

**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 May 2006 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, Joanna Walker and Geoffrey Williams

Also in Attendance Councillors Keith and Sue Barton

**MINUTES**

**ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

It was proposed by Councillor Trefor-Jones, seconded by Councillor Williams that Councillor Griffiths be elected Chairperson of the Council for the forthcoming year.

There being no further nominations, it was –

- 1322 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2007, Councillor Griffiths be elected Chairperson of the Council.

**COUNCILLOR GRIFFITHS IN THE CHAIR**

Hereon, the Chairperson made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairperson of the Parish Council.

**ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

It was proposed by Councillor Linda Banks, seconded by Councillor Bruckshaw that Councillor Carter be elected Vice-Chairperson of the Council.

It was also proposed by Councillor Hollis, seconded by Councillor Williams that Councillor Trefor-Jones be elected Vice-Chairperson of the Council

The nominations were then put to the meeting and it was, on a show of hands -

- 1323 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2007, Councillor Carter be elected Vice-Chairperson of the Council.

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

## **APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **(i) Longbridge Ward Advisory Board**

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was -

- 1324 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2007, Councillor Carter be appointed to serve as the Council's representative on the Longbridge Ward Advisory Board.

### **(ii) Frankley Church Community Project**

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was -

- 1325 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2007, Councillor Linda Banks be nominated to serve as the Council's representative on the Management Committee of the Frankley Church Community Project.

### **(iii) City Council's Standards Committee**

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was –

- 1326 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2007, Councillor Griffiths be nominated to serve as the Parish Council representative on the City Council's Standards Committee

### **(iv) CENTRO Frankley Public Transport Improvements Stakeholders' Conference**

Upon receipt of nominations, it was –

- 1327 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2007, Councillors Carter, Griffiths and Stephenson be appointed to serve as Parish Council representatives on CENTRO's Frankley Public Transport Improvements Stakeholders' Conference.

### **(v) District Committee (Northfield Constituency)**

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was –

- 1328 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2007, Councillor Trefor-Jones be authorised to attend meetings of the District Committee (Northfield Constituency) as a representative of the Parish Council.

**(vi) Northfield District Strategic Partnership Executive**

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was –

- 1329 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2007, Councillor Griffiths be appointed to attend meetings of the Northfield District Strategic Partnership Executive as a representative of the Parish Council.

**(vii) Northfield District Governance Commission**

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was –

- 1330 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2007, Councillor Trefor-Jones be appointed to attend meetings of the Northfield District Governance Commission as a representative of the Parish Council.

**(viii) Safer Neighbourhood Steering Group**

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was –

- 1331 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2007, Councillor Griffiths be appointed to attend meetings of the Safer Neighbourhood Steering Group as a representative of the Parish Council.

**(ix) Environmental Services Review**

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was –

- 1332 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2007, Councillor Carter be appointed to attend meetings of the Environmental Services Review as a representative of the Parish Council.

**(x) Association For Neighbourhood Democracy**

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was –

- 1333 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2007, Councillor Grey (or his nominee, Councillor Carter) together with the Clerk be appointed to serve as representatives of the Council at meetings of the Association.

**DATES OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2006/2007**

- 1334 RESOLVED: That meetings of the Parish Council for the forthcoming Municipal Year be held on the following Mondays at 1930 hours at the St Christopher's Church Centre -

19 June 2006, 17 July 2006, 14 August 2006,  
18 September 2006, 16 October 2006,  
20 November 2006, 18 December 2006,

15 January 2007, 19 February 2007,  
19 March 2007, 16 April 2007,

with the Annual Meeting of the Council and the  
Annual Parish Meeting on 21 May 2007.

## **PLANNING, ENVIRONMENTAL, HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Following receipt of nominations, it was: -

- 1335 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2007, Councillors Linda Banks, Bruckshaw, Stephenson, Joanna Walker and Williams be appointed to serve on the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee, together with the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the Council as ex-officio members of the Committee and that Councillor Bruckshaw be appointed Chairperson of the Committee; further that meetings of the Committee be at the call of the Chairperson as and when there is business to transact.

## **STAFFING COMMITTEE**

Following receipt of nominations, it was: -

- 1336 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2007, Councillors Carter, Denny and Trefor-Jones be appointed to serve on the Staffing Committee and that meetings of the Committee be called as and when there is business to transact.

## **APPEALS COMMITTEE**

Following receipt of nominations, it was: -

- 1337 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2007, Councillors Linda Banks, Bruckshaw and Stephenson be appointed to serve on the Appeals Committee and that meetings of the Committee be called as and when there is business to transact.

## **MINUTES**

Councillor pointed out, with regard to the preamble to Minute no 1312, that as Councillor Linda Banks had declared a prejudicial interest in the application being considered and had left the room, she could not have seconded the motion to approve the application. Upon checking his notes from the last meeting, the Clerk advised that in error Councillor Linda Banks' name had

appeared as the seconder to the motion when in actual fact Councillor Bruckshaw had seconded the motion.

