

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, 19th April 2010 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Ian Bruckshaw (in the Chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, Karan Bolton, Eric Carter, Sid Grey MBE, Gareth Griffiths, Bill Hollis, Len Lovett, Des Rogers, Stephen Trefor-Jones, Geoffrey Stephenson and Joanna Walker

Also in Attendance Ward Councillor Sue Barton and Dave Grant, Dave Joynes and Robert Albutt (local residents)

MINUTES

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2192 There were no apologies.

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

2193 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 Carter, seconded by Councillor Lovett, and –

2194 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council, held on 15th March 2010, having previously been circulated and were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

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

2195 The following minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental,

Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 29th March 2010 were noted –

(Interleaved document no. 1)

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 19th January 2010 together with a revised Risk Review agreed at that meeting were submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 2)

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

- 2196 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 19th January 2010 be noted and that the amended Risk Review be adopted.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fly tipping

- 2197 Referring to the increase in fly tipping on Frankley the Chairperson stated that, in his opinion, the increase was the result of the recently introduced City policy of only allowing residents three collections using the free 303 1112 rubbish collection service annually, with subsequent collections being charged.

The situation required monitoring and he requested that all Councillors check the areas around their homes and if fly tipping is spotted, to report the details to the office.

QUESTIONS

There were none.

At this point in the meeting, it was agreed to vary the order of the Agenda and to consider Agenda Item 11 – Provision of a Multi Use Games Area.

PROVISION OF MULTI USE GAMES AREA (MUGA)

- 2198 Tony Cole, South Development Planning and Regeneration Team, advised that the MUGA had been included the Business Case for the Centre which had been approved by Cabinet on 25th March. However, its installation was

subject to the Parish Council agreeing to assume the maintenance costs. Because of the financial changes in the City's budget, the City was able to provide the capital cost of the MUGA but its financial partners were unwilling to take on the costs of the maintenance which was why the City was now requesting the Parish Council consider assuming the maintenance.

At its last meeting, the Parish Council had agreed in principal to assume the maintenance of the MUGA. Unfortunately there was no other option – if Parish Council did not agreed to fund the maintenance costs then the MUGA would be dropped from the development.

Discussions taking place regarding the possible location of the MUGA and he was still waiting for a decision from the Planning Department. However, because option2 afforded a degree of 'natural surveillance' from the surrounding areas it was probable that that would be the option chosen.

Councillor Rogers, whilst fully supportive of the MUGA, expressed concern that the Parish Council would be required to fund it and he questioned whether this would happen in any other part of the City. In response, the Chairperson, advised that the Council was looking at the possibility of the Council being granted ownership.

Councillor Grey stated that if the redevelopment of the Centre had gone ahead as originally planned in 1995, Section 106 monies could have been used to fund leisure facilities on the estate. However, for a number of reasons the development of the Centre had not taken place and Frankley was left with very few leisure facilities. He accepted that the City was now taking action to meet its obligations regarding provision of leisure facilities. However, whilst he supported the provision of the MUGA, he was concerned that the City had a past history of broken promises re delivery of community facilities. He questioned why S106 money from the Longbridge development had not been used to fund the MUGA including its ongoing maintenance. He felt that the question of the ownership of the facility needed to be carefully considered including the costs of the long term maintenance before the Council committed itself.

The Chairperson informed Members that he and the Clerk had recently inspected three MUGAs in adjacent neighbourhoods. All were substantially constructed suggesting that petty vandalism would not be a problem. He added that the Clerk had checked with the Council insurers and had been informed that the all risks policy would cover vandalism. However, he accepted that there could be long term cost implications regarding the

maintenance of the MUGA.

Following some further discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would undertake further investigations into the proposal and report back to a future meeting.

REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO WHICH MEMBERS BELONG

West Midlands Police – Use of Tasers

- 2199 Councillor Trefor-Jones reported that he had attended a briefing session at the Tally-Ho Centre during which he was informed that certain police were to be trained in the use of Tasers. It was proposed that one patrol car with officers trained in the use of Tasers per OCU would be on call for 24 hours per day. The Police were in favour of the use of Tasers which were considered to be less harmful than other methods of restraint.

