

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, 17 July 2006 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Gareth Griffiths (in the Chair)

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

Also in Attendance Councillors Keith and Sue Barton

MINUTES

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Linda Banks (family illness) and Grey (holiday).

MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Lovett, and -

- 1370 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 June 2006, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) Visit by Members of the City Council's Local Services and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee

- 1371 The Chairperson reported that due to a change in the arrangements reported to the last meeting, Members of the City Council's Local Services and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee would not be attending tonight's meeting but had instead visited the parish office last Wednesday when the Members had talked to himself, the Vice Chairperson and the Clerk. The response to the work being undertaken by the Parish Council had been mixed with some Members seeming very interested.

(ii) Petition for Traffic Calming Measures

- 1372 The Chairperson reported that, following the fatal accident on Ormond Road last Thursday night, a group of residents were currently obtaining signatures on a petition calling for traffic calming measures to be introduced on the main roads on the estate. The Parish Council had agreed to receive the petition and forward it to Councillor Keith Barton for submission to a future meeting of the City Council.

(iii) Lease of Photocopier

- 1373 The Chairperson advised Members that an upgraded photocopying machine had been leased for the office which was not only faster than the current machine but which also copied both sides of an original in one pass.

QUESTIONS

(i) Petition Re Traffic Calming

- 1374 In response to a question from Councillor Denny as to whether the Parish Council agreeing to forward the petition to Councillor Barton implied support for the petition's contents, the Clerk advised that the Parish Council was merely assisting the petitioners in ensuring that their petition was submitted to the City Council and was dealt with in accordance with the procedures laid down. Councillor Keith Barton confirmed that the fact that a City Councillor presented a petition to the City Council did not imply support for the petition - it was merely part of the procedures by which petitions were considered and responded to.

(ii) Photocopier Lease

- 1375 In response to a question from Councillor Trefor-Jones, the Chairman advised that the decision to lease a new photocopier had been taken by the Clerk, in consultation with himself and the Vice Chairperson, using his delegated powers.

(iii) Attendance of the City Council's Scrutiny Committee at a Parish Council meeting

- 1376 In response to a question from Councillor Denny as to why the meeting referred to in Minute 1354 had not taken place, the Clerk apologised to any Councillor who had turned up tonight at 6.30pm expecting to meet Members of the Scrutiny Committee, but as stated earlier in the meeting, the arrangements for the visit had been altered. As the Minute stated that further details of the meeting would be sent to Members prior to the next meeting, as no details had actually been sent out, the Clerk had assumed, wrongly as it transpired, that Members would take for granted that the meeting had been cancelled.

Councillor Keith Barton accepted that the fact that the meeting had not taken place as planned was his fault. At the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee he had suggested that it would be more beneficial if Members spent some time on Frankley taking to the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Clerk before talking to the officers of Frankley Resolve. He added that the Members had

been impressed with the work of the Parish Council. On behalf of the Committee he thanked the Parish Council for hosting the meeting and added that the Members had been particularly impressed with their tour of the Children's Centre which the Clerk had arranged at very short notice.

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

The Welcome Drop-in Centre

The following application for funding of £500 was submitted on behalf of the Welcome Drop-in Centre -

(see interleaved document 1)

Having considered the application the Chairperson felt that it did not meet the requirements of Section 137 of the 1972 Local Government Act in that, in his opinion, the expenditure requested was not commensurate with the benefit to the community. It was noted that, as at 30 May 2006, the Group had reserves of over £1500 and were requesting a grant of £500 for what appeared to be a small group of a maximum of 7 members. Councillor Carter concurred with this view adding that it was still relatively early in the Council's financial year and the funding may be required by some other group later in the year.

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

- 1377 RESOLVED: That the application for funding submitted by the Welcome Drip-In Centre be refused on the grounds that, in the opinion of the Council, the application did not meet the criteria required for Section 137 funding.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT – 30 JUNE 2006

- 1378 The following Financial Statement was noted -

(Interleaved document 2)

AMENDMENT TO FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The following report of the Clerk setting out an amendment to the Council's Financial Regulation relating to the purchase of good and service with the Council's Credit Card was submitted -

(Interleaved document 3)

Following a brief explanatory comment as to the reason for the amendment by the Clerk, it was -

- 1379 RESOLVED: That the following amendment be added to the Council's Financial Regulations -

Subject to the prior approval by two of the Council's signatories, goods or services which are to be purchased

from stores which do not accept business cheques or which are only available on the Internet or offer a cost saving to the Council by purchase from the Internet, shall be made using the Council's Credit Card – the approval to detail the name of the supplier, the goods/services to be purchased and the estimated maximum cost of the goods/services. The approval form to be attached to the suppliers invoice and the Credit Card Statement.

PARKING ATTENDANT – NEW INNS LANE

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(see interleaved document 4)

The Clerk advised that the purpose of the report now submitted was to apprise Members of the current situation and to seek the Council's approval to continue discussions with the Swifts with a view to arriving at an arrangement which would then be reported back to the Council for approval.

