

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, 19 November 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, Stephen Trefor-Jones and Joanna Walker

Also in Attendance Bob Barr (Ward Support Officer)

There was 1 Member of the Public in attendance.

PUBLIC MINUTES

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1644 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ian Bruckshaw (work commitment), Des Rogers (Holiday) and Geoff Williams (Hospital Appointment) and the reasons given for their absences accepted.

MINUTES

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

- 1645 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 15 October 2007, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1646 The Chairperson reported that he and the Clerk had attended a conference the previous Wednesday which addressed amongst other things the relationship of the West Midlands Regional Assembly with Parish and Town Councils. Additionally John Findlay, Chief Executive of NALC, gave a presentation on the salient points of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act.

QUESTIONS

There were none.

COMMUNICATION

Land at Gannow Green Farm

- 1647 It was noted that the land at Gannow Green Farm, currently for sale, was in the Green Belt and that Bromsgrove District Council Planning Department had confirmed that no application or pre-application had been received by BDC for its development.

REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO WHICH MEMBERS BELONG

Ward Advisory Board

- 1648 Councillor Carter reported that at the meeting of the Ward Advisory Board held on 14 November, a discussion took place as to the continued funding of projects in the Longbridge Ward should the Government not replace the NRF Funding which was due to finish in March next year. He was concerned that as to the future of the Neighbourhood Caretakers scheme if nothing replaced the current source of funding.

Opening of the Frankley Fitness Suite

- 1649 Councillor Trefor-Jones reported that he had attended the opening of the Frankley Fitness Suite on 29 October which had been well attended.

Police Liaison Annual General Meeting

- 1650 Councillor Trefor-Jones, Chair of the Police Liaison Committee, reported that the recent AGM had been well attended. At the meeting, the police had proposed introducing a PACT (Partnership and Community Targets) scheme, which had been successful in other parts of the Country, whereby residents voted for two areas of concern which the police would address before the next meeting.

Additionally, the Committee would be organising a number of Post Coding events at which residents would be able to bring bikes, Electrical DIY and Gardening items for post coding during next 12 months.

QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL STATUS

- 1651 The Chairperson reported that during the accreditation interview, members of the panel suggested that the Parish Council should consider producing a Parish Plan and addressing further training for the Members. The impression given was that the Panel would expect the Council to have addressed these points by the next accreditation.

The Clerk advised that as part of the Council's contribution in the forthcoming Neighbourhood News there would be an item seeking volunteers from the community to sit on a steering committee which would oversee the production of the Plan.

With regard to Members undertaking training, the Clerk reported that WALC was running a one day training course 'The Next Step – Making The Most Of Your Role As Parish And Town Councillors' on Saturday 2 February 2008 at Atherstone Leisure Centre. It was agreed that all Councillors could attend (Councillors Linda Banks, Carter, Griffiths, Trefor-Jones and Joanna Walker indicated their wish to attend).

GRANT APPLICATIONS

A Grizedale Sheltered Accommodation – Provision of a Television

An application for the purchase of a colour television/DVD plus licence was submitted –

(interleaved document no 1)

During the ensuing discussion it was suggested that, rather than purchase a combination Television/DVD Player, that the items be purchased separately. Additionally, it was suggested that the proposed 19" television would be too small for the common room and that a 22" set would be more suitable.

On the suggestion of Councillor Grey it was agreed that the Clerk be authorised to spend up to a maximum of £500 to purchase a Television, DVD Player and one year's Television Licence and that the equipment be leased, at no cost, to the Centre.

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

- 1652 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 a maximum of £500 for the purchase of a Colour Television, a DVD Player and one year's Television Licence for the common room at Grizedale Sheltered Accommodation.

B Frankley Resolve – Christmas Lights Competition

An application for £100 for prizes for the Christmas Lights Competition was submitted –

(interleaved document no 2)

Councillor Trefor-Jones requested that his name be recorded as objecting to the proposal on the grounds that, in his opinion, it encouraged a waste of electricity and contributed towards global warming.

It was proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Linda Banks, and on a show of hands, with Councillor Trefor-Jones voting against, –

- 1653 RESOLVED: That, the Council, in accordance with its powers under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, agree to incur the following expenditure, £100 to provide the expenses and prize fund for the Frankley Christmas Lights Competition 2007.

