

**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, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 1930 hours.

**Present**

Councillor Gareth Griffiths (In the Chair)

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

Also in Attendance Councillor Keith Barton – Longbridge Ward Councillor  
Judith Hinton – Manager, Frankley Community Leisure Centre  
David Grant – Resident, Brightstone Road

**MINUTES**

**APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bruckshaw and Williams due to illness. The apologies were accepted.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (EXISTENCE AND NATURE) WITH REGARD TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

1716 Hereon, the under mentioned Members declared their respective interests in the Agenda Items indicated below –

Councillor	Agenda Item	Interest
Linda Banks	Grant Application – Frankley Church Community Project	Prejudicial – Member of the Project's Management Committee
Geoffrey Stephenson	Grant Applications – Frankley Community Library – Large Print Books and Talkabout Group	Personal – User of the Large Print Books and the Talkabout Group.
Stephen Trefor-Jones	Grant Application – Frankley Church Community Project	Prejudicial – Member of the Project's Management Committee

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

**Grant Application – Frankley Church Community Project**

- 1717 Speaking in support of the Project's application, Councillor Trefor-Jones explained that applications for funding had been made to other agencies in anticipation of the ending of NRF but decisions on those applications were still awaited. So as to permit the work of the Family/Community Support worker to continue, the Project was seeking funding from the Parish Council to cover the employment costs for two months as, by that time, the Project should know whether or not its other funding applications had been successful. If those applications were unsuccessful then the project would have to prepare a managed exit strategy.

(Councillors Linda Banks and Trefor-Jones then withdrew from the meeting.)

Councillor Barton also spoke in support of the application. He advised that although NRF would come to an end at the end of the month, the City Council would still be allocating a Community Chest of £100,000 to each Ward. Should the Project make an application for funding, then such an application would be considered by the Longbridge Ward Advisory Board.

(Councillors Linda Banks and Trefor-Jones returned to the meeting).

**MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Lovett, seconded by Councillor Trefor-Jones and -

- 1718 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2008, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

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

- 1719 The following Minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008 were noted –

(Interleaved document 1)

**CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairperson reported that Councillor Bruckshaw was in hospital and, on behalf of the Council, wished him a speedy recovery.

**QUESTIONS**

There were none.

**REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO WHICH MEMBERS BELONG**  
**Northfield District Flood Committee**

- 1720 Councillor Carter reported that, at the last meeting of the above mentioned Committee, he had voiced his concerns regarding the lack of cleaning of the river course particularly in the area of Fisher Close.

**Northfield Strategic Partnership Meeting**

- 1721 Council Grey reported that he had attended the last meeting of the Partnership in place of the Chairperson who had another engagement. He had found the meeting to be of great interest particularly the information regarding the number of projects which were currently being undertaken in the Northfield District. He was, however, concerned that the information relating to those projects had not been disseminated to the Parish Council and other groups on Frankley. In this connection he went onto refer to a comment from the Senior Constituency Manager, Tracey Radford, to the effect that the groups on Frankley were not working together and he questioned how the groups could work together when they were not being made aware of the many projects being undertaken within the constituency.

As an example of the Parish Council not being kept informed he cited the case of the Local Nature Reserve which had only come to the Council's attention by way of the Ward Committee. It was, in his opinion, extremely important for all groups on Frankley to be kept informed of the activities being undertaken in the Northfield Constituency. Councillor Grey pointed out that the Parish Council, via the Parish Office, was a great source of information to the residents of Frankley and should therefore be kept informed of relevant activities in the Constituency.

**APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS**

**A Easter Activities 08**

The following application for a grant of £500 towards the cost of the Easter Activities 08 was submitted –

(Interleaved document 2)

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

- 1722 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 contribution of £500 towards the cost of the Easter Activities 08.

**B Large Print Collection**

The following application for a grant of £400 towards the cost of maintaining the Frankley

Community Library's Large Print Collection –

(Interleaved document 3)

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

- 1723 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 £500 to fund the purchase of resource material and equipment for the Large Print Collection.

