

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, 18 June 2007 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Gareth Griffiths (In the Chair)

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

There was 1 Member of the Public in attendance.

MINUTES

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1567 Apologies for absence for the reasons given were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bruckshaw (Family illness), Trefor-Jones (Attendance at the Northfield Constituency Committee) and Williams (Hospital appointment) and were accepted.

It was noted that Councillors Keith and Sue Barton were unable to attend the meeting due to their attendance at the Northfield Constituency Committee.

MINUTES

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

1568 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21 May 2007, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1569 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 - 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
Bill Hollis	Grant Application – Frankley Neighbourhood Forum	Prejudicial – Member of the Forum’s Management Committee – Member left the room during consideration of the application

CHAIRPERSON’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Local Nature Reserve

- 1570 The Chairperson reported that the previous Tuesday evening, Members of the Parish Council accompanied Joe Hayden (District Parks Manager, Northfield) on a site visit to inspect ‘the Meadow’ which the City, with the support of the Friends of Balaam’s Wood was proposing to designate as a Local Nature Reserve. The Parish Council originally had reservations regarding the proposal and wanted to be satisfied that the Reserve, whilst being maintained as a wild meadow, would allow access and use by the residents of Frankley.

Mr Hayden explained that the proposals would entail the introduction of an agreed management plan for the Meadow as well increased protection for the area from development. So as to ensure residents had access to the Meadow and were able to make use of it the Parish Council suggested that an area of grassland be cut back in the Meadow which would permit informal picnic areas as well as becoming a resource for the schools wishing to study the area’s wildlife.

This was agreed and Mr Hayden undertook to produce an amended management plan for the area together with proposals for the constitution of the Reserve’s Management Committee. The report, which was due to be presented at the following night’s Ward Committee, was withdrawn and an amended version, incorporating the proposals agreed will be submitted to the next meeting in September.

Councillor Grey, whilst supportive of the Council’s position, expressed personal reservations as to the agreement reached.

Casual Vacancy - Co-option

- 1571 The Chairperson reported that the casual vacancy caused by the resignation of Michael Denny had been advertised in accordance with the legislative requirements. At the end of the period allowed for local electors to petition for a by-election to fill the vacancy, no such requests had been made.

Accordingly, the Parish Council was now required to take steps to fill the vacancy by co-option as soon as practicable. Following this meeting a Notice would be displayed at various locations around the parish inviting interested individuals who were 18 or over, who either lived in the parish or within 3 miles of it or whose principal place of business was in the parish to submit their names for consideration by the Council to fill the vacancy by co-option.

Interested candidates would be invited to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council at which they would be offered the opportunity of addressing the Parish Council in support of their application by outlining the qualities they feel they would be able to bring to the Council if appointed.

QUESTIONS

Local Nature Reserve – Management Committee

- 1572 In response to a question from Councillor Linda Banks concerning the constitution of the proposed Management Committee, Councillor Grey advised that Mr Hayden would draw up a draft constitution for the Management Committee which would include the number of representatives to be nominated by each group. Subject to that constitution being agreed, Mr Hayden would then invite the various groups to nominate their representatives and convene the inaugural meeting at which the constitution would be formally adopted.

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

- 1573 The following Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 4 June 2007 were noted –

(Interleaved document no. 1)

COMMUNICATIONS

Ministry of Defence - Reinstatement of the Free Parcel Service for the British Forces and their Families who are stationed overseas.

- 1574 The following letter from the Ministry of defence in response to the Council's request for the reinstatement of the free parcel service was noted –

(Interleaved Document No. 2)

Worcestershire County Council – Residents Permit Scheme

The following letters from Contracts Manager, Waste Management Unit, Worcestershire County Council was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 3)

The Clerk reported that he had raised the matter at the Ward Committee the previous week and had received an assurance that the matter would be taken up with the Ward Councillor's colleagues on Bromsgrove D C.

