

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, 20th April 2009 at 1930 hours.

Present:-

Councillor Sid Grey MBE (in the Chair)

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

Also in Attendance Councillors Keith Barton and Ken Wood (Longbridge Ward Councillors), Andy Ross (Frankley Church Community Project), David Joynes (Resident)

MINUTES

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

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

- 1979 Hereon Councillors Linda Banks and Trefor-Jones, as members of the Project's Management Committee, declared a prejudicial interest in connection with the Grant Application submitted by the Frankley Church Community Project.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Agenda Item 10 – Grant Application Submitted by the Frankley Church Community Project

- 1980 Upon being invited to speak in support of the application, Andy Ross explained that the transport was a much needed and well used service provided by the Project but which the Project was experiencing difficulty in funding. The people who used the service, the overwhelming majority of which lived on Frankley, were getting older and needed access to a reliable transport service to bring them to the twice weekly lunch clubs at St Christopher's which for some, was the only opportunity to socialise with their peers. Although Ring and Ride could provide a similar service, he was aware that some of the lunch club members had found it in the past to be unreliable and difficult to organise for group bookings.

MINUTES

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

- 1981 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th March 2009, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

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

- 1982 The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 30th March 2009 were noted –

(Interleaved document no. 1)

REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO WHICH MEMBERS BELONG

Longbridge Consultative Committee

- 1983 Councillor Carter reported that he had attended a recent meeting of the Longbridge Consultative Committee at which concern had been expressed regarding the problems arising from the financial mismanagement at the Learning and Skills Council which could result in the commitments given for the funding of the building of the new College not being honoured. Additionally, St Modwen had issued a Press Release meeting advising that it had agreed a deal with CENTRO whereby St Modwen would provide a temporary Park and Ride facility with secure parking for 250 vehicles a short walk from Longbridge Station. The facility would be open between 7.00am to 7.00pm Monday to Saturday with effect from July and it was hoped that it would encourage greater use of the train and reduce the congestion problems currently experienced on the roads around the station. Whilst welcoming the provision of the facility, Councillor Carter felt that, to be more attractive to commuters, the facility should be open later in the evening. The meeting was also advised of the proposal to build a Youth Centre on the site funded by £5m from the lottery and £1m from St Modwen.

Resilience Team

- 1984 Councillor Bruckshaw reported that the Frankley Team had had a further meeting with Veronica Coleman and whilst progress had been made, there were still some issues to be resolved. Arrangements had been made to ensure that the flooding hot spots around Frankley were regularly monitored. Regarding the availability of sand bags in the case of a flood, Councillor Bruckshaw advised that the Forum would be applying for funding from the Council to purchase a Sand Bag Filler and two large Grit Bins to keep the sand dry.

Frankley Good Neighbour Project

- 1985 Councillor Bruckshaw reported that the Good Neighbour team would be undertaking a clearance of Princess Anne Drive which was badly overgrown on the coming Friday

afternoon between 2.00pm to 5.00 pm and on Saturday between 10.00am to 1.00pm. Additional volunteers would be welcomed.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Frankley Church Community Project

The following application for funding Lunch Club transport costs and Junior Camp transport costs amounting to £4,825 was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 2)

In objecting to the application, Councillor Rogers stressed that his objections were related to his position as a local councillor determining local expenditure and not because of his position as Operations Manager of Ring and Ride. He stressed that Ring and Ride could provide the same service as Shencare but at no cost to the Project because Ring and Ride was funded via the Council Tax paid by residents of the West Midlands including Frankley. Therefore, he pointed out that should the Council agree to the application, then the residents of Frankley would, in effect, be paying twice for the service.

Regarding the concerns expressed that Ring and Ride was unreliable and difficult to book for groups it was his experience that the users of Ring and Ride felt that the service provided was excellent and not difficult to book even for groups.

Following some further discussion it was agreed to defer a decision on the application until next meeting. In the interim, the Clerk would speak to the local Manager of Ring and Ride.

With regard to the application for funding the Junior Camp, it was proposed by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Carter, and -

- 1986 RESOLVED:
- (i) 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; funding for the Junior Camp Transport Costs;
 - (ii) That determination of the application for the funding of the Lunch Club transport be deferred until the next meeting of the Council and that, in the interim, the Clerk to speak with the local manager of Ring and Ride.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2008/2009

A Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2009

The Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2009 were submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 3)

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

- 1987 RESOLVED: That the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2009, 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 Risk Review Log for the Year Ending 31st March 2009

The Risk Review log for the year ending 31st March 2009 was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 4)

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

- 1988 RESOLVED: That the Risk Review Log for the year ending 31st March 2009, as now submitted, be approved.

C Annual return for the Year Ending 31st March 2009

- (i) Annual Governance Statement

Section 1 of the Annual Return, the Statement of Accounts was submitted -

(Interleaved document no. 5)

- (ii) Annual Governance Statement

Section 2 of the Annual Return, the Annual Governance Statement was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 6)

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

- 1989 RESOLVED: That Section 1 of the Annual Return – The Statement of Accounts and Section 2 – The Annual Governance Statement, as now submitted, be approved and that the Chairperson and the Clerk be authorised to sign the documents on behalf of the Council.

