

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 May 2007 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Gareth Griffiths (in the Chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, Ian Bruckshaw, Eric Carter, Michael Denny, Sid Grey MBE, Bill Hollis, Len Lovett, Geoffrey Stephenson, Stephen Trefor-Jones, Joanna Walker and Geoffrey Williams

PUBLIC MINUTES

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

It was proposed by Councillor Trefor-Jones, seconded by Councillor Joanna Walker that Councillor Griffiths be elected Chairperson of the Council for the forthcoming year.

There being no further nominations, it was –

- 1524 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008, Councillor Griffiths be elected Chairperson of the Council.

COUNCILLOR GRIFFITHS IN THE CHAIR

- 1525 Hereon, the Chairperson made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairperson of the Parish Council.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

It was proposed by Councillor Lovett, seconded by Councillor Hollis that Councillor Carter be elected Vice-Chairperson of the Council.

It was also proposed by Councillor Bruckshaw, seconded by Councillor Williams that Councillor Trefor-Jones be elected Vice-Chairperson of the Council

The nominations were then put to the meeting and it was, on a show of hands –

- 1526 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008, Councillor Trefor-Jones be elected Vice-Chairperson of the Council.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

(i) Longbridge Ward Advisory Board

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was -

- 1527 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008, Councillor Carter be nominated to serve as the Council's representative on the Longbridge Ward Advisory Board.

(ii) Frankley Church Community Project

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was -

- 1528 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008, Councillor Linda Banks be nominated to serve as the Council's representative on the Management Committee of the Frankley Church Community Project.

(iii) City Council's Standards Committee

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was -

- 1529 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008, Councillor Griffiths be nominated to serve as the Parish Council representative on the City Council's Standards Committee

(iv) CENTRO Frankley Public Transport Improvements Stakeholders' Conference

Upon receipt of nominations, it was -

- 1530 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008, Councillors Carter, Griffiths and Stephenson be nominated to serve as the Parish Council representatives on CENTRO's Frankley Public Transport Improvements Stakeholders' Conference.

(v) Northfield Constituency Committee

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was -

- 1531 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008, Councillor Trefor-Jones be nominated to serve as the Parish Council representative on the Northfield Constituency Committee.

(vi) Northfield District Strategic Partnership Executive

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was -

- 1532 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008, Councillor Griffiths be nominated to attend meetings of the Northfield District Strategic Partnership Executive as a representative of the Parish Council.

(vii) Northfield District Governance Commission

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was –

- 1533 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008, Councillor Trefor-Jones be nominated to attend meetings of the Northfield District Governance Commission as a representative of the Parish Council.

(viii) Safer Neighbourhood Steering Group

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was –

- 1534 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008, Councillor Griffiths be nominated to attend meetings of the Safer Neighbourhood Steering Group as a representative of the Parish Council.

(ix) Environmental Services Review

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was –

- 1535 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008, Councillor Carter be nominated to attend meetings of the Environmental Services Review as a representative of the Parish Council.

(x) Association For Neighbourhood Democracy

Upon receipt of nominations, it was –

- 1536 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008, Councillor Grey (or his nominee, Councillor Carter) together with the Clerk be nominated to serve as representatives of the Council at meetings of the Association.

(xi) Neighbourhood Advice and Information Service – Service Review Team

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was –

- 1537 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008, Councillor Griffiths be nominated to attend meetings of the Neighbourhood Advice and Information Service Review Team as a representative of the Parish Council.

(xii) Longbridge Consultative Group

Upon receipt of nominations, it was –

- 1538 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008, Councillors Carter and Grey be nominated to attend meetings of the Longbridge Consultative Group as representatives of the Parish Council.

DATES OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2007/2008

- 1539 RESOLVED: That meetings of the Parish Council for the forthcoming Municipal Year be held on the following Mondays at 1930 hours at the St Christopher's Church Centre –

18 June 2007	16 July 2007	20 August 2007
17 September 2007	15 October 2007	19 November 2007
17 December 2007		

21 January 2008	18 February 2008	17 March 2008
21 April 2008		

with the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meeting on 19 May 2008.

PLANNING, ENVIRONMENTAL, HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Following receipt of nominations, it was -

- 1540 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008, Councillors Linda Banks, Bruckshaw, Stephenson, Joanna Walker and Williams be appointed to serve on the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee, together with the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the Council as ex-officio members of the Committee and that Councillor Bruckshaw be appointed Chairperson of the Committee; further that meetings of the Committee be at the call of the Chairperson as and when there is business to transact.

