

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 March 2007 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillors Linda Banks, Ian Bruckshaw, Eric Carter, Michael Denny, Sid Grey MBE, Bill Hollis, Len Lovett, Geoffrey Stephenson and Joanna Walker

Also in Attendance Councillor Sue Barton, Birmingham City Council
Judith Hinton, Leisure Centre Manager
Margaret Wilson, Playscheme Co-ordinator

There was 1 Member of the Public in attendance.

MINUTES

In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, Councillor Eric Carter, took the Chair.

COUNCILLOR CARTER IN THE CHAIR

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Griffiths (Illness) and Trefor-Jones (Illness).

MINUTES

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

1488 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 February 2007, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Frankley Neighbourhood Forum

- 1489 Councillor Hollis, Chairperson of the Frankley Neighbourhood Forum, referred to the Forum's AGM held the previous week and thanked everyone involved in the organisation of it.

OUTCOMES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON 13TH MARCH 2007

The following notes of the Public Meeting held on 13th March 2007 were submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 1)

Councillor Grey stated that the meeting had clearly demonstrated that Frankley was not considered part of the consultation process with respect to the Area Action Plan. Although the representative of St Modwen Properties had been open as to what St Modwen hoped to achieve with the development of the former MG Rover site, Councillor Grey had been surprised at Advantage West Midlands' 'take it or leave it' attitude.

Councillor Grey felt that any resolution of the Parish Council should include reference to the re-instatement of the railway. Additionally, he had been advised that afternoon that the residential properties proposed for the West Works site were in the flood plain and would most probably have to be built elsewhere. Councillor Grey questioned how meaningful consultations on the AAP could take place if the detail of the development was not known.

With regard to the proposals for the retail element of the development, Councillor Grey reminded Members that when the development was first proposed, the proposed retail element was for a store the size of a Tesco Express together with other small shops meant to serve the local community. However, the proposals now included a 7,500 sq m superstore with another 6,000 sq m of retail development which made the development a major retail outlet which would have a detrimental effect on the local shopping centres around the site. Therefore, there needed to be consultation on that aspect of the proposals.

Councillor Denny felt that, however unpalatable, the Council had to accept that it was extremely unlikely that the railway would be build and therefore should now investigate the transport alternatives and undertake consultations with the transport providers so as to ensure that any proposed transport link benefited the community.

Councillor Grey agreed that there now had to be consultations with transport providers but that currently, there were no firm plans or details as to the alternatives on offer. While it appeared that the AAP ruled out the reinstatement of the railway, there appeared to be no detail of the proposed Rapid Transport alternative, such as route, frequency, fares or type of vehicle to be used.

It was agreed that the Council needed to make a representations to the

consultation process and on the suggestion of the Clerk, it was agreed that he and Councillor Grey would produce a draft submission which would then be circulated to all Members for comment. Subject to approval, the Clerk would then submit the document on behalf of the Council to the City Council.

- 1490 RESOLVED: That a draft representation on the Preferred Option be prepared and circulated for approval to all Members and that, subject to approval, the Clerk to send the representations on behalf of the Council to the City Council.

TRAVEL WEST MIDLANDS – 49A BUS

A petition containing 694 signatures objecting to the decision of Travel West Midlands to withdraw the 49A bus was presented by Councillor Grey.

It was proposed by Councillor Grey, seconded by Councillor Stephenson and -

- 1491 RESOLVED: (i) That the petition be received and presented to the forthcoming meeting of the Ward committee for onward transmission to the City Council;
- (ii) That Travel West Midlands be advised that this Council deprecates the decision to withdraw the 49A Service and urges TWM to defer that decision and to undertake consultations with community representatives with regard to the possible continuation of the service.

QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL STATUS – PROGRESS REPORT

- 1492 The Chairperson reported that a meeting of the Working Party had been held the previous week at which the tests, and possible changes to Council procedures to meet the tests, had been discussed. He was confident that, whilst the application may not be made until the end of the year in order to assimilate the required information, the Council would achieve Quality Status.

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID

Frankley Playscheme

- A Frankley Kids Club**
- B Frankley Half Term Activities**
- C Frankley Easter Playscheme**

The following applications for funding for the above community schemes were submitted -

(Interleaved document nos. 2, 3 and 4)

Ms Hinton thanked the Council for its previous support without which the projects which benefited the children of Frankley would not have been so successful.

- 1493 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 £1575 towards the costs of running the Frankley Kids Club, Frankley Half term Activities and the Frankley Easter Playscheme projects.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/07889/06/FUL
Proposed New Aldi Store
Bristol Road South, Longbridge

- 1494 Members were advised that the above mentioned application had been refused for the reasons set out in the attached document –

(Interleaved document no. 5)

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

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

(Interleaved document no. 6)

- 1495 RESOLVED: That the foregoing document be noted.

FRANKLEY BRANCH LINE RE-INSTATEMENT

The matter had been referred to earlier in the meeting.

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. 7)

It was proposed by Councillor Hollis, seconded by Councillor Joanne Walker, and –

- 1496 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. 8)

It was proposed by Councillor Hollis, seconded by Councillor Joanne Walker, and –

- 1497 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.

49A Bus

Councillor Sue Barton advised that a representative of Travel West Midlands would be present at the Ward Committee meeting on Wednesday. Councillor Grey stated the situation had arisen because of the re-scheduling of the 61 Route on the Bristol Road making the 49A surplus to requirements according to TWM. However, the proposal to withdraw the 49A service had been taken without consultation and there were issues which need to be discussed.

Bus Shelters – Ormond Road

Councillor Sue Barton reported that she had been assured the order for the remaining three hard standings had been raised although no date had been given for the work to be completed. CENTRO had also assured that once the hard standings had been completed the shelters would be installed.

Provision of Lighting, Brightstone Road

Councillor Sue Barton reported that the City's legal department had completed the necessary paperwork which had then been passed to the owner of the land.

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

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

- 1498 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 -
Approval of Clerk's Revised Contract of Employment

Summary of the proceeding of the meeting held in private.

A revised Contract of Employment was submitted for Members' approval. During the ensuing discussion one change from the document submitted was proposed and agreed relating to the Clerk's principal place of work which was to be the Parish Office.

The amended Contract of Employment was approved and the Chairperson authorised to sign it on behalf of the Council.

Draft Version