

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, 15th December 2008 at 1930 hours.

Present

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

Also in Attendance Ward Councillor Keith Barton

MINUTES

In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, Councillor Griffiths took the Chair.

COUNCILLOR GARETH GRIFFITHS IN THE CHAIR

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

1908 An apology for absence was submitted and accepted on behalf of Councillor Grey (Family Illness).

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

There were no declarations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

No member of the public wished to speak on any Agenda item.

MINUTES

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

1909 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 17th November 2008, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairperson had no announcements to make.

QUESTIONS

There were no questions

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENTAL, HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

- 1920 The following Minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 1st December 2008 were noted –

(Interleaved document no. 1)

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

- 1921 The following Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 25th November 2008 were noted –

(Interleaved document no. 2)

REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO WHICH MEMBERS BELONG

Frankley Neighbourhood News Distribution

- 1922 Councillor Bruckshaw, on behalf of the Forum, took the opportunity of thanking all the volunteer distributors for delivering copies of the Neighbourhood News to the properties on Frankley. He added that, on occasions, the volunteers were asked to distribute other material along with the News and should they have any objection to delivering such material then they should advise him accordingly. He gave an assurance that nobody would be required to deliver publications the content of which they did not agree with.

Councillor Eric Carter

- 1923 Councillor Carter reported that on 25th November he had attended a meeting of the City Council's Standards Board, the details of what was discussed were obviously confidential; on 2nd December he had, accompanied by Councillor Bruckshaw, attended a meeting of the Resilience Group at which officers and guest speakers gave presentations as to the activities undertaken by the Group; on 4th December he had attended a meeting of the Local Flood Committee during which discussion had taken place regarding Local Flood Prevention Measures; on 11th December he, along with Councillor Trefor- Jones, had represented the Council at a meeting of the Balaam's Wood LNR Management

Committee at which they had attempted, successfully, to enforce the provisions of the previously agreed Management Plan in order to allow pedestrian access to the LNR; finally, on 12th December he had attended the City Council's premises in Tay Road in order to meet the apprentices.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning Application S/006102/08/NOT New Street, Highways Land, Rubery, Birmingham B45 0BP Installation of a 12m high mast with antenna and equipment cabinet

The following planning application was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 3)

Councillor Trefor- Jones proposed that the Council object to the application on similar grounds to those expressed against previous applications i.e. visual intrusion, health grounds as he felt that, until the long term effects of the pulsed radiation emitted by the masts were known, they should not be installed in residential areas.

However, Councillor Rogers believed that the health concerns were no grounds for objection. Nevertheless, what he did object to was the fee paid to the City by Vodafone for the mast was not ring-fenced to the benefit of Frankley. He also questioned why the original application to site a mast on the land owned by the Dingle Social Club had been withdrawn.

Upon being invited to speak Councillor Barton believed that the fee paid by Vodafone was in the region of £10,000 per annum. The reason for the withdrawal of the original application was that the residents around the Dingle had mounted a campaign against the mast and as a result the Dingle's management committee withdrew the offer of the site. Although the mobile telephone signal across Frankley was adequate, the reason for the further applications, none of which had been approved thus far, was to upgrade the signal to 3G standard. He added that the Government did not accept health grounds except where proposed location was adjacent to a school.

It was on the proposition of Councillor Trefor-Jones, with Councillor Rogers abstaining -

- 1924 RESOLVED: That the Planning Committee be advised that the Council object to the application by Vodafone to install a telecommunications mast on Highways Land, New Street, Frankley reference Planning Application S/06102/08/NOT for the following reasons –
- That the long term health risks of the pulsed radiation emitted by the antennae were not known - this was of particular concern given the close proximity of residential properties to the proposed development;
 - The proposed mast, due to its siting in a prominent position would

have an unacceptable visual impact on the area.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

LONGBRIDGE AREA ACTION PLAN

- 1925 The Clerk reported that the Examination in Public of the Plan had now been completed and that it was expected that the Inspector would publish her report at the end of January. He added that the Inspector's finding would be binding on the two planning authorities.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 1926 The Clerk reported that the lighting scheme for the shopping parade had been completed. The next phase was to be the lighting of the canopy between the shopping centre and the school. The light fittings ordered had been ordered and it was hoped that they would be installed early next year.

With regards to the development of the Centre, Taylor –Wimpy had still to confirm whether or not it was to sign the development agreement. However, in view of the uncertainty, City Council officers were preparing a 'Plan B' revising the development proposals to consist of a mix of approx 35% social housing with the remainder private. In view of the success of Cost-Cutters there was a question as to whether the proposed development would still include a retail element.

Councillor Stephenson raised Health and Safety concerns regarding the working practices of the Electricians installing the lighting at the centre. As the City Council was the employer of the contractors Councillor Barton agreed to take the matter up with the Department concerned.

Whilst referring to breaches of Health and Safety issues, Councillor Rogers raised concerns relating to the refuse vehicles which he had witnessed reversing in Fabian Close with no operative at the rear of the vehicle ensuring the area at the rear of the vehicle was safe. It was suggested that most modern vehicles incorporated miniature TV cameras to give the driver a view of the area to the vehicle's rear. However, Councillor Barton agreed to check with the Environmental Department regarding the working practices that should be adopted when refuse vehicles were reversing.

TRANSPORT ISSUES

There were none.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

There were none.

PAYMENTS

(A) Business Visa Credit Card

1927 The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement was noted -

(Interleaved documents no. 4)

(B) Schedule of Payments

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(Interleaved document no. 5)

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

1928 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.

The meeting ended at 1959 hours

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Chairperson

Date