

-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, 18th February 2008 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Gareth Griffiths (In the Chair)

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

Also in Attendance Helen Southall, General Manager, Northfield Locality, South Birmingham PCT
David Grant (Resident – Brightstone Road)

MINUTES

SIR RICHARD KNOWLES

- 1690 The Council observed one minute's silence to pay their respects following the death of Sir Richard Knowles. It was agreed that the Clerk send a letter of condolence to Lady Knowles on behalf of the Council.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1691 Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bruckshaw due to work commitments and Councillor Rogers due to work commitments. The apologies were accepted.

MINUTES

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

- 1692 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21st January 2008, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1693 Hereon Councillor Trefor-Jones declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item 10B.

FRANKLEY HEALTH CENTRE

- 1694 Ms Helen Southall, General Manager, Northfield Locality, South Birmingham PCT attended the meeting.

In response to the concerns expressed at the December's meeting regarding

the lack of medical services at the Centre such as removal of stitches and the dressing of wounds, Ms Southall explained that all GP Surgeries were required in their General Medical Services contract to provide general medical care but services such as the removal of stitches were part of an enhanced service which were not obligatory and it was the decision of the Practice as to whether or not such services were provided. The PCT attempted to ensure that within the local area at least one Practice offered the enhanced services – in this case St Heliers.

A number of Members commented that Frankley had a large population of elderly residents and, for some, even the relatively short trip to St Heliers in Northfield presented problems. However, Ms Southall, whilst acknowledging those difficulties reiterated that the PCT could not force the Centre to take on services above the basic contract.

With regard to the 27% reduction in patient numbers since 2000, Ms Southall explained that such a decline over that period of time was not unusual and could be the result of residents moving out of the area and new residents not registering with the Practice as well as residents moving to another Practice. She added that during the last 6 months there had been little change to the number of patients registered at the Centre. In response to questions as to the continued viability of the Centre she gave an assurance that the PCT had an obligation to continue to ensure an adequate GP service was provided within the Frankley area.

Following some further discussion, Ms Southall undertook to communicate the Council's concerns to the Practice but reiterated that the PCT could not force the Practice to take on the enhanced services.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tree Planting

- 1695 The Chairperson advised that there would be a tree planting ceremony on Ormond Road held 29th February.

APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT MEMBER FOR THE 14TH MARCH MEETING OF THE NORTHFIELD STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Upon receipt of a nomination it was –

- 1696 RESOLVED: That Councillor Grey be nominated to attend the meeting of the Northfield Strategic Partnership on 14th March 2008, in place of Councillor Griffiths.

QUESTIONS

There were none.

REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO WHICH MEMBERS BELONG

Northfield District Flood Committee

- 1697 Councillor Carter reported that he had attended a recent meeting of the Northfield District Flood Committee on behalf of the Parish Council. He felt that it was a strong Committee providing a lot of useful contacts in case of flooding. With regard to those Parish Councillors who originally volunteered to act as Flood Wardens he hoped that they continued to go out when there was heavy rain and that they could continue to be called upon in the case of emergency. He added that Veronica Coleman was looking for dedicated emergency centres which could be used in the cases of emergencies. However, the Parish Council already had such an arrangement with the Reaside Centre although he felt that there was a need to ensure that the arrangements were still in place.

Northfield District Committee

- 1698 Councillor Trefor-Jones reported that he had attended the last meeting of the Northfield District Committee and was appalled at the conduct of the meeting. He was not allowed to voice his concerns regarding the effect on local shopping centres of the proposed Town Centre on the former MGRover site. Additionally, he was disgusted at the Chair's refusal to allow Councillor Grey to point out an error on the agenda yet he (the Chair) allowed officers of the District to speak even if the subject matter was outside their remit. He had sent the following letter to Richard Burden with a copy to the Chair of the Constituency Committee.

(Interleaved document 1)

Councillor Grey reported that he had also written to Richard Burden with his concerns. He felt that the whole structure of District Committees needed investigation and that in the interests of democracy, the public should be allowed to participate.

CORRESPONDENCE

A Fencing Around Frankley High School Playing Field and the Area of Open Land Adjacent to the Playing Field

- 1699 The following letters from Education and the Leisure Services in response to letters from the Parish Council concerning damage to the fencing around the playing field and the state of the public area adjacent to the playing field were noted –

(Interleaved document 2)

B Lighting – Frankley Plus Children's Centre

- 1700 The following letter from the Head of the Children's Centre in response to the Council's concerns regarding the intensity of the security lighting was noted –

(Interleaved document 3)

C Audit Commission – Appointment of External Auditor

- 1701 The following letter from the Audit Commission advising of the appointment of Clement Keys as the Council's External Auditor for a 5 year period commencing with the 2007/2008 accounts was noted –

(Interleaved document 4)

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

A Frankley Summer Activities 07

The following application for a grant of £2,500 towards the cost of the Frankley Summer Playscheme was submitted –

(Interleaved document 5)

Following a brief discussion during which members expressed appreciation of the work of the Playscheme it was proposed by Councillor Grey that the sum granted be increased to £2,700.

