

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 July 2007 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Gareth Griffiths (In the Chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, Ian Bruckshaw, Eric Carter, Sid Grey MBE, Bill Hollis, Len Lovett, Geoff Stephenson, Joanna Walker and Geoff Williams

Also in attendance City Councillors Keith and Sue Barton

There was 1 Member of the Public in attendance.

PUBLIC MINUTES

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

1595 An apology for absence for the reason given was submitted on behalf of Councillor Trefor-Jones (Holiday) and was accepted.

MINUTES

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

1596 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 June 2007, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1597 There were none

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Public Notice – Adoption of the Code of Conduct

1598 The Chairperson reported that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 51(6) of the Local Government Act 2000, a Public Notice advising that the Council had adopted the revised Code of Conduct had been placed in the Birmingham Post.

Appointment of Member to Serve on the Northfield Flood Committee

The Chairperson reported that due to the recent unseasonable weather, the Northfield Flood Committee had been resurrected and there was a need to

appoint a Member to serve thereon.

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was proposed by Councillor Linda Banks, seconded by Councillor Williams, and –

- 1599 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008, Councillor Carter be appointed to serve on the Northfield Flood Committee as the representative of the Parish Council.

QUESTIONS

There were none.

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENTAL, HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

- 1600 The following Minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 2 July 2007 were noted –

(Interleaved document no. 1)

REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Frankley Neighbourhood Forum

- 1601 Councillor Grey reported that, at the last meeting of the Forum, a number of Members had expressed concern regarding the arrangements for the disposal of branches etc when residents pruned trees. With the effective closure of the Quntry Lane tip to Birmingham residents, the only option in most cases, whilst not condoning the practice, was fly tipping. On behalf of the Forum he therefore requested that the Council consider the re-introduction of the prunnings shredding service which the Council had previously made available to residents.

It was pointed out that the City's Green Waste service would collect some of the smaller cuttings while the Council could arrange for the collection of the larger cuttings using the Neighbourhood Caretakers. However, whilst it was accepted that the situation regarding the trees on the estate was getting worse each year, given the cost of resurrecting the shredding service it was felt that the situation had to be managed by the Green Waste collection and the Neighbourhood Caretakers. It was agreed that an article be placed in the next edition of the Neighbourhood News and that residents be given the information when they attend the Office to request that the prunnings from trees be collected.

Councillor Barton indicated that the larger prunnings could be taken up to Cofton Park depot, but accepted there could be a difficulties in transporting larger branches.

QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL STATUS – PROGRESS REPORT

The following draft Annual Report for publication in the next edition of the Neighbourhood News was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 2)

Councillors Joanna Walker and Williams pointed out that the telephone numbers against their names were incorrect.

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

- 1602 RESOLVED: That the Annual Report, as submitted and amended, be approved for publication in the next edition of the Neighbourhood News.

APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID

Frankley Resolve – Gardening Competition

The following application for funding of £100 towards the prize fund and administration costs of the Gardening Competition 2007 was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 3)

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Joanna Walker, and –

- 1603 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 £100 towards the running costs and the prize fund of the 2007 Gardening Competition.

CO-OPERATIVE BANK – REGISTRATION OF PASS NUMBER

The Clerk advised that, as part of the change of signatories, it was necessary to register a new pass number which would allow the Clerk to carry out telephone banking but not to arrange for the withdrawal of funds from the accounts.

It proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Linda Banks, and –

- 1604 RESOLVED: (i) The Council agrees to the use of the Co-operative Bank plc ('the Bank') Customer Services ('the Service') subject to the Terms and Conditions overleaf and the Terms and Conditions in the Council's main business account which relate to the use of the service, a copy of which was produced at the meeting.
- (ii) In all other aspects, the Council's mandate with the Bank

will continue unaffected.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Aldi Food Store – Bristol Road South

- 1605 With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor Keith Barton advised that the planning application submitted on behalf of Aldi for a food store on the site of the former Texaco petrol station on the Bristol Road South had been refused.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 1606 The Clerk advised that details of the Development Opportunity relating to the land at the Centre had appeared in the appropriate trade journals. Potential developers had 6 weeks in which to prepare their outline bids which would then be assessed by a short listing panel made up of officers of the City Council and G V A Grimley who were acting as agents to the City. Once the short list of preferred developers had been chosen, the Cabinet would make the final decision and it was hoped that, in the interim, the Frankley Community would be afforded the opportunity of considering the developers' proposals and expressing their views.

