

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 February 2010 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Ian Bruckshaw (in the Chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, Eric Carter, Bill Hollis, Len Lovett, Geoffrey Stephenson and Joanna Walker

Also in Attendance Ward Councillors Sue Barton and Ken Wood

MINUTES

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

2161 Apologies for absence for the reasons given were submitted on behalf of Councillors Karan Bolton (Personal), Gareth Griffiths (Illness), Des Rogers (Illness) and Stephen Trefor-Jones (Holiday).

The apologies were accepted.

An apology for absence was also submitted on behalf of Councillor Sid Grey.

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

2162 There were none.

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 Lovett, seconded by Councillor Hollis and –

2163 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council, held on 18th January 2010, having previously been circulated and were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

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

- 2164 The following minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 1st February 2010 were noted –

(Interleaved document no. 1)

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

QUESTIONS

Junction of Arden Road and Ormond Road

- 2165 Councillor Stephenson expressed concern that because of the layout of the highway at the mini-island at the junction of Arden Road and Ormond Road, buses were mounting the pavement when turning from Arden Road into Ormond Road and Ormond Road to Arden Road.

The Clerk undertook to bring the matter to the attention of the Constituency Engineer.

REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO WHICH MEMBERS BELONG

There were none

COMMUNICATIONS

A West Midlands Police

The following letter from the Professional Standards Department, West Midlands Police, responding to the letter from the Council complaining at the lack of response to two 999 calls was submitted –

(Interleaved document No.2)

- 2166 It was agreed, in view of the decision of the West Midlands Police not to record the Council's complaint, that the matter be pursued further to the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Subsequent to the meeting, Inspector Thurloe contacted the Clerk as follows –

The West Midlands Police Professional Standards Department had informed the Council that the matter would not be recorded as a complaint and as such the Clerk was under the impression that nothing would be done.

Inspector Thurloe gave an assurance that that was not the case. Due to the rules by which complaints were dealt with, the Council's complaint actually fell into what WMP call a Quality of Service complaint on the local Police Area. These are treated seriously as they gave the Police strong signals as to when their service fell below standards. They are recorded on a central data base and then investigated. Inspector Thurloe assures the Council that he has now recorded the Council's complaint and will personally investigate it. If the Police got their service wrong Inspector Thurloe will ensure those responsible are made aware and the matter addressed so that future calls are dealt with better.

In the light of this advice, the Clerk considered that investigation of the complaint locally would be better than a formal IPCC investigation and accordingly, did not refer the complaint to the ICPP as agreed at the meeting.

National Association of Local Councils

Updated and Improved Standing Orders for Local Councils

The following communication from NALC advising of the Updated and Improved Standing Orders for Local Councils 2010 was submitted –

(Interleaved document no 3)

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

- 2167 RESOLVED: That approval be given to the purchase, from the Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils, a hard copy of the Updated and Improved Standing Orders at a cost of £25.00

Nominations for the Attendance at a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Thursday 22nd July 2010.

2168 The Council declined to make any nominations.

WALC One Day Briefing Seminar

WALC Annual Briefing Seminar – Theme Community Engagement

The following leaflet advising of the WALC Annual Briefing Seminar to be held on Saturday 6th March 2010 was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 4)

2169 It was agreed that Councillors Bruckshaw and Carter together with Clerk be authorised to attend the briefing seminar.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none

LONGBRIDGE AREA ACTION PLAN

2170 Councillor Barton indicated that a meeting of the Consultative Committee was scheduled for 25th February.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

2171 The Chairperson reported that the plans for the refurbishment of the centre had been submitted for determination by the Planning Department. Additionally, the Business Case, which would be presented to the Cabinet as part of the approvals process had to be completed by the 25th February.

The Chairperson added that as part of the development, the City were considering building a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) on Education land between the Centre and the School with the final site being chosen by the Planning Department. However, because of financial constraints, the City was unable to fund maintenance of the MUGA and had asked the Parish Council to consider whether it would be prepared to undertake that responsibility. Together with officers from the South West Regeneration Team, the Clerk was currently ascertaining the likely costs involved. Once those costs were known the proposal would be put to the Council for determination. If agreement to proceed was given it was proposed to set up

a Youth Committee to oversee the operation of the MUGA.

TRANSPORT MATTERS

Service to Rubery

- 2172 Chairperson reported that discussions with NXWM and Centro were ongoing regarding the provision of a service serving Frankley and bottom end of Rubery.

61 Service

- 2173 Councillor Stephenson complained regarding unreliability of the 61 Service. The Chairperson undertook to monitor the service.

63 Terminus

- 2174 Chairperson reported that since the 63 Service had used the lay by in Arden Road as a terminus, rubbish had accumulated in the immediate area. The Parish Council was therefore considering installing a litter bin at the Arden Road.

Use of Great Park as a Terminus

- 2175 Councillor Sue Barton expressed her concern regarding the number of buses using Great Park as terminus as well as the lack of toilet facilities for the drivers. She intended to take her concerns up with the managers of the NXWM Garages.

Introduction of 144E Service

- 2176 Councillor Stephenson reported that a new service – the 144E - which ran between Bromsgrove and the Great Park had been recently introduced but with no publicity.

Clerk advised that the service was provided by Red Diamond buses which covered the Bromsgrove/Redditch Area. It was therefore likely that details of the service would be on the Worcestershire C C Web Site.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

De-Silting and Cleaning of the River Rea

- 2177 Councillor Carter reported that, after many years of requesting that the work be carried out, the City had at last agreed to de-silt the water courses at Fisher Close and the holding ponds at Lismore Close. This work, once completed, would reduce the risk of flooding in those areas. Additionally, the water course of the River Rea would be cleared and the water course regularly inspected to ensure that it remained clear. The first inspection would take place on 26th February.
Councillor Hollis advised that the Reaside Centre would be open on 26th

February to provide hot drinks etc for the volunteers.

Flooding Survey

- 2178 The Chairperson reported as part of the Flood Mitigation work Flood Surveys had been distributed to those properties which were flooded on September 2008. Residents had been asked to return the completed forms by 20th February.

PAYMENTS

Schedule of Payments

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(Interleaved document no. 5)

It was proposed by Councillor Linda Banks, seconded by Councillor Carter and –

- 2179 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no issues raised

The meeting ended at 1957 hours

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Chairperson

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Date