

**NEW FRANKLEY IN BIRMINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

At a meeting of the New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council held at St Christopher's Church Centre, Holly Hill, Frankley on Monday, 15 January 2007 at 1930 hours.

**Present**

Councillor Gareth Griffiths (in the Chair)

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

Also in Attendance Alan Bevan, RailFuture Spokesman

There was 1 Member of the Public in attendance.

**MINUTES**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies.

**MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Trefor-Jones, seconded by Councillor Williams, and -

- 1462 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 December 2006, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**b:connected**

- 1463 The Chairperson reported that following the publication of an article in the recent edition of b:connected about the Parish Council, Councillor Grey had sent an email to the editor of the publication pointing out a number of misleading statements in the article. Councillor Grey advised that he had not yet received a response.

**Bus Shelters – Ormond Road**

- 1464 The Chairperson stated that following protracted lobbying by the Parish Council and the recent intervention of Councillor Sue Barton, CENTRO had

agreed to install 4 shelters on Ormond Road which should be in place by the end of February.

## **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

## **REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

### **Frankley Neighbourhood Forum**

- 1465 Councillor Bruckshaw advised that the Forum would be holding its AGM together a Public Meeting on 6 March to discuss the effect on Frankley, and in particular the Centre, of the development plans for the former Rover site. It was hoped that sufficient residents would attend the Public Meeting to enable to the AGM to be quorate which would meet the criteria for the release of the Forum's grant from the City Council.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Bus Services in the Northfield Area**

The following letter from the General Manager, Birmingham Central, Travel West Midlands was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 1)

Referring to the proposed withdrawal of the 964 service, Councillor Stephenson expressed his dissatisfaction over the lack of public notice of the withdrawal given by the company. However, it was pointed out that the service alteration would not come into effect until 27 February which gave sufficient time for the company to advertise the withdrawal to affected passengers.

- 1466 RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

## **QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL STATUS**

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 2)

A discussion ensued during which a number of members sought clarification on the criteria which the Council would be expected to meet if it was to be successful in its application. It was agreed to set up a Working Group which would be responsible for co-ordinating the information required for the application.

On receipt of nominations it was -

- 1467 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2007, Councillors Linda Banks, Carter, Griffiths, Lovett, Trefor-Jones and Joanna Walker be appointed to serve on

the Working Party to co-ordinate the Council's application and that Councillor Carter be appointed lead member.

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT – 31 DECEMBER 2006**

- 1468 The following report of the Clerk setting out the income and expenditure of the Council to the period ending 31 December 2006, was noted –

(Interleaved document no. 3)

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**A S/06423/06/FUL**  
**Retention of Canopy to amenity area at first floor level**  
**19 – 21 Ormond Road, First Floor Flats, Rubery, Rednal,**  
**Birmingham B45 OJD**

The following planning application was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 4)

Following a brief discussion it was –

- 1469 **RESOLVED:** That the Planning Department be advised that the Parish Council has no objection to the above application.

**B S/07889/06/FUL**  
**Proposed New Aldi Store**  
**Bristol Road South, Longbridge**

The following documents in respect of the application submitted by Aldi Stores Limited for a store on the Bristol Road south was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 5)

The Chairperson reported that Councillor Keith Barton would be objecting to the application.

Councillor Grey was concerned regarding the possible effect on the regeneration proposals for the Frankley Centre should the application be approved. The Frankley community had been lobbying for years for an Aldi-type store to be built on the land behind the Centre but should this application be approved together with the Tesco Express currently under construction at the Dingle it was unlikely that Aldi would consider the Frankley site. As the proposed development was in the immediate area of the former Rover site, he considered that determination of the application should be deferred until such time as the Longbridge Area Action Plan was approved.

Councillor Trefor-Jones was concerned as he considered the store would create additional traffic problems in the area. In his opinion there was insufficient parking for the customs for the size of the proposed store given that some of the available parking would be taken up by the store's staff. It was therefore possible that at busy times there would be overspill parking on the A38 which

was one of the main arterial routes into Birmingham.