STAFFING COMMITTEE

Following receipt of nominations, it was -

- 1541 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008, Councillors Carter, Grey and Trefor-Jones be appointed to serve on the Staffing Committee and that Councillor Trefor-Jones be appointed Chairperson of the Committee; further, that meetings of the Committee be at the call of the Chairperson as and when there is business to transact.

APPEALS COMMITTEE

Following receipt of nominations, it was -

- 1542 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008, Councillors Linda Banks, Bruckshaw and Stephenson be appointed to serve on the Appeals Committee and that Councillor Linda Banks be appointed Chairperson of the Committee; further, that meetings of the Committee be at the call of the Chairperson as and when there is business to transact.

QUALITY STATUS WORKING PARTY

Following receipt of nominations, it was -

- 1543 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008, Councillors Linda Banks, Carter, Griffiths, Lovett, Trefor-Jones and Joanna Walker be appointed to serve on the Quality Status Working Party and that Councillor Carter be appointed Lead Member of the Working Party; further that meetings of the Working Party be at the call of the Lead Member as and when there is business to consider.

PUBLIC MINUTES

- 1544 The Minutes of that part of the meeting held on 16 April 2007, held in public were noted.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1545 Hereon, the under mentioned Members declared their respective interests in the Agenda Items indicated below -

Councillor	Agenda Item	Interest
Griffiths	Chairperson's Allowance	Prejudicial – Approval of Chairperson's Allowance for the forthcoming Municipal Year
Linda Banks	Application for Funding	Prejudicial – Member of the Project's Management Committee
Trefor-Jones	Application for Funding	Prejudicial – Member of the Project's Management Committee

Hereon, the Chairperson withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the following item and the Vice-Chairperson took the Chair.

COUNCILLOR TREFOR-JONES IN THE CHAIR

CHAIRPERSON'S ALLOWANCE

It was proposed by Councillor Grey, seconded by Councillor Joanna Walker and
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- 1546 RESOLVED: That the Chairperson's allowance be increased to £675 for the forthcoming Municipal Year and that the payment thereof be in 10 equal monthly instalments commencing at the end of May 2007.

Hereon, Councillor Griffiths returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair.

COUNCILLOR GRIFFITHS IN THE CHAIR

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs Jean Lovett

- 1547 The Chairperson made sympathetic reference to the recent death of Councillor Lovett's wife and, on behalf of the Council expressed condolences at the Councillor's sad loss.

QUESTIONS

Recycling Garden Waste

- 1548 Councillor Hollis expressed concern over the amount of green garden waste sacks which were not being collected on the scheduled day and requested that the Parish Council take appropriate action to rectify the problem.

The Chairperson stated that the problem seemed widespread and was not confined to Frankley. It arose because residents were not following the instructions that the green bags should not be tied so that the operatives could check the contents. Regrettably, residents were tying the bags prior to putting them out and as the operatives were unable to check the contents, the bags were left for collection by the household waste crews. However, as the household waste was collected before the garden waste, the uncollected green sacks were left for a week which was unacceptable.

Councillor Joanna Walker felt that the information relating to the garden waste collection was difficult to find on the leaflets circulated by the refuse collection service and to that end she had requested a number of explanatory leaflets which she hoped could be circulated with the Neighbourhood News.

Councillor Grey suggested, and it was agreed, that the instructions be placed on the front page of the August/September edition of the Neighbourhood News. Additionally, he further suggested that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson make representations to Councillor Gregory, the Cabinet Member for Transportation and Street Services requesting that, when complaints regarding uncollected green bags were made to Lifford Lane, the bags were collected the same day and not left until the next household waste collection. Ideally, the recycling vehicle should precede the household waste vehicle so that any green bags not collected for whatever reason, would be collected by the following household waste vehicle.

COMMUNICATIONS

A Clean and Safe Neighbourhood – Environmental Audit

- 1549 The following letter from Tracey Nicholls, Senior District Manager inviting Members to attend the launch of a Neighbourhood Environmental Awareness Website was submitted –

(Interleaved document no.1)

It was agreed that attendance at the launch should be an approved duty.