Councillor Keith Barton added that if an attendant was appointed then he/she would be clearly identified as a member of the Swifts and would politely request those motorists parking indiscriminately or illegally to have regard to the problems they were causing and that, if parked on the double yellow lines, were leaving themselves open to a possible £30 fixed penalty ticket. Should the motorist ignore the request then the registration number would be taken and the driver reported to the club for the club to take action. Whilst the proposal was not ideal, it possibly would demonstrate to the local residents that the Parish Council was attempting to address the situation.

With regard to the ban on becoming an employer outside her employment as a Civil Servant, Councillor Trefor-Jones, who was himself a Civil Servant, advised that those rules were currently being relaxed and if the officer concerned were to seek the approval of her line manager explaining the reasons for the request it was possible that the restriction would be removed.

A number of Members had concerns regarding the conditions which the Council would have to address should a decision be made to appoint an attendant; i.e. ensuring that the attendant was covered by the Council's insurance and the Health and Safety implications which would require a risk assessment being undertaken.

While it was agreed that the Clerk should continue in his discussions with the Swifts, it was felt that the option stated by Councillor Trefor-Jones should be explored before any steps were taken to employ an Attendant.

- 1380 RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to continue discussions with the Swifts and to investigate the Health and Safety and Insurance Implication of the Council employing the Parking Attendant; further that the Swifts be requested to explore the possibility of the Secretary of the Club being released from the employment condition that she does not become an employer outside her Civil Service employment so that the Swifts could then employ

the Parking Attendant.

PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION: PROPOSED HUTCHISON 3G BASE STATION AT HOLLY HILL, FRANKLEY, BIRMINGHAM

- 1381 Councillor Keith Barton reported that he had recently received correspondence from the agents acting for Hutchison 3G UK who were carrying out pre-application consultation regarding the siting of a 3G Telecommunications Mast and Base Station in the Frankley area. The preferred site was on land on Holly Hill Road. However, two other sites were submitted for consideration – the Severn Trent Water Treatment Works, Egghill Lane and Land off Hill Lane, Frankley. Councillor Keith Barton was minded to advise the agents that the proposed site on Holly Hill Road would be strongly objected to by both himself and the Parish Council but that the second site at the Water Treatment works would be acceptable. He hoped that this approach would mean that the agents, mindful of previous failed applications in the Frankley area, would agree to make the Water Treatment Works site their prime site.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 1382 The Clerk reported that at a meeting of Development Officers Group of the City Council in March, authorisation was given for Birmingham Property Services to 'soft' market test the options for Frankley Centre. The purpose of this exercise was to update the intelligence gained from the consultants, CBRE, with current market opinion of the attractiveness of the centre to private sector investment. Three representatives of national development companies were met to gain their informal views on the potential opportunity presented by the Frankley scheme.

The outcome of those discussions had been positive, and although there was a preference for the comprehensive redevelopment option, the retention option still drew interest.

The details of those discussions and further information on retailer demand would be reported back to the Development Officers Group in August with the view of seeking confirmation of whether the City Council takes to the next stage the less radical or the more radical option.

CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

There was nothing to report

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(i) Frankley Garden Competition and Awards Night

- 1383 Councillor Bruckshaw expressed his disappointment at the apparent lack of response to both the Garden Competition, which he understood had only attracted 14 entries, and the Awards Night for which he had only received

approximately 30 confirmations. He would, over the next 48 hours, be considering whether or not to continue with the Awards Night.

Councillor Denny felt that the Awards Night needed a different format and he referred to the recent AGM of the Project which had attracted over 90 people.

Councillor Carter reported that several of the older residents had complained to him about the loud music at previous Award Nights and he suggested that a different format for the entertainment be investigated. In response, Councillor Bruckshaw indicated that he had not received any complaints nor had anyone approached him with different ideas for the format. He felt that, in order to encourage the community spirit within Frankley it was necessary to recognise the achievements those residents who had served the community during the past year.

(ii) Highways Inspection

- 1384 Councillor Stephenson requested whether the Highways Department had responded to the letter sent following the last meeting regarding his request to accompany a Highways Inspector during his inspection of the Highways on Frankley. The Clerk advised that although the officer concerned had telephoned the Parish Office and left a message on the answer-phone, when the Clerk had returned the call, the officer had been unavailable. However he would attempt to contact the officer again.

(iii) 61 – 71 Brightstone Road – Provision of Street Lighting

- 1385 In response to Councillor Denny's question regarding the progress of the provision of the lighting, the Clerk reported that at the meeting of the Ward Committee held last week, it had been agreed to spend some of the £25,000 allocated by Transportation Department for lighting improvements in the Longbridge Ward on a single light for the area of Brightstone Road which currently was lacking in any Street lighting. However, because of Health and Safety requirements the Transportation Department may not approve the proposal as the installation may not provide sufficient light over the area to meet Health and Safety requirements.

PAYMENTS

(i) Business Visa Credit Card

The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement was submitted -

(Interleaved document 5)

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

- 1386 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 6)

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

- 1387 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At 2019 hours, the meeting adjourned to enable the Members of the Public to raise issues of concern.

There being no issues to be raised by the public the meeting was reconvened at 2019 hours

The meeting ended at 2019 hours

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Chairperson