

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 September 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, Joanna
Walker and Geoff Williams

Also in Ward Councillor Keith Barton
attendance Mr Sidney Grey

There was one other member of the public in attendance

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for his inability to attend the meeting was submitted on behalf of
Councillor Trefor-Jones (Holiday)

PUBLIC MINUTES

The Public part of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15 August
20005 was noted.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Independent Remuneration Panel Review

- 1204 The Chairperson announced that the Clerk had recently been advised that the City
Council's Independent Remuneration Panel would shortly be carrying out a review
of the Parish Allowances. The City Council would be advising on the proposed
procedures to be followed in due course.

QUESTIONS

There were none.

**LOCAL WORKS – CAMPAIGN TO END GHOST TOWN BRITAIN AND
PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES – THE SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES BILL**

The following documents circulated by Local Works, an organisation promoting the Sustainable Communities Bill which proposes a 'bottom up' approach to dealing with Ghost Town Britain by empowering Parish Councils to deal with the local problems rather than having to abide by Whitehall policies.

(see interleaved document no.1)

Councillor Carter expressed his support for the proposal and suggested that the local MP, Mr Richard Burden, be invited to address the Council on the issues contained within the Bill, particularly their effect on the Powers and Duties of parish councils.

It was proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Stephenson and -

1205 RESOLVED: That the New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council -

- (i) expresses its concern at
 - o the decline in local services and facilities which effect local communities and in particular the elderly and the people on the lowest incomes;
 - o the resulting decline in local jobs and local economies and the resulting extra traffic and pollution caused by the need to travel further.
- (ii) notes that this combination of factors increases peoples' feeling of exclusion and lack of involvement and therefore supports measures to reverse this process and the concept of local sustainability as envisaged in the Sustainable Communities Bill, namely -
 - o the promotion of local economies;
 - o the promotion of local services and facilities;
 - o the protection of the environment;
 - o the reduction of social exclusion;
 - o measures to increase involvement in the democratic process.
- (iii) the Parish Council accordingly agrees to support the Sustainable Communities Bill which
 - o requires the Government to assist councils and communities in promoting local sustainability in ways decided by them;
 - o sets up a participative process whereby councils and communities can drive the way in which government uses its power and influence to assist with the promotion of local

sustainability;

- notes that this Bill is therefore fully in accord with current thinking in local government in that it impacts on central authorities and does not impose any new duties on councils but instead enables them to influence how government uses its resources and influence to help councils and communities; and
- specifically provides that where councils themselves decide to take action to promote local sustainability that they should be given the resources to do so.

(iv) the Parish Council further resolves -

- to inform the local media of this decision;
- to write to the local Member of Parliament asking him to support the Bill and to sign the early day Motion No. 641; and
- to write to Local Works, the Campaign behind the Bill, expressing its support.

REASIDE JUNIOR SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD, NEW INNS LANE

The following report of the Clerk was submitted -

(see interleaved document no 2)

At the invitation of the Chairperson, Councillor Barton addressed the meeting.

He submitted the following letter which had been sent to all households in the Lickey Park estate -

(see interleaved document no 3)

Councillor Barton then briefly outlined the details of the proposed Experimental Traffic Regulation Order together with the other proposed traffic calming measures which were referred to in his letter and the Clerk's report.

However, he had concerns that the introduction of the TRO at the junction without acceptable alternative parking facilities could lead to parking creep into the estate which would inconvenience the residents and not adequately solve the parking problem. He had therefore, held discussions with the Chair of the Swifts regarding the provision of parking facilities within the playing field. The Club had already obtained Planning Permission for the construction of a hard standing area for 50 vehicles subject to the provision of adequate drainage facilities. What was now being suggested was the use of fibrestrip for the car park, which, because of its construction did not need additional drainage and would allow the grass to grow through the strip thereby being more environmentally friendly than a slab of concrete/tarmac. While the Club had funds available for the car parking, it would

not be able to fund the provision of an entrance to the field from New Inns Lane without outside assistance. Therefore, Councillor Barton would be seeking funding from the Ward's Community Chest Fund to pay for a gated entrance to the field. In his opinion, the provision of parking spaces within the playing field needed to be progressed as a matter of urgency in order to provide sufficient off road parking so as to prevent supporters parking on the estate. He was therefore seeking the Parish Council's support for the funding bid at the Ward Advisory Board's meeting when the application for funding was considered.

In response to a question from Councillor Carter, Councillor Barton indicated that, apart from those from Mr Packer and Mr Robson, he had received three responses, one from Mr C Dippin stating that there was no need for the proposed TRO as, in his opinion, the parking problem was not as bad as Mr Parker made out, and two from parents of members of the Swifts who were concerned that Mr Packer seemed intent on closing the Swifts down. He added that, contrary to popular belief, the Swifts were not a mainly Worcestershire based club – 85% of the players came from local schools in the Frankley/Longbridge area.

