

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, 21st April 2008 at 1930 hours.

Present

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

Also in Attendance Councillor Keith Barton – Longbridge Ward Councillor
David Grant - Resident of Brightstone Road

MINUTES

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON *PRO TEMPORE*

In the absence of the Chairperson and Vice- Chairperson, on the proposition of Councillor Grey, it was, *nem con* –

- 1740 RESOLVED: That Councillor Carter be appointed Chairperson for the duration of the meeting.

COUNCILLOR CARTER IN THE CHAIR

APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Griffiths, Trefor-Jones and Williams due to illness. The apologies were accepted.

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

There were no declarations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no matters raised.

MINUTES

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

- 1741 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 17th March 2008, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO WHICH MEMBERS BELONG

Frankley Neighbourhood Forum – Annual General Meeting - 28th May 2008

- 1742 Councillor Grey reported that the Forum would be holding its AGM at the High School on 28th May following which officers of CENTRO had agreed to attend a public meeting to talk about Transport issues in the south west of Birmingham.

CHANGE TO THE COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(Interleaved document 1)

- 1743 RESOLVED: That the revised Standing Order as set out in Appendix 2 to the report now submitted be approved and that a copy of the Council's revised Standing Orders be circulated to each Member.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT – 31ST MARCH 2008

- 1744 The following report of the Clerk was noted –

(Interleaved document 2)

SITES OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION (SINCS) REVIEW PROGRAMME: PHASE 3

The following report of the Planning Ecologist, Climate Change and Sustainability, Birmingham City Council, was submitted –

(Interleaved document 3)

The following email from Penny Moore, Secretary, Friends of Balaam's Wood was submitted –

(Interleaved document 4)

- 1745 The Clerk explained that the report had been referred to the Parish Council as part of the consultation process at the request of Councillor Sue Barton.

Following a brief discussion, in view of the fact that the Council had forwarded the report to the Friends of Balaam's Wood, it was agreed that no objection be raised to the proposed re-alignment of the boundary of the Balaam's Wood SLINC.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A Planning Application S/01129/08/FUL

**Frankley Community Centre, New Street, Frankley, Birmingham B45 0EU
Erection of extension to create additional classroom**

1746 It was agreed that no objection be made to the application.

B Planning Application S/01886/08/FUL

**First Floor, 19 -21 Ormond Road, Rubery, Birmingham B45 0JD
Retention of canopy at first floor alterations**

1747 It was agreed that no objection be made to the application.

C Planning Application S/01814/08/FUL

**Bristol Road South, Former MG Rover North and Part West Works, including part of
the river Rea, Longbridge, Birmingham
Site remodelling, reprofiling, alterations to River Rea and culverts, creation of site
access and widening part of Longbridge Lane**

1748 It was agreed that no objection be made to the application.

D Planning Application S/00895/087/FUL

**14 Queen Elizabeth Road, Rubery, Rednal, Birmingham B45 0NE
Erection of single-storey garage extension to side**

1749 It was agreed that no objection be made to the application.

LONGBRIDGE AREA ACTION PLAN

1750 Councillor Grey reported that, as part of the final consultation process, the City had held a 'drop in' session at the Parish office on 15th April at which members of the public were able to question officers regarding the Longbridge AAP and be advised as to how to make objections. He added that, after lengthy delay, the City, in consultation with CENTRO, had produced a Bus/Rail Strategy for the AAP which formed part of the current round of consultations. The delay in producing the Strategy for consultation would form part of the Council's submission to the Planning Inspector. The strategy confirmed what the Council already knew in that the heavy rail link between Frankley and Longbridge was no longer an option. With regards to the proposals relating to 'bus routes in the area of the AAP, whilst some of the options were to be welcomed, the changes had not been the subject of meaningful consultations and Councillor Grey expressed his frustration over the delay in producing the document.

Councillor Rogers pointed out that whilst CENTRO could propose changes to the 'bus routes, it could not force 'bus companies to operate the changes – such a decision would

be a commercial decision taken by the 'bus companies. If the 'bus operators refused to run the routes then the only way CENTRO could ensure the routes were operated was by way of subsidy. Therefore, in his opinion, public consultation on the proposed routes was meaningless unless the commercial operators had agreed to the changes.

However, Councillor Grey, whilst accepting the CENTRO could not force the route changes onto the operators, welcomed the fact that, at last, the overall strategy for the 'bus was subject to public consultation.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 1751 Councillor Grey reported that the owners of the 'Cost-Cutters' supermarket chain were currently in discussions with the City Council with a view to acquiring the unexpired portion of the lease of the OMCO unit on the shopping parade. The improvements currently being suggested by the owners of 'Cost Cutters' included a total refurbishment of the shop, the introduction of a Bakery section and a fresh Fruit and Vegetable section which was, in his opinion, what the community had been looking for since the Centre opened and which would hopefully lead to the regeneration of the Centre.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none

TRANSPORT ISSUES

See under Longbridge Area Action Plan

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Vandalism to Bus Shelters

- 1752 In response to a question from Councillor Rogers, the Clerk confirmed that he had written to CENTRO regarding the continuing vandalism to the 'bus shelters but, to date, had received no response. Councillor Rogers undertook to take the matter up with CENTRO.

PAYMENTS

A Business VISA Card Statement

The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement for March and April 2008 were submitted -

(Interleaved documents 5 and 6)

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

- 1753 RESOLVED: That the VISA Credit Card Statements, as now submitted, be approved.

Schedule of Payments

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(Interleaved document 7)

It was proposed by Councillor Hollis, seconded by Councillor Linda Banks, and –

- 1754 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Neighbourhood Caretakers

- 1755 In response to a question from Councillor Carter in relation to the current position regarding the Neighbourhood Caretakers, Councillor Barton stated that the current scheme had been extended to June to allow further discussions to take place and to allow arrangements to be put in place for the current employees to be integrated into the new scheme. He added that the current scheme was not universally popular as other Wards believed that they were being 'short-changed' as most of the work undertaken by the Caretakers was in the Frankley and Weoley areas. However, the reason for that was, in his opinion, there were more residents and elected members in Weoley and Frankley who were reporting problems. In response to a further question from Councillor Carter, Councillor Barton confirmed that Councillor Gregory was aware that the Parish Council contributed towards the costs of the Frankley Caretakers.

In response to questions from Councillor Grey, Councillor Barton explained that while the details of the new scheme had yet to be finalised, it was thought that new system would be a Ward based extra service with every street in the Ward being covered on a rolling programme. However, he did agree that the new system would not be as flexible as the current system. Regarding the problem of the non collection of Green Bags which were tied up, Councillor Barton stated that he had been told that the collectors had been told to be flexible and agreed that unless the contents of the bag were contaminated, those bags should be collected by the green waste crews. He also agreed that there needed to be a procedure introduced to ensure that uncollected green waste bags would be collected the following week by the general waste crews.

The meeting ended at 2025 hours.

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Chairperson