

**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, 21 January 2008 at 1930 hours.

**Present**

Councillor Gareth Griffiths (In the Chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, Ian Bruckshaw, 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 (Ward Councillor)  
Councillor Steve Bedser (Ward Councillor)  
Tracey Radford (Senior Constituency Manager)  
Jason Radford (Neighbourhood Caretaker Supervisor)  
David Grant (Resident – Brightstone Road)

**MINUTES**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 1677 An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Williams due to illness. The apology was accepted.

**MINUTES**

Councillor Trefor-Jones, referring to the first paragraph of the of the item relating to the Longbridge Area Action Plan in the Issues Raised By The Public, pointed out that Councillor Barton's name had been incorrectly spelt.

Councillor Rogers, referring to Minute 1672 (Closed off Access – Car Park – Coldstream Public House) advised that the rebuilt wall had not blocked off wheelchair access to the pub's car park but had closed off vehicular access from the car park to the pedestrian area.

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

- 1678 RESOLVED: That, subject to the aforementioned amendments, the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2007, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

- 1679 Referring to Minute 1667(Frankley Health Centre), the Clerk advised that he

had received a letter from the South Birmingham PCT confirming that Helen Southall, General Manager, Northfield Locality would be attending the next meeting of the Council.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none

### **QUESTIONS**

#### **Gershon Efficiency Savings**

- 1680 Referring to the Councillor Barton's statement at the last meeting concerning Gershon savings, Councillor Trefor-Jones pointed out that the savings referred to efficiency savings and not savings in front line services.

### **REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO WHICH MEMBERS BELONG**

#### **Police Liaison Committee**

- 1681 Councillor Trefor-Jones reported that at the last meeting of the Police Liaison Committee considerable discussion had taken place regarding to the incident which occurred over the New Year outside the Lickey Banker. It had been agreed to hold a meeting on Wednesday evening at Colmers School prior to the Ward Committee at which a petition was to be handed in articulating residents' concerns.

### **FRANKLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD CARETAKERS**

The following document outlining the benefits arising from the Frankley Caretaking Scheme was submitted –

(Interleaved document No. 1)

Tracey Radford explained that, with the ending of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding and the changes to the eligibility criteria of the new funding, it was unlikely that the District would be in a position to continue to support the current numbers of Neighbourhood Caretakers. In order to continue the benefits of the Scheme which Frankley currently enjoyed she requested that the Parish Council give favourable consideration to the District's request for funding of £23,000 to enable the District to provide a dedicated Caretaker to the Frankley community.

In opposing the proposal, Councillor Trefor-Jones felt that the City had not taken the necessary steps to formulate an exit strategy from the NRF scheme even though it had been known for some time that it would be ending in 2008. Such a strategy would, in his opinion, have allowed the funding of the

Caretakers from mainstream resources. Additionally he considered that approval of the request would amount to double taxation to the Frankley residents.

However, Councillor Grey, while supportive of the scheme, felt that the Council had to be certain that the scheme represented value for money for the residents and that assurances given that the support services would in place.

Following some further debate, the following motion was proposed by Councillor Grey –

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 £23,000 towards the cost of providing a dedicated Neighbourhood Caretaker for the Frankley Community during 2008/2009, subject to the necessary support services being provided by the District.

Councillor Trefor-Jones then proposed the following motion –

That the request for funding of £23,000 be rejected.

Hereon, the two motions were then put to the meeting and it was, on a show of hands, by 6 votes to 4 –

- 1682 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 £23,000 towards the cost of providing a dedicated Neighbourhood Caretaker for the Frankley Community during 2008/2009, subject to the necessary support services being provided by the District.

### **LONGBRIDGE AREA ACTION PLAN – DRAFT SUBMISSION DOCUMENT**

The following documents were submitted (i) Draft Longbridge Area Action Plan and (ii) Transport Strategy Development (CENTRO) -

(Interleaved documents 2 and 3)

- 1683 Councillor Grey was concerned that the draft LAAP lacked detail and therefore it would prove difficult to challenge the proposals. Although it appeared from the CENTRO document that the reinstatement of the heavy rail link was highly unlikely the Council needed to ensure that what would be put in its place served the needs of the community.

It was agreed that a document be prepared setting out the Council's views on the LAAP as well as the Transport Strategy, to be submitted for approval to

the next Parish Council meeting. The document, once approved, would then be sent to the Planning Inspectorate with a copy to the City's Planning and Regeneration Department.

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were none.

### **DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were none

### **FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT**

- 1684 The notes of the meeting between Councillor Summerfield, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Members of the Parish Council were noted-

(Interleaved document 4)

### **TRANSPORT ISSUES**

#### **Traffic Calming – Ormond Road**

- 1685 Councillor Grey reported that proposals for the Traffic Calming Scheme would be available for public viewing at Frankley Library, the Reaside Centre and the Parish Offices from 1<sup>st</sup> February. A letter outlining the consultation process was to be sent out with the next edition of the Neighbourhood News and copies of the will be available to view and queries and questions will be answered by the Constituency Engineers at the Reaside Centre on 15<sup>th</sup> February between 2.00pm and 8.00pm.

### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

#### **Children's Centre Lighting**

- 1686 Councillor Rogers reported that he had received a number of complaints regarding the brightness of the security lighting around the Children's Centre during the night. It was agreed that the Clerk write to head of the Centre advising of the Council's concerns.

#### **Lease of Land**

- 1687 Councillor Rogers reported that the lease for the WMSNT car park on Arden Road had now been signed. However, WMSNT was concerned that the lease only covered the period up to August. Additionally, the cost of the lease had increased by 40% and had involved expenditure of £3,500 in legal fees. He added that WMSNT had recently signed a contract to provide transport to other schools, but because of the uncertainty of the future of the Frankley site, the vehicles and staff had had to be located elsewhere.

### **PAYMENTS**

**(i) Business Visa Credit Card**

The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement was submitted -

(Interleaved document 5)

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

- 1688 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 6)

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

- 1689 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

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

**At 2026 hours, it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to enable the Members of the Public to raise issues of concern.**

In response to comments made earlier in the meeting by Councillor Trefor-Jones, Councillor Barton stated that in his opinion, the statement as recorded in the minutes was an accurate reflection of the District's financial position regarding 2008/2009 Gershon saving.

However, Councillor Trefor-Jones stressed that the savings should be made from efficiency and not cuts to frontline services.

Councillor Bedser stated that the targets the Authority had to meet under Gershon were challenging. However the Government not taking money away - what was uncertain was how the saving would be used. Currently the City Council was debating on the best way to use the saving with one possibility being to re-invest in services.

Councillor Grey said that personally he would like to see the devolution of funding local services down to the Parish Council which would enable the Parish Council to run services which met the needs of the community such as the neighbourhood Caretakers. He then referred to the legislative requirement for the Parish Council to produce annual accounts which were easily scrutinized. In his opinion there was a need for the District to produce similar accounts in order that its spending could also be easily scrutinized.

Councillor Barton pointed out that the District's budget and accounts were reported to and discussed at the Constituency committee on which the Parish Council had a representative.

**There being no issues to be raised by the public, Standing Orders were reinstated at 2034hours**

The meeting ended at 2034 hours.

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Chairperson