- 1338 RESOLVED: That, subject to amendment referred to in the foregoing preamble, the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24 April 2006, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 1339 Hereon, the under mentioned Member declared his respective interest in the Agenda Item indicated below -

Councillor	Agenda Item	Interest
Griffiths	Chairperson's Allowance	Prejudicial – Approval of Chairperson's Allowance for the forthcoming Municipal Year

Hereon, the Chairperson withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the following item and the Vice-Chairperson took the Chair.

#### **COUNCILLOR CARTER IN THE CHAIR**

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S ALLOWANCE**

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

- 1340 RESOLVED: That the Chairperson's allowance of £650 for the forthcoming Municipal Year as increased in line with the percentage increase applied to City Council Members' allowances be approved and that the payment thereof be in 10 equal monthly instalments commencing at the end of May 2006.

Hereon, Councillor Griffiths returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair.

#### **COUNCILLOR GRIFFITHS IN THE CHAIR**

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Regeneration of the Centre**

- 1341 The Chairperson expressed the hope that the proposals for the regeneration of the Frankley Centre would be published later this year.

#### **QUESTIONS**

#### **Reports from those Members appointed to external organisations.**

- 1342 Councillor Denny proposed, and it was agreed, that it should be a requirement on those Members appointed to external organisations to regularly report back to the Council on the activities of the group to which they had been appointed.

## **Annual Parish Meeting**

- 1343 Councillor Denny felt that the Annual Parish Meeting needed to be 'perked up' a bit. Each year, the Councillors turned up for what in effect was a 5 minute meeting to approve the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting and receive the Chairperson's report. Given that the Council made numerous financial grants to various organisations over the year, representative of those groups should be invited to the Meeting in order to report how they had used the funding. Additionally, even after 6 years in office, there were still people living on Frankley who were not aware of the Parish Council or what it did and he felt that the event should be a publicity exercise for the Council.

Councillor Grey felt that the Meeting should be an opportunity for Councillors as well as the public to suggest activities which they would like to see the Council undertake in the forthcoming year and to agree a program of work for the year. In response to a point raised by the Chairperson concerning problems of undertaking certain activities because of a lack of legislation, Councillor Grey felt that the lack of legislation should not hinder Councillors and the public making suggestions – it would be up to the Clerk to determine which activities could be undertaken and which could not.

## **ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2006**

The Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2006 were submitted –

(see interleaved document no.1)

Hereon the Clerk reported the unexpected death, in April, of the Council's Internal Auditor who had been of great assistance to him in the preparation of the Council's accounts in previous years. However, it was now necessary for the Council to appoint a replacement auditor. As it was felt preferable for the auditor to live locally as well as experienced in Parish Councils, he had contacted the Worcestershire Association of Local Councils which had advised him that Mrs Diane Malley had experience of providing an Internal Audit service to Parish Councils as well as living locally.

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

- 1344 RESOLVED: (i) That the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2006, as now submitted, be approved and that the Chairperson and the Responsible Finance Officer be authorised to sign them on behalf of the Council;
- (ii) That Mrs Diane Malley be appointed as the Council's Internal Auditor on the terms and conditions set out in her letter dated 8 May 2006.

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 1345 Councillor Grey reported that two applications for warehouse facilities and ancillary office accommodation had been submitted in respect of sites 301 and

302, Hollymoor Way on the Birmingham Great Park.

## **DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were none.

## **FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT**

- 1346 The Clerk reported that following the meeting with the Cabinet Members for Regeneration and Housing (Councillors Hardeman and Lines), he had raised the question of the short-term improvements promised by Councillor Hardeman with officers of the Frankley Regeneration Officers Group. Following some discussion, it had been proposed that the under canopy lighting and the car park lighting be improved, new door entry systems be installed on the accesses to the flats above the shops and repairs be carried out to the paving slabs in front of the shops. As there was some confusion as to which Department would be funding the improvements and which officers would be responsible for their implementation, he had written to Councillor Hardeman seeking confirmation that the promised improvements would be implemented.

## **CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION**

- 1347 It was suggested by Councillor Carter, and agreed, that, in view of the lack up to date information in respect of the project, the Clerk should write to CENTRO.

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

### **New Inns Lane**

- 1348 In response to a question from Councillor Linda Banks, regarding the current situation with the parking problems in New Inns Lane, the Clerk reported that he had raised the issue of drivers disregarding the parking restrictions on New Inns Lane with Councillor Gregory (Cabinet Member for Transportation and Street Services) at the City's Transportation Summit in March. Councillor Gregory had referred the matter onto Neil Dancer, Chief Highway Engineer, who had indicated that he would investigate the complaint but that if the situation had not improved over the next 4 weeks then the Clerk should write and advise him of the situation. As the situation clearly had not improved, at the end of April, the Clerk wrote to Mr Dancer requesting that either bollards or a trip rail be installed on the verges either side of Thurloe Crescent to prevent vehicle using them as parking areas which then blocked the view of New Inns Lane of drivers exiting Thurloe Crescent. Also, the Clerk requested a higher presence of Parking Attendants during the weekends as some drivers were flagrantly ignoring the parking restrictions. Last week he had received a response to his letter from Tariq Mahmud, Constituency Engineer. With regard to the suggested Bollards or trip rails and a higher presence of parking attendants, he indicated that it was not general practice to duplicate Parking Regulations with trip rail fence which had a high maintenance liability. He also pointed out that a number of tickets had been issued where parking violations had been witnessed by the Parking Attendants. However, he did agree that if the Parish Council was of the opinion that the parking situation had not improved and that there were still safety issues which needed to be