**C Summer Playscheme Craft and Book Related Activities**

The following application for a grant of £200 towards the cost of supporting the Summer Playscheme by offering more craft and book related activities was submitted –

(Interleaved document 4)

Councillor Rogers expressed concern that, according to the application form, it would appear that the Library had no Health and Safety policies in place. The Clerk assured the Councillor that the Library operated within the policies set by the City Council. However he would ensure that, on future applications, it was made clear.

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

- 1724 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 the cost of supporting the Summer Playscheme by offering more craft and book related activities.

**D Talkabout Group Support**

The following application for a grant of £400 to enable the Library to meet the expenses of speakers for the year –

(Interleaved document 5)

It was proposed by Councillor Grey, seconded by Councillor Trefor-Jones, and -

- 1725 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 £400 to enable the Library to met the expenses of the speakers for the year.

(At this point of the proceedings, Councillors Linda Banks and Trefor-Jones withdrew from the meeting.)

### **E Frankley Community Church Project**

The following application for a grant of £3736.18 to cover the costs of the Project's Family/Community Support Worker plus overheads for 2 months pending the determination of applications to other agencies for funding for the post –

(Interleaved document 6)

Councillor Carter felt that the services offered by the project were well covered by other agencies across the Northfield Constituency and therefore the application should not be approved.

However, Councillor Grey, while supportive of the application, felt that as it had been known for some time that NRF funding would finish at the end of March, action to obtain alternative funding should have been taken much earlier. The Project was now in a position of not knowing whether funding would be available to fund the continuation of the post of Family/Community Support worker and the grant, if approved by the Council, could merely fund the winding up of the post. However, he indicated that he would support the application.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Grey, seconded by Councillor Hollis, and -

- 1726 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 £3736.18 to cover the costs of the Project's Family/Community Support Worker plus overheads for 2 months pending the determination of applications to other agencies for funding for the post .

(Councillors Linda Banks and Trefor- Jones returned to the meeting.)

### **CHANGE TO THE COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS**

The Clerk reported that as a result of legal advice given at WALC's Annual Briefing on 8<sup>th</sup> March, it was proposed to amend the Council's Standing Orders relating to Member's declarations of interests, in order to clarify a Member's right to make representations, give evidence or answer questions on any matter in which they had a prejudicial interest before withdrawing from the meeting providing members of the public were afforded the same rights.

In accordance with Standing Order 73, the Council were requested to move, without

discussion, that a revised Standing Order be submitted to the April meeting of the Council.

Accordingly, it was proposed by Councillor Trefor-Jones, seconded by Councillor Stephenson, and –

- 1727 RESOLVED: That a revised Standing Order be submitted for approval to the April meeting of the Council.

### **GREEN ELECTRICITY**

- 1728 Councillor Trefor-Jones sought the approval of the Council to explore the possibility of changing the Council's energy supplier to one which guaranteed to provide electricity produced from only renewable energy sources (wind, hydro, wave etc).

Following some discussion, during which Councillor Rogers, a supporter of Nuclear Energy, abstained, it was agreed that Councillor Trefor-Jones submit a report to the next meeting.

### **LONGBRIDGE AREA ACTION PLAN**

- 1729 Councillor Grey reported that as part of the final consultation process relating to the Plan, it was proposed to hold an exhibition at the Parish Office on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March between 4.00pm and 7.00pm at which residents could question City Council officers on the Plan.

Referring to the last Consultation meeting, Councillors Grey reported that the three Northfield Ward Councillors were apparently proposing to undertake a consultation exercise in connection with the development of Longbridge Lane. However, he pointed out that the Planning Inspectorate's advice regarding Area Action Plan's final consultation process required full details of the development proposals to be known so that consultees would be fully aware what was to be proposed in the Plan. In spite of this, the definitive proposals currently the subject of consultation were lacking from the current Plan which, Councillor Grey suggested, meant that the process was flawed as consultees could not make an informed decision on the proposals.

Additionally, in the initial newsletter outlining what was to be proposed for the site, the developer had indicated that a health centre would be included. Although land for such a centre was available, the developer had now indicated that it was up to the PCT to fund a centre – yet another case of the developer stepping back from its initial promises.