1575 RESOLVED: That the letters be noted.

REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Longbridge Area Action Plan Consultative Committee

1576 Councillor Carter reported that he and Councillor Grey had attended a meeting of the LAAP Consultative Committee the previous week. Unfortunately, there had been no significant progress although the representatives of Bromsgrove D C had reported that the authority would be submitting a 76 page planning document in 6 months time – presumably in connection with the development of the former east works.

Councillor Grey stated that according to the timetable the draft AAP had to be submitted to the Secretary of State by September. He was still concerned that, apart from the Technology site, there were still no firm proposals as to the development of the rest of the site and it was therefore difficult for interested parties to address the issues which would no doubt arise from the development.

Standards Board for England – Nottingham Road Show

1577 The Chairperson stated that, as a Member of the City Council's Standards Committee, he had recently attended the Standards Board for England's Nottingham Roadshow which was held as part of the publication of the revised Code of Conduct. He had found the meeting to be both interesting and informative.

QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL STATUS – PROGRESS REPORT

1578 Councillor Carter reported that the information required for the application was continuing to be compiled and that he anticipated that the Council would be in a position to submit its application in September.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 4)

Following a brief introductory commentary from the Clerk, it was proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Hollis, and –

- 1579 RESOLVED:
- (i) That the Code of Conduct as set out at Annex A to the report be adopted as the New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council's Code of Conduct for Members with immediate effect and that a copy of the Code be given to each Member;
 - (ii) That the Council agreed to specifically adopt paragraph 12 (2) of the Model Code.
 - (iii) That the relevant pro-forma annexed to this report

(Annexes B, D and E) be approved;

- (iv) That each Member of the Council give their written and signed declarations (Annex B) to the Proper Officer of the Council as soon as possible and, in any event, within 28 days of this meeting so as to avoid being automatically disqualified;
- (v) That within 28 days of this meeting, each Member of the Council submit their written and signed returns for New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council's Statutory Register of Members' Interests and the Statutory Register of Gifts or Hospitality (Annexes D and E);
- (vi) That the Clerk of the Council be authorised to complete the legal formalities with regard to the adoption of New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

STANDING ORDERS

The following copy of the revised Standing Orders were submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 5)

It was proposed by Councillor Grey, seconded by Councillor Hollis, and –

- 1580 RESOLVED: That the Standing Orders, as now submitted be adopted with immediate effect and that a copy thereof be given to each Member.

ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

Statement of Internal Control for the Year Ended 31 March 2007

The following Statement of Internal Control was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 6)

- 1581 RESOLVED: That the Statement of Internal Control, as approved by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 4 June 2007, be adopted as part of the Annual Governance Statement.

Annual Return – Annual Governance Statement

The following Annual Governance Statement was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 7)

- 1582 RESOLVED: That the Annual Governance Statement as now submitted, be approved and that the Chairperson and the Clerk be authorised to sign the Statement on behalf of the Council.

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID

Frankley Church Community Project – Lunch Club Transport

The following application for funding of £3,000 for the provision transport for the members of the Project's Lunch Club was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 8)

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

- 1583 RESOLVED: That the Council, in accordance with its powers under Sections 22 to 23 and 106A of the Transport Act 1985 (as amended by the Local Government and Rating Act 1997), 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 £3,000 towards the costs of providing transport for members of the Lunch Club.

Frankley Church Community Project – Frankley Falcon Camps

The following application for funding of £200 for the provision of transport to take young people from Frankley to Ashborne for summer camps was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 9)

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

- 1584 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 costs of providing transport for two groups of young people and leaders to two summer camps in the Peak District.

Frankley Neighbourhood Forum – Neighbourhood News

The following application for funding of £3,300 to cover the production costs of producing three editions of the Frankley Neighbourhood News was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 10)

- 1585 RESOLVED: That the Council, in accordance with its powers under Section 142 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 £3,300 towards the printing costs of three editions of the Frankley Neighbourhood News.

Holly Hill Family and Friends – Summer Fête and Parenting Classes Resources

The following application for funding of £2,500 to support the summer fête (£500) and the purchase of resources for parenting classes (£2,000) was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 11)

Whilst Members were supportive of the application for the summer fête, given that both the Children’s Centre and the Project offered parenting courses, it agreed to defer determination of the application for £2,000 and to invite the parent link worker to provide more detail in order to justify the application.