In connection with the Awareness Campaign, Councillor Grey expressed concern at the decision of Worcestershire County Council to restrict access to the Quantry Lane household waste site to residents of Worcestershire. Whilst he understood the reason for the decision, he felt that it was self defeating as the amount of fly-tipping in the lanes around Frankley had increased since the restriction had been imposed which had cost implications for both Worcestershire C C and Bromsgrove D C. He suggested, and it was agreed, that the Clerk write to the County Council to see whether it would be possible for the residents of Frankley to be offered a pass to you the Quantry Lane tip at a nominal charge.

With regard to the Bulk Collections organised by the City, Councillor Grey felt that the system whereby collections were made on weekdays spread over a period needed to be reviewed. The old system whereby half the estate received a bulk collection on one weekend and the other half the next weekend worked much better and was more user friendly. He also felt that the Parish Council should be involved in the scheduling of collections and that the whole recycling system needed to be looked at.

B Proposed Local Nature Reserve, Balaam's Wood

- 1550 It was agreed that the Clerk contact Mr Hayden with a view to organising a site meeting to discuss the City's proposals.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1551 The Clerk explained that if the Council adopted the revised Code of Conduct, including the section which would permit Members having a prejudicial interest to make representations/answer questions before being required to withdraw from the meeting, it would conflict with the Council's Standing Orders which required a member to withdraw immediately once it became apparent that he/she had a prejudicial interest. It was therefore necessary to revise the Standing Orders so that there was no conflict between the proposed Code of Conduct and the Standard Orders.

As the Council's Standing Orders required that notice of any change to the Standing Orders should stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council the Clerk was giving notice of his intention to submit a revised Standing Order for approval at the next meeting.

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

Frankley Church Community Project – Editorial Costs

An application for funding to cover the editorial costs of producing 6 editions of the Neighbourhood News for the forthcoming year was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 2)

In response to questions from Members, the Clerk advised that although the application for Community Chest funding had been partially successful, if the funding was paid to the Parish Council, applications for funding from the Forum and the Project would still have to be made. However, if the funds were paid directly to the Forum then the Forum could apply to the Parish Council for the costs of producing three editions (three editions being paid for by the NRF Community Chest) and the Forum would be totally responsible for the production of the News.

It was proposed therefore to reject the current application from the Project on the grounds that the Forum would be taking on the responsibility for the funding of the News and that the Forum be advised to submit a funding application to the Council for the costs of printing 3 editions.

- 1552 RESOLVED: That the application for funding submitted by the Frankley Church community Project be rejected and that the Project be advised to submit an application to cover the editorial costs to the Forum.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

A Accounts For The Year Ended 31 March 2007

The Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007 were submitted –

(Interleaved document no.3)

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

- 1553 RESOLVED: That the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007, as now submitted, be approved and that the Chairperson and the Responsible Finance Office be authorised to sign them on behalf of the Council.

B Annual Return For The Year Ended 31 March 2007

Section 1 of the Annual Return – The Statement of Accounts was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 4)

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

- 1554 RESOLVED: That Section 1 of the Annual Return – The Statement of

Accounts, as now submitted, be approved and that the Chairperson be authorised to sign it on behalf of the Council.

C Internal Auditor's Report

The report of the Internal Auditor relating to the Audit of the Council's Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007 was submitted-

(Interleaved document no. 5)

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

- 1555 RESOLVED: That the Internal Auditor's Report, as now submitted, be accepted.

D Annual Governance Statement

The Clerk advised that following changes to Regulation 4 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations (2003), the Council was now required to undertake, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of the Council's financial controls/procedures and publish a statement to be included in the Annual Governance Statement.

It was therefore recommended that the Council appoint an Audit Committee to undertake the review.

It was therefore, on receipt of nominations -

- 1556 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual meeting of the Council in May 2008, Councillors Bruckshaw, Grey and Trefor-Jones be appointed to serve on the Council's Audit Committee to review, at least annually, the effectiveness of the Council's financial controls/procedures.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/00887/07/BCC

Reaside Community Centre, 17 Ormond Road, Frankley Erection of Boundary Fencing and Gates

- 1557 Members were advised that the above mentioned application had been approved subject to the conditions set out in the attached document -

(Interleaved document no. 6)

DECISION OF THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

**Appeal by T-Mobile UK Ltd
Site at Arden Road, Frankley, Birmingham B45 0JA**

The decision of the Planning Inspection to allow the appeal submitted by T-Mobile against the decision of the City Council not to permit the erection of a Telecommunications Mast on Arden Road, was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 7)

- 1558 It was generally felt that the proposed siting of the mast was the least contentious of all the applications had been submitted although there was concern as to the impact of the proposal on the development of the Centre. Councillor Denny suggested that the decision be included for information in the Neighbourhood News together with the fact that the Parish Council had objected to the application.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 1559 It was noted that the City Council's Cabinet Committee had approved the proposal to proceed with the marketing of the land at the Centre and that GVA Grimleys had been appointed to assist with that marketing. It was anticipated that the development opportunity would be advertised in the appropriate trade journals in early June with a six week time scale for developers to respond.