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

#### **A Planning Application S/00649/08/FUL**

**77 Miranda Close, Frankley, Birmingham**

**Erection of two storey side extension, conservatory and single storey rear extension with balcony over**

- 1730 Councillor Carter questioned whether any Member had gone to the site to ask neighbours about the proposed development as he felt that before considering the Application, the

Council should be aware of the neighbours' views. It was agreed that, in future, a Member of the Planning Committee should undertake a site visit so that Members could be informed of the views of the neighbours.

**B Planning Application S/01180/BCC**

**Forestdale Primary School Playing Field, Frankley**

**Change of use of existing playing field to part playing field and part public open space including erection of fencing, play equipment, earthworks and associated landscaping.**

- 1731 It was agreed that the Planning Application in respect of the development of the Forestdale School Playing Field be supported.

**DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were none

**FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT**

- 1732 The Clerk reported that following Cabinet approval of the development proposals submitted by Taylor Wimpey, the firm had been given a licence to enable it to undertake investigations into the Mound. Those investigations would take approximately 10 weeks and depending upon the results may require alternations to the proposals.

**TRANSPORT ISSUES**

**Bus Shelters**

- 1733 A number of members felt that in view of the appalling state of the shelters on Arden Road and Ormond Road, the Council should request CENTRO that they be removed. However, other Councillors felt that such a course of action would send the wrong message to the vandals who were causing the damage as well as inconveniencing those residents the shelters had been installed for.

Following further discussion it was agreed to write to CENTRO/Safer Travel Police Team expressing the Council's concerns and requesting that action be taken to address the problem.

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**Council Social Evening**

- 1734 Councillor Carter thanked Councillor Linda Banks for organising the recent Social Evening and the Clerk for paying the bill.

**Frankley Crimestoppers**

- 1735 In response to a question from Councillor Linda Banks regarding the progress of the installation of the Crimestoppers line at the Parish Office, the Clerk advised that he was

still waiting for the Police to approve the proposal.

**Frankley Youth Forum's Bus**

- 1736 Councillor Rogers referred to the Forum's Bus which had been parked in the WMSNT compound on Arden Road for some time and which he now believed was to be scrapped. He felt that such action was a waste of a valuable resource.

**'The Duck Pond' – Land between Community High School and Princess Diana Walk**

- 1737 Councillor Stephenson referred to the area of land between the rear of the Community High School and the Princess Diana Walk which was prone to flooding after heavy rain. Whilst the accumulated water posed little danger in daylight, it could be a hazard at night. He therefore requested that the 'duck pond' be brought to the attention of the appropriate department of the City Council with a request for appropriate safety measures to be installed.

**PAYMENTS**

**Schedule of Payments**

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(Interleaved document 6)

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

- 1738 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

**LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

- 1739 Councillor Barton made the following points regarding items raised during the meeting -

**LAAP/Longbridge Lane**

The Longbridge Lane consultation being undertaken by the Northfield Ward Councillors was not part of the LAAP consultation process as the results would be used to inform proposals on design of Longbridge Lane outside the LAAP.

**Health Centre – Former MGRover site.**

It was never envisaged that the developers would build a Health Centre on the former MGRover site – merely offer land. However, the PCT had advised that their investigations had indicated that there was insufficient need for a Health Centre on the site.

**Planning Applications**

**A Miranda Close**

Councillor Barton expressed concerned regarding the proposed development in Miranda Close as it included a balcony which may overlook neighbours. He added that a previous similar application elsewhere in the Ward had been lost on an appeal for that reason.

**B Forestdale Community Park**

The Ward Councillors supported the application for the change of use to part Public Open Space necessary in order to access S106 funding.

**Bus Shelters**

After all the work to get the bus shelters on Ormond Road it would be a shame if they were to be removed. He agreed that all concerned must put pressure on CENTRO/Safer Travel Police Force to take action to tackle the vandalism.

**Frankley Youth Affairs Forum**

The bus referred to by Councillor Rogers would be sold and would continue to be used elsewhere as a youth facility. A new bus had been purchased - 'Beyond Midnight' – and according to Youth Workers was proving to be a success in the Constituency.

**Frankley Regeneration**

Councillor Barton submitted the following update regarding the Centre Redevelopment –

(Interleaved document 7)

The meeting ended at 2045 hours.

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Chairperson