

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, 18 December 2006 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Gareth Griffiths (in the Chair)

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

There was 1 Member of the Public in attendance.

MINUTES

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for his inability to attend the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Bruckshaw (Illness).

MINUTES

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

- 1447 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 20 November 2006, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

QUESTIONS

Security Passes

- 1448 Councillor Trefor-Jones questioned when the Members' security passes would be updated. It was agreed that photographs would be taken at the January meeting of the Council and the updated passes issued to Members thereafter.

NOMINATIONS TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Longbridge Consultative Group

On receipt of nominations, it was –

- 1449 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May 2007, Councillors Carter and Grey be nominated to serve on the Longbridge Consultative Group as representatives of the Parish Council.

REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Longbridge Consultative Group

Councillor Grey submitted the following report of the meeting of the Longbridge Consultative Group held on 7 December 2006 –

(Interleaved document no. 1)

- 1450 Councillor Grey, referring to the report submitted, felt that although there was considerable support for the re-instatement of the rail link to Frankley, there would be a long, hard battle in order to achieve it. Additionally, he considered that the options presented for consultation lacked substance and that the consultees were being asked to make decisions without the full facts being made available. The options presented also included some housing provision but no mention of the increased infrastructure which would be needed.

Councillor Grey suggested that the Neighbourhood Forum and the Parish Council should convene a public meeting to discuss the results of the consultation exercise currently being undertaken.

Neighbourhood Advice and Information Office Service Review Group

- 1451 Councillor Griffiths reported that he had recently attended the first meeting of the above Review Team.

Police Liaison Committee

- 1452 Councillor Trefor-Jones reported that at the last Liaison meeting the following matters were discussed: the lack of suitable fire alarms to overcome the problems experienced by hearing impaired residents hearing fire alarms at night because they were not wearing their hearing aids; the road accidents and the action taken by the police regarding traffic calming measures across the Frankley area. Additionally, the new Beat Sergeant, Sergeant Stuart Smith attended, who was already starting to have a positive effect in the area. Councillor Trefor-Jones reported that the next meeting of the Committee was on 18 January.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PRINTING OF THE FRANKLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 2)

The Clerk advised Members that following the insolvency of Digitec, it had been necessary to seek as a matter of urgency an alternative printer and that although Heron Press were £250 more expensive than Digitec, they were the cheapest of the alternatives approached. Following the Christmas break, the Clerk and Andy Ross would be seeking alternative quotes and convening a meeting of the Editorial Board (Councillors Grey and Bruckshaw, Andy Ross and himself) to discuss the future of the News and reporting back to the Council with proposals.

Following some discussion, it was agreed to request that the Forum submit a further NRF Community Chest application to cover the additional cost of the two editions, ie £500.

- 1453 RESOLVED That the report be noted and that the Neighbourhood Forum be requested to submit a further application for NRF Community Chest Funding amounting to £500 to cover the increased costs of printing the two editions of the Neighbourhood News.

PLANNING APPLICATION

There were none.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 – APPEAL BY HUTCHISON 3G UK LTD

The following representations for submission to the Planning Inspectorate in connection with the appeal by Hutchison against the decision of the City Council to refuse the application to install 10m Streetworks monopole mast with three antennae housed within a plastic shroud and equipment cabinets on Holly Hill Road were submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 3)

- 1454 RESOLVED: That the representations, as now submitted, be approved for submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

The following letters relating to the redevelopment of the Centre were submitted –

(Interleaved document nos. 4, 5 and 6)

Councillor Grey suggested that the Council write to Councillors Hardeman and Lines requesting an explanation as to how the regeneration plans for the Great Park, Egghill and Frankley fit in with the proposals for the former Rover Site. He added that although the original draft development brief for the Rover site protected the local shopping centres some of the options now being proposed

for the site included what amounted to a retail park which would have a devastating effect on local shopping centres.

Councillor Denny referred to the meeting that Councillors Hardeman and Lines had held with members of the Parish Council during which certain assurances were given regarding short-term improvements to the Holy Hill shopping centre – improvements which had still to take place. Councillor Denny therefore suggested that the Council invite Hardeman and Lines to a further meeting to discuss the lack of progress on the short term improvements and the effect of the Rover Site proposals on the regeneration of local centres.

- 1455 RESOLVED That the Clerk write to Councillors Hardeman and Lines requesting their attendance at a further meeting with members of the Parish Council to discuss the lack of progress on the promised short term improvements to the Holly Hill Shopping Centre and the effect of the Rover Site proposals on the local centres.

FRANKLEY BRANCH LINE RE-INSTATEMENT

The following letters from Mr Hughes, RailFuture, were submitted –

(Interleaved document nos. 7 and 8)

- 1456 Councillor Grey referred to the consultation exercise recently undertaken in connection with the Longbridge Area Action Plan which indicated that there was considerable support for the re-instatement of the link.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Christmas Lights Competition

- 1457 Councillor Carter reported that the competition had been judged the previous Wednesday with a total of 8 entries - all of which were of a high standard.

b:connected – Issue 6

- 1458 Councillor Grey felt that the article on the Parish Council which appeared in the current edition of b:connected did not do justice to the variety of work undertaken by the Council and to that end he would be writing to the magazine expressing his concern at the article.

Bus Services – Northfield

- 1459 Councillor Stephenson expressed concern he had heard that the bus services around the Northfield area were being altered.

In response Councillor Grey said the services were being amended because CENTRO were taking action to reduce congestion on the Bristol Road by reducing the number of buses going into the City centre.

It was agreed that the Clerk write to CENTRO to request an explanation of the changes to bus services in Northfield.

PAYMENTS

(i) Business Visa Credit Card

The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement was submitted -

(Interleaved document no. 9)

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

- 1460 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 10)

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

- 1461 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At 2040 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 2040 hours

The meeting ended at 2040 hours

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Chairperson