- 1206 RESOLVED: That the report and the letter submitted by Councillor Barton be noted and that the application for funding for a gated entrance and dropped kerb be supported at its submission to the Ward Advisory Board.

THE FUTURE OF BIRMINGHAM'S PLAYING PITCHES: THE BIRMINGHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(see interleaved document no 4)

The Clerk reported that, upon studying the map giving the locations of all pitches in Birmingham including the LEA facilities, he had noticed that two playing fields in Frankley, those of Forestdale and Reaside Schools, had been omitted. Mr Grey suggested that the reason for their omission could be the lack of suitable facilities on each site. However, it was agreed that the Clerk write to Mr Rouke bringing the omission to his attention. Mr Grey then went on to point out that, when the High School submitted its Planning Application to fence in the playing field area of the school, they had justified the proposal by referring to plans for the community use of the pitches including the provision of artificial pitches. However, despite the fencing being approved, there did not appear to be any proposals to open up the area for community use.

- 1207 RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A Rubery Lane Development

- 1208 The Clerk reported that the Planning Application relating to the Development off Rubery Lane had been submitted for consideration to the City Council's Planning Committee on 11 August 2005 following which it had been resolved that determination of the application be deferred pending the completion of a suitable legal agreement relating to a financial contribution of £140,400 (index linked) towards public open space and children's play improvements in the Longbridge ward and the provision of specified affordable housing units within the development

In the event of a legal agreement being concluded within 6 months of the above meeting, favourable consideration would be given to the above development at Rubery Lane – subject of course to the imposition of suitable safeguarding conditions.

Once the Section 106 agreement has been agreed and signed by the City Council and the Developer, the Clerk would submit a report to the Council seeking approval for the submission of a bid for funding to enable the refurbishment of the un-used Forestdale Playing Field to allow it to be brought into community use.

B Appeal By Contracts Galleypearl Against The Non-Determination By The City Council Of Planning Applications In Respect Of Sites A And C

- 1209 The Clerk advised Members that the Planning Inspectorate had dismissed the appeal submitted by Contracts Galleypearl on the grounds that it was not appropriate for the City Council to determine the applications while a study into the possible regeneration of the area was being undertaken.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 1210 The Clerk reported that since the last meeting of the Council, two meetings of the Frankley Officers' Group have held at the Southwest Birmingham Regeneration Team offices in Kings Norton during which a number of issues had been discussed; the sustainability appraisal which was now required as part of the Planning process; the implications of the Stock Option appraisal recently undertaken in the Northfield constituency which could affect the viability of any regeneration proposal; and proposals relating to the formal public consultation which has to be undertaken once the options for the regeneration have been finalised.

Councillor Barton reported, as a point of information, that there was to be a seminar to be held in the Council House on Wednesday 21 September at which Officers of the Council and Northfield Constituency Councillors would be discussing southwest Birmingham including the regeneration proposals for the Centre and the extension of the X-City line to Frankley. He would be urging that the Council progress the two items as a matter of some urgency.

CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

There was nothing to report.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Christmas Meal

- 1211 The Clerk advised members that the time was fast approaching to book a venue for the Christmas meal. He therefore requested that all members give some thought as to their preferences for a meal.

Fire Service Leaflets

- 1212 Councillor Bruckshaw reported that the Division Fire Officer at Northfield Fire Station had approached him in connection with the distribution of fire safety leaflets. He proposed, and it was agreed, that a leaflet be delivered with each copy of the next edition of the Neighbourhood News.

A Business Visa Credit Card

- 1213 The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement was noted -

(see interleaved document no. 5)

B Schedule of Payments

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 6)

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

- 1214 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At 1955 hours, the meeting adjourned to enable the Members of the Public to raise issues of concern.

Old Chapel – Great Park Estate

Mr Grey reported that he had recently received notification of a Planning Application for the Old Chapel on the Great Park Estate which was a listed building. The Application was for a change of use to a Dental Impact Centre and included the construction of a mezzanine floor.

There being no more matters to be raised, at 1957 hours the Chairperson reconvened the meeting.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

- 1215 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 15
August 2005**

Interview for Co-option to fill the casual vacancy

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDING HELD IN PRIVATE

MINUTES - MINUTE NO. 1216

The Minutes of the Private part of the meeting held on 15 August 2005, were, together with the Minutes of the Public part submitted earlier in the meeting, confirmed and signed.

INTERVIEW FOR THE CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR - MINUTE 1217

Following a brief discussion as to the procedure to be adopted, Mr Grey was invited into the meeting and following his interview withdrew from the meeting. The votes cast for the candidate were counted and it was declared that Mr Grey had unanimously been appointed as a co-opted Member of the Council. Mr Grey was invited back into the room and advised that his application for co-option to the Council had been successful.

Councillor Grey made the appropriate declaration of acceptance of Office

The meeting ended at 2027 hours