It was anticipated that the legal negotiations would be complete by the end of the first quarter of 2008 and planning applications for the development would then be by the summer. Subject to planning consent, it was predicted that the actual construction would start towards the end of next year.

TRANSPORT ISSUES

- 1607 The Chairperson expressed concern that not all the buses on the 49 route were wheel chair/push chair friendly and suggested that TWM, the route operator, be advised of the Council's concern.

Councillor Linda Bank complained that the 61 buses were causing traffic problems at the terminus at Crompton Road, due to the numbers using it. Councillor Sue Barton advised that she would take the matter up with TWM but would require the numbers of the buses and the time of the incidents.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- 1608 Following concerns raised by Councillor Stephenson regarding the Bus Shelters recently installed on Ormond Road, Councillor Keith Barton advised that he would take the matters up at the forthcoming meeting of CENTRO.

PAYMENTS

(i) Business Visa Credit Card

The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement was submitted -

(Interleaved document no. 4)

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

1609 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 Lovett, seconded by Councillor Hollis, and -

1610 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At 1959 hours, the meeting adjourned to enable the Members of the Public to raise issues of concern.

Annual Report 2007

Councillor Keith Barton, referring to the Annual Report considered earlier in the meeting, reminded Members that the Neighbourhood Renewal Funding would cease in 2008 although the Community Chest funding would continue. In the absence of any replacement for NRF, the Neighbourhood Caretakers Scheme would be funded via the Community Chest although he accepted that would result in other projects not being funded. With regard to the Traffic Calming measures in Ormond Road, it had been agreed that £100,000 from the Great Park development Section 106 fund would be allocated for the scheme which it was projected would cost in the region of £170,000. In connection with the Forestdale Project, although initial funding had been identified, there was still a requirement to access significant funds for the project to be completed. Amongst the Community facilities planned was the provision of Youth Shelter which it was hoped that the young adults of the area would use.

Ring and Ride Service – Use of temporary car park

Mr Des Rogers, operations managers for the Ring and Ride Service, expressed concern as to the uncertainty regarding the future of the area of land currently used as a car park for the employees of the Ring and Ride Service.

Mr Rogers explained that following the establishment of the Ring and Ride Service on the Arden Business Park, the Service had been encouraged to

take on another unit when the Kings Norton Depot closed down. Because of the difficulties with public transport and the fact that the drivers worked unsocial hours, the Service approached Arden Park Properties with a view to leasing the area of land between the Units and Arden Walk to use as a car park – a facility which the Service felt was essential. Arden Park Properties agreed to lease the land and applied, successfully, for temporary planning permission for use as a car park. The Ring and Ride Service paid £10,000 to resurface the land so that it could be used as a car park.

However, with the lease for the car park now due to expire the Service had been concerned to learn that the site had been included in the land currently being offered for redevelopment. Attempts had been made to purchase the lease from Arden Park Properties or the City Council, unsuccessfully. Mr Rogers understood that the area of land in question had been earmarked for use as a car park should the heavy rail link from Longbridge ever be reinstated, but according to the information he had received it was unlikely that the link would be reinstated. Mr Rogers stated that if the Service was unsuccessful in obtaining a lease for the use of the land then that could have serious consequences for employment in the area as the Service could not afford to lose a valuable dedicated parking space. The lease with Arden Park Properties expired in June 07 and if the situation was not sorted satisfactorily then the Service would have to review its position when the Lease on the units expired in 2008. He was therefore seeking the support of the Council.

Councillor Grey stated that while the decision regarding the reinstatement of the railway had yet to be made, despite CENTRO's support, it was unlikely to gain approval. The situation was typical of the Council with major decisions being deferred as was the case with the development of the Centre which was being affected by what was happening at Longbridge.

There being no further issues to be raised by the public, the meeting was reconvened at 2014 hours

- 1611 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 -
- Interview prospective candidate for co-option to the Council.

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS HELD IN PRIVATE

- 1612 Following an interview, Mr Des Rogers was unanimously co-opted onto the Council for the remainder of the period ending with the Parish Council elections in May 2008.

Meeting ended at 2021