Following some further discussion it was -

- 1470 RESOLVED: That the Planning Department be advised that this Council objects to the application by Aldi Stores Limited to build a store on the Bristol Road South for the following reasons –
- As the proposed development was in the immediate area of the former Rover site, determination of the application should be deferred until such time as the Longbridge Area Action Plan was approved.
  - That, the proposed development would create additional traffic problems in the immediate area of the store, given that some of the available parking space would be taken up by employees, it is considered that there is insufficient parking space for the size of the store and there is concern that, at peak times, the parking could overflow onto the Bristol Road which is one of the main arterial routes into Birmingham

#### **TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 – APPEAL BY T-MOBILE (UK) LIMITED**

The following representations for submission to the Planning Inspectorate in connection with the appeal by T-Mobile (UK) Ltd against the decision of the City Council to refuse the application to install a 12 metre high imitation lighting column supporting 2 antennae with equipment cabinets and ancillary works on Arden Road were submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 6)

- 1471 RESOLVED: That the representations, as now submitted, be approved for submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

#### **DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were none.

#### **FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT**

- 1472 The Clerk reported that, at the meeting of the Frankley Implementation Group, held the previous Thursday, he had raised the matter of the short-term improvements to the Centre which had been promised during the meeting last March with Councillors Hardeman and Lines but were still to be carried out. At the time the improvements were first suggested, it was assumed they would be funded from Departmental Budgets. However, Officers had difficulty in identifying the funding from within their Departmental Budgets and felt that the funding should come from the Project's Capital Allocation. This again proved unacceptable and as a result the improvements had yet to take place. However, at the last meeting of the Implementation Group, at the request of the Clerk, it had been agreed to cost up the improvements – something which

had not been done and to seek funding for them. The Clerk had since been advised that the Cabinet Member for Regeneration had instructed that the improvements be funded from the Project's Capital Allocation and it was therefore hoped that the improvements would take place within a short time. The Clerk added that officers were currently preparing the draft development brief for the site.

### **FRANKLEY BRANCH LINE RE-INSTATEMENT**

- 1473 Councillor Grey stated that once the question of the Longbridge Area Action Plan was settled, the future of the re-instatement of the railway would be known.

### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

#### **Frankley Showcase**

- 1474 The Clerk reported that it was intended to hold a conference on the 20 April to showcase the achievements of the Parish Council on Frankley. Alison Hodge of WALC would be one of the contributors and the Clerk requested that members of the Council consider acting as guides/contributors.

#### **Replacement Windows – Lysander Road, Prospero Close, Miranda Close and Oberon Close**

- 1475 Councillor Bruckshaw asked whether there was any information regarding the replacements windows to the properties in Lysander Road and Prospero, Miranda and Oberon Closes as he was constantly being asked by the residents when they could expect the work to be done. The Clerk undertook to raise the matter with Councillor Barton and to report back.

### **PAYMENTS**

#### **(i) Business Visa Credit Card**

The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement was submitted -

(Interleaved document no. 7)

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

- 1476 RESOLVED: That the VISA Credit Card Statement, as now submitted, be approved.

#### **(ii) Schedule of Payments**

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(Interleaved document no 8)

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

- 1477 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

#### **LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**At 2020 hours, the meeting adjourned to enable the Members of the Public to raise issues of concern.**

#### **Reinstatement of the Frankley Branch Line**

Mr Bevan, a spokesman for RailFuture, referred to a letter RailFuture had received from Richard Burden MP in which he (Mr Burden) appeared to support the provision of a High Speed Bus Link between Frankley and Longbridge rather than the reinstatement of the railway. He was concerned that if Mr Burden did not support the reinstatement then there was not much chance of success although he felt that those supporting the reinstatement should continue to campaign for the railway. To this end he suggested that the Parish Council organise a petition to be circulated around the community requesting that residents support the reinstatement. Additionally, the Council could undertake a consultation of Frankley residents to gauge support for the reinstatement.

Councillor Grey indicated that the Neighbourhood Forum was to hold a public meeting on March 6 at which the railway was to be discussed. The options put forward by St Modwens include the re-aligning of the A38 to release more land for development but which would result in the railway line at Longbridge being demolished. Although Richard Burden suggested that there was no support for the railway, 64% of the responders to the recent Longbridge Area Action Plan consultation supported the reinstatement although it was acknowledged that some of that support was from outside the area. He felt that those supporting the reinstatement should be given the reasons why St Modwen and local MP considered that the railway was no longer viable and should therefore be replaced by the high speed bus link. He suggested that everybody should write to Richard Burden expressing support for the railway as it was important that the pressure for the reinstatement was maintained.

Mr Bevan added that he was aware that CENTRO continued to support the reinstatement as officers believed that there was a good business case to justify the reinstatement

**There being no further issues to be raised by the public, the meeting was reconvened at 2030 hours**

The meeting ended at 2030 hours

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Chairperson