

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, 16 April 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, Stephen Trefor-Jones, Joanna Walker and Geoff Williams

Also in Attendance Councillors Keith & Sue Barton, Birmingham City Council

There was 1 Member of the Public in attendance.

PUBLIC MINUTES

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

MINUTES

1500 The Minutes of that part of the meeting held on 19 March 2007, held in public were noted.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1501 Hereon, the under mentioned Members declared their respective interests in the Agenda Items indicated below –

| Councillor | Agenda Item | Interest |
|---------------|--|---|
| Ian Bruckshaw | Grant Application – Frankley Neighbourhood Forum | Prejudicial – Member of the Forum's Management Committee – Member left the room during consideration of the application |
| Sid Grey | Grant Application – Frankley Neighbourhood Forum | Prejudicial – Member of the Forum's Management Committee – Member left the room during consideration of the application |

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|-------------|--|---|
| Bill Hollis | Grant Application – Frankley Neighbourhood Forum | Prejudicial – Member of the Forum’s Management Committee - Member left the room during consideration of the application |
| Bill Hollis | Planning Application – Reaside Centre | Prejudicial – Member of the Centre’s Management Committee - Member left the room during consideration of the application |

CHAIRPERSON’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Frankley Showcase

The Chairperson requested that as many Councillors that were able attend the Showcase on the coming Friday afternoon. The Clerk had booked two mini-buses to transport visitors around the community and he asked that two Members volunteer to act as guides on the buses.

On the proposition of the Chairperson it was proposed and seconded and -

- 1502 RESOLVED: That the Council, in accordance with its powers under Section 142 of the Local Government Act 1972, gives approval to expenditure of up to a maximum of £250 to meet the costs of hosting the New Frankley Showcase.

Code of Conduct

- 1503 The Chairperson reported that a Revised Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members had recently been laid before Parliament and that once the Model Code had received Parliamentary approval, the Clerk would draw up a new Code for the Council. Following approval by the Council, Members would have 28 days to sign up to the revised Code.

QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

COMMUNICATIONS

Tewkesbury Borough Council – Reinstatement of the Free Parcel Service for the British Forces and their Families who are stationed overseas.

The following letter from the Chief Executive of Tewkesbury Borough Council requesting the support of the Parish Council to Tewkesbury B C’s motion was

submitted -

(Interleaved Document No. 1)

- 1504 RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Secretary of State for Defence, supporting the motion as overwhelmingly supported by the Members of Tewkesbury Borough Council requesting that the Government reinstate the free parcel service for British Forces and their families stationed overseas as a matter of urgency.

Travel Care – 49A Bus Service – Petition

The following letter from Travel Care was submitted -

(Interleaved document no.2)

- 1505 RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

Proposed Meeting Longbridge Area Action Plan

The following Email from Alison Woodall, Planning and Regeneration suggesting that Members of the Parish Council meet with officers of the City's Planning and Regeneration Department to discuss the Parish Council' representations was submitted -

(Interleaved document no.3)

- 1506 It was noted that Councillor Grey would be unable to make the proposed date due to holiday commitments and it was agreed that the Clerk write to Ms Woodall seeking an alternative date.

Proposed Local Nature Reserve at Balaam's Wood, Longbridge

The following letter from the Interim Assistant Director (Parks, Sports and Events), Local Services was submitted -

(Interleaved document no.4)

- 1507 RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Reaside Centre

- 1508 Councillor Hollis advised that the Police would undertake bike coding at the Reaside Centre free of charge on Saturday 21 April and that there would also be a table top sale between 10am and 12 noon. Councillor Trefor-Jones added that the Police would also code lawn-mowers as the theft of these articles was increasing.

Neighbourhood Offices

- 1509 The Chairperson expresses concern with regard to the apparent deterioration

of the Neighbourhood Information and Advice and Service on Frankley as he was aware that during the last fortnight a number of residents had attempted to contact the service to book an appointment only to find they were unable to get through on the dedicated phone number. He was also concerned that the last two meetings of the Neighbourhood Office review team of which he was Chair had been cancelled at short notice and accordingly he had been unable to raise the concerns with the senior officer responsible for the service.

Councillor Keith Barton reported that the Senior Constituency Manager, Ian Ellis, had been ill recently which was the reason for the cancellation of the meetings.

Councillor Grey reported that he was aware of the case where a resident had had appointment cancelled at short notice and had been advised to contact Vineyard Road to make another appointment but had been unable to get through to the telephone number given to make another appointment.

Councillor Barton undertook to raise the concerns with the officers at Vineyard Road.

QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL STATUS – PROGRESS REPORT

- 1510 Councillor Carter reported the information required for the application was currently being complied and that he hoped that the Council would be in a position to submit its application towards the end of the year.

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID

Frankley Library – Talkabout Programme

The following application for funding of the Library's Talkabout programme was submitted -

(Interleaved document no. 5)

Following a brief discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hollis, seconded by Councillor Bruckshaw and -

- 1511 **RESOLVED:** That the Council, in accordance with its powers under Sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, agree to incur the following expenditure, which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or of its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure; a grant of £200 towards meeting the expenses of contributors to the Library's Talkabout programme.

Frankley Neighbourhood Forum – Frankley Neighbourhood News

The following application for funding the printing costs of the Frankley Neighbourhood News was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 6)

Prior to the officers of the Forum withdrawing from the meeting during consideration of the application, the Clerk advised that following advice from the Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils the costs of publishing the Neighbourhood News, providing the magazine included information about the services provided by the Local Authority, could be met by using the powers of Section 142 of the Local Government Act 1972 rather than by Section 137 as at present.