C Frankley Crimestoppers

The Clerk reported that Frankley Crimestoppers, a scheme whereby residents could telephone a number and report crime, anonymously if they so wished unfortunately had fallen into disuse with the relocation the Police Officers involved with the scheme and the loss of the Youth Affairs Worker.

However, recently, P C Frank Monclieffe and PCSO's Laura Hurry and Natasha Gardener had sought, with the support of the Police Liaison Committee to reinstate the service and had approached the Parish Council for assistance.

In order to retain the original telephone number (which was on the Rubery Exchange – 453 1999), it had been suggested that the line/answering machine be located in the Parish Office, thus saving the cost of re-routing calls to the Longbridge Police Station. It was, therefore, suggested, that subject to approval of the Council and the Senior Police Officer, to install a new telephone line to the Parish Office using the 453 1999 number and to purchase a new answering machine which could be remotely accessed by the Police from Longbridge.

Whilst the Police still had yet to give approval that the proposal would meet their requirements, the Clerk was seeking Council's approval that, once the Police had agreed that the scheme could go ahead, he could arrange for the additional telephone line to the office and the purchase of a new answering machine with a remote facility.

- 1654 RESOLVED:- That, subject to the approval of West Midlands Police, and in accordance with its Powers under Section 31 of the Local Government and Rating Act 1997, the Council authorise the Clerk to arrange for a second telephone line to be installed at the Parish Office and to purchase a new Digital Answering Machine

BUDGET 2008/2009

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(interleaved document no. 3)

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

- 1655 RESOLVED: That the budgeted expenditure for the 2008/2009 Financial Year of £79,170 funded by a precept of £78,220 and £950 other income be approved and that, accordingly, a precept of £78,220 be issued to Birmingham City Council as the Billing Authority.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 1656 The Clerk reported that Birmingham Property Services would be taking a report to Cabinet Committee Property on the 20th December recommending the appointment of a development partner to deliver the regeneration of Frankley Centre. The name and details of the preferred developer would be announced after that date and the fact that BPS were in a position to make recommendations to the Cabinet implied that the marketing exercise carried out earlier this year has been successful.

Obviously, until the decision was made, full details of the preferred scheme could not be made public but of the schemes which were evaluated all had included a mix of residential and retail uses in compliance with the planning brief.

Additionally, the Clerk reported that representatives of the Supermarket store Lidl had recently visited Frankley with a view to approaching the successful developer.

TRANSPORT ISSUES

- 1657 Councillor Trefor-Jones reported that Councillor Bedser had, to date, been unable to clarify the position re the reinstatement of the heavy rail link between Longbridge and Frankley.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Relocation of Bus Stops – Holly Hill Road

- 1658 Councillor Linda Banks highlighted the traffic problems being caused on Holly Hill Road by the relocation of one of the bus stops. The Chairperson indicated that he would take the matter up with Councillor Sue Barton.

Fun Fair – Land off New Boleyn Road, Frankley

- 1659 Councillor Linda Banks reported that during the nights the Fair was at Frankley, the flashing lights from the various rides had caused a hazard for drivers driving along Boleyn Road/New Street. Additionally, Councillor Trefor-Jones felt that the Catering Caravan, which was parked on Boleyn Road constituted a health hazard as it was disposing its waste into the road gutter. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Bromsgrove District Council advising of the Council's concerns

Electric Wheel Chair Refused Access to a Bus

- 1660 Councillor Carter reported that Mrs Price, who used an electric wheelchair had been refused access to a bus on the grounds of the wheel chair batteries. Councillor Trefor-Jones stated that such action was, on the face of it, against the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act. It was agreed that Councillor Carter obtain further details.

PAYMENTS

(i) Business Visa Credit Card

The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement was submitted -

(Interleaved document no. 3)

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

- 1661 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. 4)

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

- 1662 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At 1959 hours, it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to enable the Members of the Public to raise issues of concern.

There being no issues to be raised by the public, Standing Orders were reinstated at 1959 hours

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

- 1663 RESOLVED: That in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, which includes the following exempted information, it is advisable in the public interest, that the press and the public be temporarily excluded from the meeting and they are therefore instructed to withdraw.

Agenda Item

Exempt Information

Review of the Remuneration of
the Clerk

Confidential Information relating
to an employee of the Council

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS HELD IN PRIVATE

REMUNERATION OF THE CLERK

The Clerk withdrew from the meeting during the discussion of this item. Upon his return he was advised that it had been agreed that his salary be increased in line with the recommendations of the NJC for Local Government Services.

The meeting ended at 2025 hours