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

- 1702 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 £2,700 towards the cost of the Frankley Summer Activities 07.

B Teeny Tots

The following application for a grant of £500 to fund the purchase of resources and equipment to the newly established Teeny Tots, a mother and toddler group serving the Frankley community was submitted –

(Interleaved document 6)

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

- 1703 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.

C Grizedale Sheltered Accommodation

The Clerk explained that in November last year the Council approved a grant of up to £500 to purchase a Television, DVD Player and Television Licence for the Grizedale Sheltered Accommodation common room. However, following purchase of the equipment it was found that the existing aerial did not work

so, in consultation with the Chairperson, the Clerk arranged for a new aerial to be fitted to cost of which was approximately £200. The Clerk was therefore seeking Council approval to vary the original minute by the substitution of £700 in the place of £500.

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

- 1704 RESOLVED: That Minute No. 1652 (November 2007) be varied by the substitution of £700 in the place of £500.

D Purchase of Poop Scoops

The Clerk reported that until recently, the City's Animal Welfare Section had provided the Parish Council with poop scoops for distribution to dog owners on Frankley. However, the Animal Welfare Section had now expressed concern that Frankley was allegedly using one third of the City's annual supply and had therefore taken the decision to cease supplying the Council. The poop scoops were much in demand by the dog owners and the view was that the Council should purchase a supply in order to continue to supply responsible dog owners. The Animal Welfare Section has provided the Council with a quotation of £8.05 plus VAT per 1000. Approval was therefore sought to initially purchase 20,000 bags at a cost of £161 + VAT, 20,000 being the numbers of poop scoops the Animal Welfare Service said the Council hand out annually.

Councillor Grey suggested that the Council record introduce a system to record the areas of Frankley where those dog owners requesting poop scoops live in order to see whether or not the distribution is spread evenly across the community.

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

- 1705 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; the purchase of 20,000 poop scoops from the City Council's Animal Welfare Section at a cost of £161 plus VAT.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT – 31ST DECEMBER 2008

- 1706 The following report of the Clerk was noted –

(Interleaved document 7)

TRAINING COURSE

Details of the WALC Briefing Seminar "Working For Communities" scheduled to be held on Saturday 8th March 2008 were submitted –

- 1707 Upon receipt of nominations it was agreed that Councillors Carter, Grey and Trefor-Jones together with the Clerk attend the Seminar.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE TRAINING COURSE ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS CARTER, GRIFFITHS, TREFOR-JONES AND JOANNA WALKER ON SATURDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2008 AT ATHERSTONE.

A Storage of Legal Documents

- 1708 The Clerk reported that action should be taken to ensure the integrity of Council documents such as Minutes, Accounts, Annual Returns, Tax Records as if such documents, which were required by law to be kept in perpetuity, were to be lost, they could not be replaced. It was agreed that the Clerk investigate proposals for the safe storage and to report back to a future meeting.

B Audit Committee Meetings

- 1709 It was agreed that meetings of the Audit Committee would be held quarterly in future rather than annually.

LONGBRIDGE AREA ACTION PLAN – DRAFT SUBMISSION DOCUMENT

The following draft submission was submitted -

(Interleaved document 9)

- 1710 It was agreed that the submission be referred to the Planning Committee for final approval.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 1711 Councillor Grey reported that an Application to use the new West Works on the former MGRover site as storage and distribution centre had recently be approved.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 1712 The Clerk reported that the City Council Cabinet Committee – Property, had at its meeting on 24th January, approved a development scheme submitted by Taylor Wimpey for the Centre. Taylor Wimpey had been given licence to investigate the Mound which it was anticipated would take 8 to 10 weeks. Negotiations regarding the Development Agreement would take approximately 6 months and the Planning Approval approximately 3 moths. It was hoped therefore that work on the development would commence in the spring of 2009. The Clerk added that Taylor Wimpey has an established record for consultations with communities regarding developments. Parish Council would organise the consultations assisted by Local Services.

TRANSPORT ISSUES

Nothing to report

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- 1713 It was agreed to hold a social gathering at the Black Horse and Illey on Monday March 10th at 7.30pm.

PAYMENTS

(i) Business Visa Credit Card

The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement was submitted -

(Interleaved document 10)

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

- 1714 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 11)

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

- 1715 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At 2115 hours, it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to enable the Members of the Public to raise issues of concern.

There being no issues to be raised by the public, Standing Orders were reinstated at 2115 hours

The meeting ended at 2116 hours.

.....

Chairperson