The Forum's officers then withdrew and the application for funding was considered.

Councillor Denny, whilst acknowledging the value to the community of the publication, was concerned as to the fragmented responsibility regarding its production. It appeared to him that no one person had overall responsibility for the production with Andy Ross undertaking the editorial duties, the Clerk arranging for the printing and the Forum, via volunteers, undertaking the distribution. He considered that before the Budget for the next financial year was set, there needed to be a thorough review of the whole process as, currently, he considered that there were too many organisations/people involved. This view was supported and it was therefore, proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Trefor-Jones and -

- 1512 RESOLVED: (i) That the Council, in accordance with its powers under Section 142 of the Local Government Act 1972, agree to incur the following expenditure; a grant of £4080 towards the printing costs of 6 editions of the Frankley Neighbourhood News;
- (ii) That the Clerk be authorised to arrange for the payment of the invoices up to the agreed amount of the grant (£4080) without the need to submit a further application;
- (iii) That, prior to the setting of the Council's budget for 2008/2009, a thorough review of the production process of the Neighbourhood News be undertaken.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/00887/07/BCC

**Reaside Community Centre, 17 Ormond Road, Frankley, Birmingham
B45 0JD**

Erection of boundary fencing and gates

Councillor Denny, referring to the number of buildings surrounded by fencing on Frankley, whilst accepting its need, felt that it presented an unwelcoming appearance.

Councillor Grey referred to the fencing around the High School's sports field which the community had reluctantly supported having been given an undertaking that the enclosed area would be opened up to the community as a much need sports facility – something which had yet to happen. Councillor Grey also referred to the building work currently being carried out at Holly Hill School. The contractor was using the pedestrian right of way as a builder's

yard to store rubbish and building materials and had blocked off access to pedestrians without, as far as he was aware, approval from the City Council. The Parish Council had approached the contractor requesting that an access way be created to allow parents access when taking/collecting children from school, but contractor had refused. This state of affairs had now been going on for a couple of months and was likely to continue to the end of the Summer Term. He was concerned that Parish Council had not been consulted on the Planning Application but would now be taking the matter up with the City Council to ensure that the right of way was opened up.

- 1513 RESOLVED: That the Planning Department be advised that the Parish Council has no objection the erection of the fencing and gates around the Reaside Community Centre as more particularly referred to in Planning Application S/00887/07/BCC.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Appeal by Hutchison 3G UK Ltd
Site at Land at Holly Hill Road, Rubery, Rednal, Birmingham B45 0DU

- 1514 The following letter advising of the dismissal of the Appeal submitted by Hutchison 3G UK was noted –

(Interleaved document no. 7)

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

The following responses from the Planning and Regeneration Officers to Richard Burden's questions relating to the Regeneration proposals for the Centre were submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 8)

Councillor Grey stated that there were a number of issues in the responses which he would be raising with the Member of Parliament. Briefly, the major issues were as follows –

- That the decision not to proceed with option 1 – the demolition of the Centre - was not taken all parties but was a decision of the Housing Department.
- There should be one comprehensive regeneration plan for the whole area of the Northfield area and not several apparently unconnected plans;
- The planning restriction for Site C should be revoked to allow potential developers the freedom to develop the Centre without restriction;
- The responses still left a lot of unanswered questions.

Councillor Barton replied that the City could not remove the planning restriction on Site C before any planning application had been submitted as it

could prejudice the application. He added that any Planning Application would be judged on its merits whether it proposed a Change of Use or not.

Councillor Grey considered that the City needed to approach the ERDF to discuss whether it was possible to remove conditions and, if so, how much of the original grant would have to be returned. The situation needed to be clarified before marketing so that potential developers could draw up their plans accordingly.

- 1515 RESOLVED: That the foregoing correspondence be noted.

FRANKLEY BRANCH LINE RE-INSTATEMENT

There was nothing to report.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Reverend Denny's Retirement

- 1516 Councillor Denny reminded Members that he would be retiring as the incumbent of Frankley at the end of the month and he extended an invitation to all Councillors to his retirement party on 28th April at St Christopher's Church Centre.

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Council, took the opportunity of wishing Councillor Denny a long and happy retirement.

Transport Proposals – Longbridge Area Action Plan

- 1517 Councillor Grey advised that the proposals for the provision of public transport were now on the City Council's website.

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 Hollis, and –

- 1518 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 Williams, and –

- 1519 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.

Forthcoming Municipal Elections

Councillor Keith Barton who would be standing for re-election at the forthcoming elections took the opportunity to take opportunity of thanking all Members of the Parish Council for the assistance given him during his term of office.

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

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

- 1520 RESOLVED: That, pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded for the meeting during the consideration of the following -
- o Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2007
 - o Review of the Remuneration of the Clerk
 - o Appointment of Internal Auditor

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDING HELD IN PRIVATE

MINUTES

- 1521 The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 19 March 2007, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed

REMUNERATION OF THE CLERK

- 1522 The Clerk withdrew during consideration of this item. On his return, the Clerk was advised that the Council had agreed to increase his salary by one spinal column point within his salary scale.

APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

- 1523 The appointment of Mrs Diane Malley as Internal Auditor to the Council, in accordance with the conditions set out in the letter submitted was approved.