

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, 19 February 2007 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Gareth Griffiths (in the Chair)

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

Also in Attendance Councillor Sue Barton, Birmingham City Council
Ms Amy Watson, Richard Burden's Constituency Office

There was 1 Member of the Public in attendance.

MINUTES

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

MINUTES

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

1478 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 15 January 2007, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Agenda Item	Interest
Hollis	Grant Application – Reaside Centre	Prejudicial – Member of the Centre's Management Committee: Councillor left the room during consideration of the application.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Public Meeting

The Chairperson referred to the forthcoming Frankley Neighbourhood Forum's

AGM which was to be held on 13 March at 7.30pm and urged Members encourage as many residents as possible to attend in order for the meeting to be quorate. Additionally, following the AGM a Public Meeting was to be held to discuss the Longbridge Area Action Plan and its effect on the Longbridge area.

QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Frankley Neighbourhood Forum

Councillor Grey advised that the Forum's AGM would precede the Public Meeting referred to by the Chairperson earlier in the meeting and that, to be quorate, there needed to be at least 30 Frankley residents in order to qualify for the annual £600 grant.

QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL STATUS – PROGRESS REPORT

- 1479 Councillor Carter briefly outlined the progress made in gathering the information which would be required to meet the tests for Quality Status.

With regard to the requirements of Tests 1, 2 and 3 (Electoral Mandate, Qualification of the Clerk, Meetings), he had been advised by WALC that the Council would meet the requirements of those tests. However, the Council needed to address a number of issues regarding the content of Test 4 (Communications) one of which was the publication of contact details for individual Councillors. WALC had advised that the Parish Office would be not acceptable and that Members' contact telephone numbers, either landline or mobile, needed to be published in the Neighbourhood News. Following some discussion it was agreed that each Member would provide Councillor Carter with either a landline number or mobile number for publication in the Neighbourhood News and posting on the Website.

With regard to the requirement for individual Councillors to hold surgeries at least 6 times per year, it was felt that as electors had access to the Parish Office each weekday morning, there was no need for individual Councillors to hold specific surgeries – if an elector requested to speak to a specific Councillor, then that could be arranged through the Parish Office.

NORTHFIELD 2016 CONSTITUENCY CONFERENCE

- 1480 RESOLVED: That all Members of the Council be authorised to attend the Northfield 2016 Constituency Conference to be held at Colmers Farm School on Saturday 10 March 2007 between 9.00 hours and 14.45 hours.

CONSULTATION ON AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS

The following summary prepared by NALC's Head of Legal Services was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 1)

The Clerk undertook to provide Councillor Grey with a copy of the 8 Questions referred to in the summary.

1481 RESOLVED: That the summary be noted.

APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID

Reaside Centre

The following application for funding to purchase an amplifier and light machine for the weekly disco was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 2)

Councillor Trefor-Jones advised that due to his links with the Centre in connection with the Police Liaison Committee, he would abstain from voting on any resolution.

The Chairperson pointed out that the Centre had received a grant approximately 18 months before to purchase disco equipment and had signed a lease requiring that the equipment be maintained or, if it became irreparable, the reason reported to the Parish Council. To date, no such notification had been given. Additionally, he was concerned that the Centre had not produced annual accounts for the 2004/2005 and 2005/2006 financial years.

Councillor Grey felt that there was a need for the Centre to explain what happened to the income arising from the Friday night discos and the Venues where the Disco Equipment was hired out. He felt that a fixed percentage of the income earned from such activities should be placed in a ring-fenced account to enable the Centre to replace the equipment as and when necessary. In view of the importance of the activities of the Centre he felt that the Centre ought to be given the opportunity to address the Council's concerns and to submit an amended application.

Following some further discussion, it was –

1482 RESOLVED: That determination of the application for funding be deferred and that the Centre be requested to re-submit the application to the next meeting of the Council to include (i) annual accounts for 2004/2005 and 2005/2006; (ii) the reason as to why the amplifier leased to the Centre 18 months ago now needs replacing and cannot be repaired; and (iii) assurances that arrangements to place a fixed percentage of the income generated by the disco equipment into a ring-fenced account so as to enable the purchase of new equipment as and when necessary have been put in place.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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 0JD**

- 1483 Members were advised that the above mentioned application had been refused for the reasons set out in the attached document –

(Interleaved document no. 3)

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 1484 Councillor Grey reported that at a recent meeting of the Longbridge Consultative Committee he had raised the question of what was included in the Area Action Plan as, although it referred to Longbridge, it appeared to only cover the former Rover site. Additionally, he was concerned that it appeared that the effect of the proposed development on the local communities surrounding the Rover site was being ignored. He had had a meeting with the local MP to discuss the LAAP and its effect on the Longbridge area and in particular the Frankley Centre. As a result of that meeting, Mr Burden had contacted officers of the City Council seeking an explanation as to the up-to-date position regarding the Centre. Councillor Grey added that the purpose of the Public meeting referred to earlier in the meeting was not simply to raise the issue of the regeneration of the Centre but to raise the issue of the LAAP and its effect on the communities in south west Birmingham.

The Clerk advised that at a recent meeting of the Frankley Implementation Group, it had been reported that a Planning Guidance for the land at the centre was currently being drafted. This document would set out the City's aspirations for the Centre as well as providing planning guidance for potential developers. Additionally, a report was being drafted for submission to the Cabinet Property on March 22 and that subject to that report's approval the process of marketing the sites would commence.

FRANKLEY BRANCH LINE RE-INSTATEMENT

- 1485 Councillor Grey suggested that from the options for the development of the Rover site submitted it appeared that St Modwen did not want the rail line to Frankley to be re-instated as it would interfere with the development of the former west works site. The preferred option endorsed by the City's Cabinet appeared to be totally biased against the railway and it was therefore unlikely that approval would be given. However, there were no firm details of the likely alternative. A bus service was mentioned but no details as to the frequency of service, route or fare structure was given nor was there a guarantee of the permanency of the service. Councillor Grey, therefore, stressed the need for the public to be fully consulted on alternative bus service before any decision on the development option was made. He added that CENTRO also supported the need for full public consultations.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

There were none.

PAYMENTS

(i) Business Visa Credit Card

The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement was submitted -

(Interleaved document no. 4)

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

- 1486 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 5)

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

- 1487 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At 2015 hours, the meeting adjourned to enable the Members of the Public to raise issues of concern.

Ormond Road – Traffic Calming

Ms Watson reported that, following the site meeting in September organised by Mr Burden, the Constituency Engineer had agreed to draw up Traffic Calming Proposals for consideration with a view to obtaining necessary funding. At the time of the meeting it was felt that, whilst not all proposals would be funded, there was a possibility of some of the proposals being funded. However, Mr Burden had since been in correspondence with the Chief Highways Engineer and it now appeared that, as Ormond Road did not meet the accident criteria, none of the Traffic Calming proposals submitted were likely to secure funding although Mr Burden had asked that the Highways Engineers revisit the proposals as it appeared that the fatal accident in August had not been included.

In response to a request from Councillor Grey, the Clerk undertook to obtain a copy of the proposals prepared by the Constituency Engineer.

Bus Shelters – Ormond Road

Councillor Sue Barton reported that she had spoken to CENTRO who had apologised for the communications breakdown. While it was now extremely unlikely that all four shelters would be in place as originally promised, it was hoped that the shelter near Old Stone Close would be in place at the end of February.

There being no further issues to be raised by the public, the meeting was reconvened at 2023 hours

The meeting ended at 2023 hours

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Chairperson

Draft Version