It was therefore, proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Grey, and –

- 1586 RESOLVED: (i) 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 support the summer fête;
- (ii) That the Applicant be invited to provide further information regarding the purchase of resources for parenting classes.

Friends of Forestdale – Field Project

The following application for funding of £4,200 for the professional fees incurred in the initial planning and surveying work for the project was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 12)

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

- 1587 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 £4,200 towards the professional fees incurred in the initial planning and surveying work for the project.

APPOINTMENT OF SIGNATORY

The Clerk advised that, following the recent resignation of former Councillor Denny who was one of the Council’s signatories to the current account, in

order to maintain sufficient signatories it was advisable to appoint a replacement.

It proposed by Councillor Grey, seconded by Councillor Carter, and –

- 1588 RESOLVED:
- (i) That, Councillor Lovett be appointed a signatory to the Council's current account with the Co-operative Bank;
 - (ii) That the Co-operative Bank plc ("the Bank") shall continue as the Council's bankers;
 - (iii) That the Bank shall be authorised to honour all Cheques and all other documents made or accepted on the Council's behalf even if such payment causes any Accounts to be overdrawn or increase any existing overdraft, provided that such documents are signed in accordance with the specimen signatures shown in the Account Signatories Section of the Change of Business Account Signatories Mandate;
 - (iv) That the Bank Shall act on all specimen signatures in accordance with any instructions, notice, request or other document in writing concerning the Council's account (including the opening of new accounts), affairs or property, as shown in the Account Signatories Section of the Change of Business Account Signatories Mandate;
 - (v) That the Bank shall be sent a copy of any future resolutions which affect the terms of this resolution;
 - (vi) That the Bank shall be sent a copy of any changes in the Council's Constitution;
 - (vii) That the Bank shall be notified in writing of any change of Members;
 - (viii) That the Bank shall be notified in writing of any change of official authorised to sign on the Council's behalf;
 - (ix) That the Bank shall otherwise continue to operate the Council's Account(s) in accordance with the Business Account Mandate;
 - (x) That the Bank shall be notified in writing of any overall change of control in the business;
 - (xi) That all signatories to the Account are aged 18 or over.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/02780/07/FUL

1635 – 1649 Bristol Road South, Rednal, Birmingham

Construction of a food retail store (Class A1) with associated parking

The following notification of the Planning Application was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 13)

- 1589 Councillor Grey advised that, at the recent LAAP Consultative Committee meeting, the planning officers present at the meeting appeared to indicate that the application would be refused on the grounds that it was premature as the details of the development of the MGRover site had not been settled. He added that perhaps the Council should support the application and if it was refused, try to persuade Aldi to build the store on the Centre Site.

S/03189/07/FUL

Land at Arden Road, Frankley, Birmingham

Continued use of site for parking and retention of fence

The following notification of the Planning Application was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 14)

- 1590 There were no objections to the application.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 1591 The following copy of a letter from Richard Burden MP to the Chair of the Northfield Constituency Committee, Councillor Brew was noted –

(Interleaved document no. 15)

TRANSPORT ISSUES

- 1592 Councillor Grey advised that no decision had been made on the reinstatement of the rail link as yet. He added that Liz Jesper and Stephen Hay, City Planning Officers, were attempting to persuade Halcrow, the AAP's Transport Consultants, to bring one of the buses it was proposed to use on the bus/rail link onto Frankley for a test run so that residents could judge whether or not they would be suitable. However, Councillor Grey suggested that the Frankley community would be better served by a direct express bus service between Frankley and the city centre

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. 16)

It was proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Hollis, and –

- 1593 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. 17)

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

- 1594 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At 2025 hours, the meeting adjourned to enable the Members of the Public to raise issues of concern.

There being no further issues to be raised by the public, the meeting was reconvened at 2025 hours

The meeting ended at 2025 hours

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Chairperson