raise issues of concern.

Children's Centre

In response to a question from Ms Bidder regarding the Children's Centre Councillor Denny explained that the Centre would offer a range of services for both parents and pre-school children. There would be childcare provision between 8.00am and 6.00pm every weekday, 50 weeks of the year. Childcare provision would include a childminders network with training and support, family support and outreach to parents and the family health services available would include a range of health services for children. All the services offered by the Centre would be children focused.

He then referred to the difficulties experienced in obtaining the consents for the building which he had referred to earlier in the meeting.

The Head Teacher of the School would be in charge of the Centre but it would be run independently of the School. Finally, he urged any member of the community who was interested in serving on the Managing Committee of the centre to put their name forward for consideration.

There being no more matters to be raised, at 2023 hours the Chairperson reconvened the meeting.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

- 1237 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 19 September 2005

Private Minutes of the Meeting of the Staffing Committee held on 3 October 2005

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDING HELD IN PRIVATE

MINUTES - MINUTE NO. 1237

The Minutes of the Private part of the meeting held on 19 September 2005, were, together with the Minutes of the Public part submitted earlier in the meeting, confirmed and signed.

MINUTES – STAFFING COMMITTEE MEETING 3 OCTOBER 2005 – MINUTE NO. 1238

The Minutes of the Private part of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held on 3 October 2005 were noted.

The meeting ended at 2027 hours