

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, 20 August 2007 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Gareth Griffiths (In the Chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, Ian Bruckshaw, Eric Carter, Bill Hollis, Len Lovett, Des Rogers, Stephen Trefor-Jones, Joanna Walker and Geoff Williams

Also in attendance City Councillor Steve Bedser

There was 1 Member of the Public in attendance.

PUBLIC MINUTES

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1613 An apology for absence for the reason given was submitted on behalf of Councillor Stephenson (Family Commitments) and was accepted.

Apologies for non- attendance were also submitted on behalf of Councillor Grey and Richard Burden MP.

MINUTES

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

1614 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16 July 2007, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1615 Hereon, the under mentioned Member declared his respective interest in the Agenda Item indicated below -

Councillor	Agenda Item	Interest
Des Rogers	Planning Application relating to the continued use, by WMSNT, of the car park on land at Arden Road, Frankley and the retention of the fencing.	Prejudicial – Member is an employee of WMSNT and accordingly withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the application.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Appointment of Councillor Des Rogers

1616 The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Rogers to his first meeting of the Council.

QUESTIONS

There were none.

At this point of the meeting, on the proposition of the Chairperson, it was agreed to vary the order of the Agenda and to consider Agenda Item 11

PLANNING APPLICATION

S/03189/07/FUL

Land at Arden Road, Frankley

Continued use of site for parking and retention of fencing

The following planning application was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 1)

Upon being invited to address the meeting, Councillor Bedser reminded Members that the area of land referred to in the application had been included in the parcel of land offered to potential developers interested in the development of the Frankley Centre. However, it was recognised locally that the site was an important part of the Ring and Ride Service (WMSNT) providing secure car parking for the Service's employees.

Given the potential conflict between the need to provide car parking for the Service employees and the need to ensure that there was no impediment to the development of the Centre, he had requested a meeting between officers of the appropriate City Council departments to discuss the matter. That meeting had taken place the previous Wednesday and it had been agreed by all parties that the disposal of the land was not desirable given the probable adverse effect on the continued provision of the Service from its current location with the consequent effect on local employment. Arden Park Properties had expressed a willingness to purchase the land at a fair market value and continue to lease it to WMSNT with permanent planning consent for use of parking.

However, as the parcel of land currently being offered to potential developers had been agreed by Cabinet, it was necessary to take a further report to Cabinet rescinding the original decision and agreeing to the revised parcel of land. Officers were currently preparing that report which would be submitted to Cabinet in the near future. Officers were satisfied that the removal of the land in question from the offer would not deter potential developers.

Following some further discussion, it was -

- 1617 RESOLVED: That the Planning Committee be advised that the Parish Council supports Planning Application S/03189/07/FUL.

COMMUNICATIONS

A Frankley Rail Route

The following letter from Mr Eyre was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 2)

Councillor Rogers, while accepting that the Council had previously made a decision to pursue the reinstatement of the heavy rail link between Frankley and Longbridge which he agreed to be bound by, felt, personally, that it would be more beneficial to push for an extension of the Metro which would provide better-quality service to the local centres such as Northfield town centre and the Selly Oak and Queen Elizabeth Hospitals.

- 1618 RESOLVED: That the foregoing letter be noted.

B Trees for Life

- 1619 The following communication from Ms Penny Moore, Secretary, Friends of Balaam's Wood was noted –

(Interleaved document no. 3)

REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO WHICH MEMBERS BELONG

Longbridge Flooding Committee

- 1620 Councillor Carter reported that he had attended a meeting of the above Committee at which it had been agreed to set up a new reporting procedure in the case of flooding. As a result he felt that the Council should take steps to reinstate its own Warden scheme and to that end he would be requesting that the Clerk include an appropriate item on the agenda for the next meeting.

Longbridge Regeneration Consultative Committee

- 1621 Councillor Carter reported that, evidenced by the last meeting of the Committee he had attended, progress on the regeneration of the former MGRover site had stalled.

Northfield District Committee

- 1622 Councillor Trefor-Jones reported that the meeting mainly dealt with the accounts for the year.

QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL STATUS – PROGRESS REPORT

Councillor Carter reported that the portfolio was in the process of being completed and that it was intended that the application and support papers be sent to WALC for consideration by the accreditation panel which was due to meet at the end of September.

On the proposition of the Chairperson, it was -

- 1623 RESOLVED: That approval be given to submit the Council's portfolio to WALC for consideration by the Accreditation Panel at its meeting at the end of September.

ANNUAL RETURN 2006/2007

- 1624 The Clerk reported that, following examination by the External Auditor, the Council's Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2007, had been given an unqualified audit opinion.

It was noted that, during the Audit, the Auditor had required the Clerk to provide information relating to an explanation of the variances between the figures for 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 which the Clerk had provided.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS AS AT 30 JUNE 2007

- 1625 The following schedule of the Council's Income and Expenditure for the period up to 30 June 2007 was noted -

(Interleaved document no. 4)

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/03405/07/OUT

63 Thornthwaite Close, Frankley, Birmingham

Outline application for 5 no Terraced Properties (Layout and means of access to be assessed)

- 1626 Members were advised that the afore-mentioned application had been withdrawn.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 1627 The Clerk reported that he had been advised that several developers had expressed an initial interest in submitting proposals for the development of the Centre. As had been reported earlier in the meeting, it was proposed that the area of land currently used as a car park by employees of WMSNT was to be withdrawn from the parcel of land available for development.

TRANSPORT ISSUES

- 1628 Councillor Rogers, referring to the state of the bus shelters on Ormond Road which were covered in graffiti, offered to liaise with CENTRO with a view to getting CENTRO to take action to attempt to apprehend those responsible. Following some further discussion it was agreed that the Clerk write to

CENTRO advising of the approval for Councillor Rogers to liaise with CENTRO. With regard to the problems raised by Councillor Linda Banks at the last meeting concerning the 61 buses, he had made enquiries and found that the route was operated by 6 different companies – some of which were not performing as per their registration requirements. Where instances of malpractice could be identified, then those should be brought to the attention of the Traffic Commissioner for it to take the necessary action.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Paved Area in front of Shops – Ormond Road

- 1629 Councillor Hollis requested that the Council take up the problem of the slabs in front of the Ormond Road shops many of which needed to be replaced due to delivery lorries driving over them. Councillor Carter undertook to raise the matter with the appropriate City Council department.

PAYMENTS

(i) Business Visa Credit Card

The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement was submitted -

(Interleaved document no. 5)

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

- 1630 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. 6)

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

- 1631 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At 2021 hours, the meeting adjourned to enable the Members of the Public to raise issues of concern.

There being no issues to be raised by the public, the meeting was reconvened at 2021 hours

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The meeting ended at 2021 hours.

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Chairperson