addressed, then he suggested that it may be appropriate to hold a further site meeting to assess the situation further. The Clerk had copied the letter to the representative of the residents of the Lickey Park Estate and was awaiting a response. In the mean time, he had replied to Mr Mahmud, reiterating the need to take measures to prevent parking on the verges and to increase the presence of Parking Attendants in New Inns Lane during the weekends. Additionally, at the request of Mr Packer, he had supported the making of the experimental Traffic Regulation Order permanent.

### **Children's Centre**

- 1349 Councillor Denny reported that the Children's Centre would officially open on Friday 26 May at 3.30 to 4.30pm. He extended an invitation to attend the open to all Members of the Parish Council and requested that those who would be attending, to let him know.

### **Car Parking**

- 1350 Councillor Denny noted that, now the builders had completed the work on the Centre, the parking situation had eased. However, it was likely that, once the Centre became established, the same situation would arise. He therefore requested that in any future plans for the development of the Centre, adequate parking provision was included.

In connection with the need for adequate parking, Councillor Trefor-Jones reported that at the recent Police Liaison meeting, responding to a number of questions regarding traffic problems in the area, the Police had reported that Parking Restrictions were to be introduced on the Great Park and would be monitored by the City's Parking Attendants. In addition, the Police Liaison Committee requested that West Midlands Police be advised of the problems of excess speeds on the local roads. Councillor Trefor-Jones reported that the pedestrian crossings on New Street and Frogmill Road were to be replaced with speed sensor traffic lights similar to those installed on New Inns Lane. However, the new lights also would photograph any motorist going through the lights on red and would automatically issue a penalty notice. He added that the penalty for going through a red light was higher than for speeding.

### **PAYMENTS**

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

- 1351 The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement was noted -

(see interleaved document no. 2)

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

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 3)

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

- 1352 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

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

#### **At 2012 hours, the meeting adjourned to enable the Members of the Public to raise issues of concern.**

Councillor Barton thanked the Parish Council for its efforts on behalf of the people of Frankley and its co-operation with the elected members of the City Council which showed the rest of the City what could be achieved.

With regard to the question of the Rail Link, he indicated that he would continue to press for the project to be implemented at every opportunity. He was aware that it was one of a number of projects currently being considered for approval by the Strategic Rail Authority.

He had recently spoken to Mr Packer concerning the parking in New Inns Lane and would be supporting the introduction of a permanent TRO. However, although he could not condone parking on the double yellow line, he did feel that the problem was mainly caused by the visiting supporters and it would therefore take some time before everybody was aware of the TRO. He had spoken to the Parking Attendants and had generally received a positive response. He went on to report that the Highways Department had proposed to convert part of the in-filled area of the former subway into a car park for approximately 20 cars subject to an formal undertaking by the football club that it would be responsible for its maintenance. He was still waiting for a response from the club on that matter. Further parking provision was also being made available at Reaside School, subject to an agreement between the School and the Club as to the security issues.

Councillor Barton then referred to the Speed Visor which was currently located on the Lickey Road close to the site of the tragic accident earlier this year. Previously, it had been sited to good effect at several locations on Frankley. However, the Visor was battery powered and unless the batteries were changed regularly, it lost its effect. He wondered whether, when it was located in Frankley whether the Neighbourhood Caretakers could change the batteries.

In response to comment from Councillor Stephenson, Councillor Barton stated that the possibility of purchasing a solar powered Visor was being investigated. He continued that he was currently investigating the possibility of training interested residents in the use of a mobile speed gun. West Midlands Police would supply all the necessary equipment and although they could not issue summonses, they could report the registration details to the police for possible prosecution.

Councillor Grey raised concerns at the lack of suitable employment opportunities in the area for Frankley residents. He pointed out that many ex-Rover employees were being trained as HGV Drivers yet the employment opportunities for those drivers were diminishing – he referred to the recent announcement of the closure of the Littlewoods Catalogue depot in Worcester. In response, Councillor Barton advised that he had raised the

matter at the last meeting of the Longbridge Development Group and had also pointed out that the high-tech jobs which were envisaged for Longbridge would not be suitable for Frankley residents.

**There being no further issues to be raised by the public the meeting was reconvened at 2028 hours**

The meeting ended at 2028 hours

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Chairperson