Councillor Sue Barton added that the officers would have clear guidelines on the use of the Taser and Tasers were considered to be less harmful than other forms of restraint and would reduce the need for firearms.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter from Inspector Tim Thurlow, West Midlands Police

The following letter from Inspector Thurlow responding to the Council's concerns regarding the incident on Sunday 17th January involving the discharge of shotguns on land adjacent to Fabian Close and Mowbray Close was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 3)

- 2200 Councillor Rogers, referring to the letter, advised that P C Mark Waugh, the Community Police Officer, had visited the farmer to inform him of the danger of allowing the discharge of shotguns close to residential properties and requesting that he take action to stop the activity in that area. The Officer had then visited Councillor Rogers to inform him of the action taken. However, since that visit, shotguns had been discharged in the field close to the houses. Councillor Rogers had telephone 999 and within 4 minutes, 4 police cars had arrived. The Officers had agreed to speak to the farmer again and Councillor Rogers was waiting to see whether the latest visit would have the desired effect.

Councillor Sue Barton suggested that if the problem could not be sorted out locally then, if the Council required, she would take the matter up on behalf of the Council.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application No: 2010/01722/PA
Site 456, 464, 466, and 468 Frankley Beeches Road B31 5NL;
391 and 433 Tessall Lane B31 5EZ; 473, 475, 479, 481,
485, 487, 489, 491, and 493 Tessall Lane B31 5HA;
Proposal: Proposed refurbishment to include removing outer
external wall skin and installing new external insulated
render. Refurbish roofs. Install new windows, doors,
entrance canopies, rainwater goods and fascias

2201 The following planning application in connection with the above mentioned development was noted –

(Interleaved document no. 4)

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application No: 2009/06330/PA
Site Frankley Shopping Centre, Ormond Road, New Frankley,
Birmingham
Proposal: Erection of signs over existing shop units

2202 The decision of the Planning Committee to grant temporary planning permission above mentioned development was noted.

(Interleaved document no. 5)

LONGBRIDGE AREA ACTION PLAN

Councillor Carter reported that he was still waiting to be advised of a revised date for the next meeting of the Longbridge Consultative Committee following the cancellation of the last meeting due to adverse weather.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

Nothing to report.

TRANSPORT MATTERS

Nothing to report.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Temporary Closure of Gannow Green Lane

- 2203 Councillor Hollis reported that Gannow Green Lane was to be closed for 6 weeks as from 26th April due to maintenance of overhead power lines.

Forestdale Community Park

- 2204 In response to a question from Councillor Linda Banks regarding the up-to-date position regarding the Community Park at Forestdale, the Clerk advised that there was to be a meeting of the working group on Thursday. Currently, the two stumbling blocks to progress were the delay in transferring part of the school playing field from Education to Leisure Services following which the land would be designated Public Open Space which would allow grant applications to be made to external funding bodies; delay in School obtaining the necessary funding to landscape the remaining part of the playing field which was to remain as education land. He hoped that the delays would be resolved at the forthcoming meeting.

PAYMENTS

Schedule of Payments

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(Interleaved document no. 6)

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

- 2205 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Rubbish in Thornthwaite Close

- 2206 Mr Allbut reported that on the previous Saturday evening, a quantity of rubbish was removed from two garages in Thornthwaite Close and dumped on the central refuge in the Close. However, despite numerous calls to the

City's Call Centres, as of that evening, the rubbish had not been cleared. In his opinion, based on his experience, the City had demonstrated a complete lack of urgency in dealing with the problem. Given the scale of the problem he had expected an immediate response. He had rung Environmental Services directly and had been given an assurance that the rubbish would be collected today but that had not happened. Not only was the rubbish extremely unsightly, but also he considered it to be a health hazard as it contained used nappies and other hazardous material. He questioned what it took to get the City departments to treat such an episode as a priority. He thanked Councillor Barton and the Parish Council for their assistance.

The Chairperson reported that he had first become aware of the problem on Sunday evening. He had taken photographs of the rubbish and had contacted the Environmental Wardens on Monday morning.

(Interleaved documents no. 7)

He had expected the Wardens to arrange for the immediate removal of the rubbish and to take action against those responsible. That clearly had not happened. He had now arranged for the Neighbourhood Caretakers to be on site at 8.30am the next morning to start clearing the rubbish.

Mr Allbut requested that a single telephone number be published in the Neighbourhood News which residents, in a similar position, could ring and expect action. Additionally, there was a need to educate residents as well as providing information regarding the services available to arrange for the removal of rubbish. He questioned whether it was possible to name and shame people prosecuted for fly tipping in Frankley or if that information was not available then across the City as a whole. There was a need to make people aware that if the City had irrefutable evidence of fly tipping then the City will take action through the courts.

The meeting ended at 2039 hours

.....
Chairperson

.....
Date