TRANSPORT MATTERS

- 1560 The Chairperson commented that following the withdrawal of the 49A and its partial replacement by the 49 route, there had been complaints about the difficulties experienced in accessing the double-decker buses as some did not cater for wheelchairs or pushchairs. He therefore proposed that the Clerk write to the general manager at the Yardley Wood garage requesting that TWM use user friendly buses on the route.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

61 Terminus, Boleyn Road and the Withdrawal of the 49A Service

- 1561 Councillor Trefor-Jones reported that at the last meeting of the Police Liaison Committee, a number of residents had complained regarding the numbers of 61 buses parking up on Boleyn Road causing a traffic hazard. The Committee was considering modifying the roundabout at the junction of Crompton Road and Boleyn Road to accommodate buses which would remove the buses from the main road. Residents would be consulted on the proposals and it was proposed that appropriate screening would be erected.

With regard to the loss of the 49A, the Committee had agreed to approach the Yardley Wood Garage with a view of getting the route reinstated. If that was not successful then approaches would be made to a number of the smaller operators to see if one of them would be prepared to provide the service.

Additionally, Councillor Bedser had reported at the meeting that Transportation Department had identified £20,000 for traffic calming measures on Ormond Road.

It was pointed out that with regard to the proposals relating to the 61 route, the Parish Council had already discussed the problems of buses parking up on the out of City bus-stop with TWM and in the light of complaints from residents of Crompton Road regarding the noise and fumes from buses using the circle, it had been agreed that the buses would park up on the other side of Boleyn Road. Unfortunately, despite numerous complaints to the garage, the buses still parked up on the 'wrong' side of the road. It was also felt that the residents adjacent to the parking area would protest most strongly if buses were encouraged to park in the roundabout.

With regard to the 49A, representations had already been made to the Yardley Wood Garage regarding the continuation of the 49A service, unfortunately, unsuccessfully. In response to the petition organised by the Parish Council, TWM had made it abundantly clear that the decision not to continue with the service had been made on commercial grounds due to the lack of passengers using the service and accordingly TWM had no intention of reversing its decision. With regard to approaching the smaller operators to provide a replacement service, as it was CENTRO which was responsible for the tendering process, the Police Liaison Committee should be approaching CENTRO to undertake that process as soon as possible.

Retirement of Councillor Denny

- 1562 Councillor Denny thanked the Council for the gift marking his retirement as the incumbent of the Frankley Parish. He went on to state that he would be retiring from the Council with immediate effect.

He felt that the Parish Council had been instrumental in getting a number of things done in the parish and he urged that it continue the good work. However, he had noticed that, over a period of time, the Council appeared to have become reactive rather than proactive and he felt that in order to meet the high ideals it had set itself, it needed to come up with plans which would be of benefit to the community. Additionally, in order to ensure that the Council was still the voice of the community, it needed to consult with other professional bodies on Frankley – there was a need for the Council to be involved in all aspects of the community.

Councillor Grey felt that there was a need for the Council to be more accepted by the professional bodies on Frankley and there was a need to promote the importance of the Council to the community. He went on to thank Councillor Denny for all his work on Frankley over the past 30 years.

PAYMENTS

(i) Business Visa Credit Card

The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement was submitted -

(Interleaved document no. 8)

It was proposed by Councillor Trefor-Jones, seconded by Councillor Hollis, and
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1563 RESOLVED: That the VISA Card Statement, as now submitted, be approved.

(ii) Schedule of Payments

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(Interleaved document no. 9)

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

1564 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were none

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

1565 RESOLVED: That, pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded for the meeting during the consideration of the following -

- Confidential information relating to an employee of the Council and the appointment of the Council's Internal Auditor.

PRIVATE MINUTES

MINUTES

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

1566 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of that part of the meeting held in private on 16 April 2007, together with the Minutes of the Public part submitted earlier in the meeting, having been previously circulate, were taken as read and confirmed and signed.

The meeting ended at 2102 hours

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Chairperson