

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, 16th June 2008 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Sid Grey (in the Chair)

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

Also in Attendance Councillor Sue Barton (Ward Councillor); David Grant (Resident – Brightstone Road)

MINUTES

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1786 An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Karan Bolton (Illness). Although in this case the apology was accepted, it was agreed that, in future, Councillors submitting apologies for a meeting for acceptance by the body concerned should provide a specific explanation for their absence not just a vague reason.

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

There were none.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no matters raised.

MINUTES

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

- 1787 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19th May 2008, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Frankley Summit

The Chairperson submitted the following report on the Frankley Summit –

(Interleaved document no. 1)

- 1788 The Chairperson referred to the recently held Frankley Summit and expressed his disappointment that the meeting appeared to have been taken over by Constituency Officers to the detriment of the members of the Frankley community who were present. Additionally, it was clear that some of the Officers had been badly briefed, in that they did not appear to be aware of some of the initiatives being undertaken on Frankley.

The Chairperson stated that prior to the summit he, the Clerk and Simon Steele had canvassed the views of some residents outside the Reaside Centre, yet only one of the concerns which had been raised, provision for the youth, had been discussed in depth at the meeting.

Councillor Grey referred to the voluntary service ethos which enabled organisations to flourish and which was predominant when the Frankley community was first established and suggested that the community needed to reinvent itself with residents undertaking voluntary work for the community's benefit. To that end he suggested that the content of the next edition of the Neighbourhood News be exclusively dedicated to 'reinventing the Frankley community'.

Councillor Trefor-Jones, in supporting the Chairperson's comments, expressed his annoyance that, while there had been a build up to the summit with expectations that issues which concerned the community would be discussed, the agenda was led by Constituency officers to the exclusion of those residents who had attended.

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

- 1789 The following Minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 2nd June 2008 were noted –

(Interleaved document no. 2)

QUESTIONS

Parking of Excessive Vehicles – Romany Road

- 1790 Councillor Joanna Walker reported that one of her neighbours in Romany Road owned a number of vintage vehicles which he parked in the Close together with his own car, all of which were, in her opinion, preventing the Refuge Vehicle accessing the Close thus impeding the collection of household/garden waste.

At the request of the Chairperson, Councillor Trefor-Jones undertook to raise the matter with the police at the next Police Liaison Committee and, in addition, to raise the matter of inconsiderate parking in Rea Fordway.

Destruction of Brick Wall

- 1791 Councillor Rogers raised the matter of the damage done to the garden wall belonging to elderly resident on the corner of New Street/Fabian Close. The Housing Department had informed the lady that it would take 6 months for the wall to be repaired. However, due to the state of the wall the resident had no privacy and Councillor Rogers requested that the Parish Council urge that the repairs be carried out as soon as possible.

Recycling – Wrong Information on Information Leaflets

- 1792 The Chairperson referred to the leaflets which had been circulated by Waste Management advising of the various recycling collection days. However, some of the dates on the leaflets which were distributed were wrong which was causing confusion. Although he had telephoned Waste Management advising of the errors over a month ago, and he was aware that Councillor Carter had been in contact with Lifford Lane on several occasions, nothing had been done. Councillor Rogers reported that he had sent two emails to the Recycling officers regarding the non-collection of recyclable waste, he was still to get an answer. Councillor Grey felt that the whole matter of recycling needed to be looked at again.

REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO WHICH MEMBERS BELONG

Frankley Neighbourhood Forum

- 1793 Councillor Hollis announced that the Forum's Awards night would be held at the Coldstream on 26th July starting at 7.30

Housing Liaison Board

- 1794 Councillor Hollis reported that the HLB was introducing a programme for the installation of rear security gates. The Chairperson requested that a copy of the programme be sent to the Parish Office for information.

In response to a question from Councillor Carter relating to the responsibility for the repair of the security gates at the rear of some properties, Councillor Hollis indicated that according to the HLB, such repairs were the responsibility of tenants.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – 19TH MAY 2008

Parish Twinning

- 1795 Councillor Trefor-Jones undertook to investigate the Twinning process which he had raised at the Parish Annual Assembly and to report his findings to a future meeting of the Council.

REPORT OF THE INTERNAL AUDITOR

The following report of the Internal Auditor was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 3)

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

- 1796 RESOLVED: That the report of the Internal Auditor, as now submitted, be adopted.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

For Information

- 1797 The Chairperson advised that the Mobile Telephone Operator O₂ had submitted an application for a 12.5m monopole telecommunications mast and ground based equipment on land at the corner of Tessall Lane/Frankley Beeches Road. Additionally, Tesco had submitted an application for alterations to the former Kwik-save store in Rubery.

LONGBRIDGE AREA ACTION PLAN

- 1798 The Chairperson advised that public exhibitions of the plans for the former MGRover site were to be held on Thursday 19th June between 5.00pm and 8.00pm at the Austin Sports and Social Club and on Saturday 21st June between 9.00am and 12 noon at Cofton Hackett Village Hall.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

Nothing to report

TRANSPORT MATTERS

- 1799 The Chairperson thanked Councillor Sue Barton for arranging for the CENTRO officers to attend the recent public meeting which he felt had been a positive and useful debate regarding transport proposals for the Longbridge area. He hoped that that meeting would result in further consultations leading to improved transport provisions in Longbridge.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Environmental Problems

- 1800 Councillor Carter informed the meeting that he had been advised by Tracey Radford, Senior Constituency Manager, that all the Ward Caretakers together with apprentices would be working on Frankley during the latter part of the week in an effort to clean the backlog of work, apart from Green Bags. He agreed to note those areas of concern from Members but could not promise all would be done.

Grass Cutting

- 1801 Councillor Hollis requested that the Clerk write to the officers at Manor Park Farm regarding the lack of strimming all round Frankley. Councillor Grey also requested that the Clerk write to the Director of Leisure, Sports and Culture requesting that the Public Open Space adjacent to the school playing field be mowed as promised in an earlier letter.

PAYMENTS

(A) Business Visa Credit Card

1802 The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement was noted -

(Interleaved document no. 4)

(B) Schedule of Payments

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(Interleaved document no. 5)

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

1803 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Frankley Summit

1804 Councillor Sue Barton expressed her disappointment at the number of members of the public who had attended the Summit – it did appear that the vast majority of people there were either City Council officers/elected members or members of organisations. She was pleased however at the number of young adults who attended.

With regard to the proposal discussed during the workshop that that the young adults on Frankley be encouraged to under take supervised work for the elderly such as gardening in return for vouchers, she reported although residents with front gardens were required to pay for garden maintenance, Age Concern would look at individual situations.

The Chairperson, while accepting that the reintroduction of the voluntary ethos into the community would take some time, expressed the hope that, in the short term, young adults could be persuaded to undertake maintenance of the front gardens of the elderly/disabled free of charge.

The meeting ended at 2027 hours

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Chairperson