D Comparison of Income and Expenditure of the Council for the 2008/2009 Financial Year against Budget

The comparison of actual income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2009 against the agreed budget was noted –

(Interleaved document no. 7)

FUNDING FRANKLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKERS

Councillor Trefor-Jones believed that the Parish Council must approach the City Council to demand that the appropriate services be devolved as part of the devolution process and

also that the Council contact WALC to seek its assistance in the matter.

In response, the Chair stated there two matters to be considered by the Council (a) to determine whether to approve the request for funding of £26,000 to ensure the continuance of the current scheme, and (b) the question of the devolution of the services from the City Council to the Parish Council. The Council, as part of its fiduciary responsibility to the tax payers of the parish, had to consider whether or not the parish was getting value for money in terms of its contribution and the perceived benefits of the service currently provided to the parish by the Constituency. However, he had found it extremely difficult to unpick the financial contribution from the Constituency and the Wards and felt that the City should be under a similar obligation as was the Parish Council regarding transparency of financial information and Accounts.

Councillor Carter felt that if the funding was not approved, it would be a retrograde step as, in his opinion, the current service was of great benefit to Frankley. He therefore supported approval of the funding.

Councillor Bruckshaw also supported the continuation of the service although he would like to see some co-ordination between the various City Departments to ensure that there was no duplication of effort.

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

- 1990 RESOLVED: (i) 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; approval to the expenditure of £26,000 in the 2009/2010 Financial Year as the Council's contribution towards the cost of the provision of the Neighbourhood Caretakers service within the parish.
- (ii) That discussion relating to the devolution of the Neighbourhood Caretakers service to the Parish Council be continued with the appropriate officers of the City Council.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no decisions to be reported.

LONGBRIDGE AREA ACTION PLAN

See Minute Number 1983

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

There was nothing to report.

TRANSPORT MATTERS

See Minute Number 1983

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Hedge Cutting

- 1991 Following the complaints raised at the last meeting concerning the way hedges on the estate had been cut back, Councillor Bruckshaw had written Joe Hayden, the Northfield Birmingham Parks and Nurseries Manager, to complain. He had received a response from Mr Hayden indicating that the Department had followed Housing Department Policy. Councillor Bruckshaw had then written back to Mr Hayden asking for the name of the Housing officer so that he could take the matter up with him/her; he was still waiting for a response from Mr Hayden.

Councillor Rogers added that he had written similarly to complain but was told that the work had been carried out by contractors.

Black and Green Bags – Holly Hill Road

- 1992 Councillor Linda Banks drew attention to the numbers of Black and Green bags left outside properties on Holly Hilly Road. In response Councillor Bruckshaw stated that the problem was due to residents putting out their sacks in advance of the collection date.

PAYMENTS

Schedule of Payments

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(Interleaved document no. 8)

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

- 1993 **RESOLVED:** That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Longbridge Consultative Committee

- 1994 In response to point raised by Councillor Carter, Councillor Barton confirmed that funding had been secured for the Youth Centre.

Regarding funding for the College it was hoped that the project would proceed – an announcement regarding the funding was due in few weeks time.

Devolution of Services

- 1995 The Ward contribution towards Neighbourhood Caretakers was top-sliced out of the

Ward's Community Chest budget and therefore could not be devolved.

In connection with the cleansing function he could report that a new ward based four man cleaning team which would be responsible for cleaning all the roads across the ward would soon be operational.

Flytipping /Tree Felling

- 1996 Andy Ross reported that recently residents of a property in Thornthwaite Close had been felling a large tree with no regard to the safety of themselves or adjacent residents. After the tree had been felled, they had left the debris on the grass verge outside the property.

Radio WM – 'Frankley Forgotten' – 14th May 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm

- 1997 Councillor Barton referred to a Radio WM programme to be broadcast from Frankley on 14th May between 6.30 pm and 8.30 pm entitled 'Frankley Forgotten'. He intended to be present during the broadcast as he objected most strongly to the title as, in his opinion, Frankley was well served by the City Council.

Andy Ross advised that the community support worker had been approached by Radio WM suggesting the idea of the broadcast but as far as he was aware, Radio WM had come up with the title.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

- 1998 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 -

- Review of the Remuneration of the Clerk

REVIEW OF THE REMUNERATION OF THE CLERK

Members were reminded that in November last year, because of the failure of the Employer's and Employee's sides to agree a pay settlement for 2008/2009, it was agreed that an interim pay award of 2.45% be recommended for implementation with effect from 1st April 2008 pending the outcome of the arbitration. The arbitration panel had now published its findings and had recommended that the salary scales for Local Council Staff be increased by 2.75% with effect from 1st April 2008. Therefore, it was recommended that, as a result of the pay increase referred to above, the Clerk's remuneration within Spinal Column Point 38 of Salary Scale LC2 [pro rata] should be increased by 2.75% with effect from 1st April 2008.

Hereon, the Clerk withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Upon his return, the Chair advised that it had been proposed by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Trefor-Jones, and -

- 1999 RESOLVED That, in accordance with the joint recommendations of the National

Society of Local Council Clerks and the National Association of Local Councils, the Clerks' remuneration be increased by 2.75% with effect from 1st April 2008.

The meeting ended at 2025 hours

.....
Chairperson

Date

Draft copy - Subject to Council approval