

21<sup>st</sup> February 2011

## **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, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2011 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Ian Bruckshaw (in the Chair)

Councillors Sue Barton, Eric Carter, Gareth Griffiths, Bill Hollis, Len Lovett, Geoffrey Stephenson and Joanna Walker

Also in Attendance Ward Councillor Ken Wood

### **MINUTES**

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2366 Apologies for non-attendance for the reasons stated were submitted on behalf of Councillors Karan Bolton (baby sitting), Linda Banks (Funeral) and Stephen Trefor-Jones (Police meeting).

#### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST (EXISTENCE AND NATURE) WITH REGARD TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

- 2367 Hereon, Councillors Bruckshaw and Hollis, as officers of the Forum, declared prejudicial interests in Agenda Item 11 – Application for funding – Frankley Neighbourhood Forum.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

- 2368 Speaking in support of the application, Councillor Hollis stated that, in view of the increasing cost of publishing the bi-monthly editions of the Neighbourhood News, the Forum was seeking ways of reducing the costs during the next financial year. It was proposed therefore, that the next edition of the News would be a full print run of 3,500 copies which would be delivered to householders as normal. The print run for the following edition would be reduced to between 600 or 700 copies and copies would be made available for residents to pick up from shops and public buildings on Frankley. If sufficient copies remained uncollected then the Forum would have to examine the future of the publication.

#### **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Stephenson, and, with none dissenting -

- 2369 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

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

- 2370 The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011 were noted.

(Interleaved document no. 1)

**CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Frankley Centre Refurbishment**

- 2371 The Chairperson reported that the refurbishment of the Shopping Centre was continuing apace and was anticipated to finish in mid-March.

**Flood Mitigation Work**

- 2372 The Chairperson stated that the work was still continuing on the flood mitigation project on Oberon and Miranda Closes. All householders bar one had signed up for the scheme and after several approaches to that householder it had been decided to proceed with the scheme and isolate the one property.

**QUESTIONS**

**Collection for St Mary's Hospice**

- 2373 In response to a question from Councillor Joanna Walker as to the amount collected for the Hospice, the Clerk reported that £100 had been collected and sent to St Mary's and that the Council had recently received a letter of thanks.

**COMMUNICATION**

**Nominations for Royal Garden Party**

- 2374 It was agreed that no nomination be made.

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL TO 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER**

- 2375 The following schedule setting out the Receipts and Payments for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April and 31<sup>st</sup> December was noted.

(Interleaved document no. 2)

**SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

The following schedule of draft payments was submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 3)

It was proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Joanna Walker and, with none dissenting -

- 2376 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out on the attached schedule, be approved

**AT THIS POINT IN THE MEETING, COUNCILLORS BRUCKSHAW AND HOLLIS, HAVING DECLARED PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN THE FOLLOWING MATTER, WITHDREW FROM THE MEETING.**

Hereon, the vice-chairperson, Councillor Griffiths assumed the chair.

## **COUNCILLOR GRIFFITHS IN THE CHAIR**

### **APPLICATION FOR FUNDING – FRANKLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**

The following application for funding was submitted:-

(Interleaved document no. 4)

Councillor Griffiths, referring to the application, expressed concern that costs for the Project to carry out the editorial work had increased by 25% since last year which he felt needed to be reduced. However, the Clerk pointed out that the application had been submitted by the Forum and therefore, the Council could not reduce funding for third parties - that decision was for the Forum to take. The Clerk, supported by Councillor Carter suggested that, based on the statement by Councillor Hollis earlier in the meeting, the Council consider approving the funding application in full with the caveat that the print run of next edition be 3,500 copies and the print run for the following edition to be 600-700 copies with the copies to be placed in shops and public buildings on Frankley; if the bulk of those copies remained uncollected then the Forum would have to consider the future of the News. Following some further discussion, it was, on the proposition of Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Sue Barton, with none dissenting –

- 2377 RESOLVED: That, in accordance with the powers under Section 142 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council agree to incur the following expenditure; grant of £7776 to the Frankley Neighbourhood Forum for the publication of 6 editions of the Frankley Neighbourhood News subject to the following conditions –
- that the March/April edition of the News full print run of 3,500 copies;
  - that the print run for the May/June edition of the News be reduced to 600 to 700 copies; the copies be distributed for collection by the public from public buildings and shops; if the public take up from these outlets to be found to be poor then the Forum to consider the future publication of the News;
  - that any unspent funding from the grant hereby approved to be returned to the Council.

### **COUNCILLORS BRUCKSHAW AND HOLLIS RETURNED TO THE MEETING AND WERE ADVISED OF THE COUNCIL'S DECISION**

## **COUNCILLOR BRUCKSHAW IN THE CHAIR**

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Application No: 2010/06887/PA  
Site: Frankley Centre, Arden Road, Longbridge, Birmingham B45 0JA  
Proposal: Replacement of timber service yard gates with 2.2m high galvanised steel gates.

- 2378 The following application for the replacement of the timber gates to the rear of the Holly Hill Shop was noted.

## **DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were none.

### **LONGBRIDGE AREA ACTION PLAN**

- 2379 Councillor Carter stated that he had read in Evening Mail that the City had approved the proposals for the former Longbridge Site. However, he had not seen any detailed planning applications for the site. He added that he had also received no notification of the date for next meeting.

Councillor Sue Barton offered to obtain details of the next meeting and forward it to Councillor Carter.

The Clerk referred to the confusion regarding the response from CENTRO in relation to the Longbridge Park and Ride Scheme considered at the last meeting. In accordance with the Council's instructions, the Clerk had written to CENTRO seeking clarification of the issue situation. He had, that morning, received a response from CENTRO indicating that a full response would be given in 10 days and which he would report to the next meeting.

### **FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT**

Refer to Minute Number 2371.

#### **Land adjacent to Ring and Ride depot , Arden Road,**

- 2380 Councillor Sue Barton reported that she understood that the City had agreed to continue the lease at the current level until 2015 which had been accepted by WMSNT.

### **TRANSPORT MATTERS**

#### **Bus Stop – Boleyn Road**

- 2381 Councillor Carter remarked that the Hard Standing for the Bus Stop adjacent to Fisher Close on Boleyn Road which was requested before Christmas had still to be completed.

#### **CENTRO Transport Users Forum**

- 2382 Councillor Stephenson reported that he had attended Transport Users Forum meeting at CENTRO House 18<sup>th</sup> January. He complained about disabled access to venue and additionally the documents were not available in large print.

Part of the meeting centred around the transport improvements to the A38 corridor which included the electrification of the rail line to Bromsgrove plus the building of a new Station at Bromsgrove. He felt that the CENTRO's funding for the above improvements could have been better spent on the Frankley Heavy Rail extension.

Referring to rumours currently circulating that the 202 Route was to be withdrawn, he confirmed that the service was a commercial service and it was not proposed to withdraw it. Regarding the rumours that the 204 service was to be withdrawn, the service was subsidised by Worcestershire County Council and, given the current Local Authority funding difficulties, the future of that service was uncertain.

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## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

### **Frankley and Cockhill Housing Liaison Board**

2383 The following schedule of works was noted.

(Interleaved document no. 6)

#### **Street Champions**

2384 Councillor Hollis announced that the Frankley Street Champions would be launched at Frankley Library on 1<sup>st</sup> March at the Library 1400 to 1600 hours. Councillor Bruckshaw advised that the scheme was seeking volunteers get the Frankley clean and tidy.

#### **Pruning of Bushes**

2385 Councillor Bruckshaw said that he had received a number of complaints regarding the excessive pruning of bushes across the estate. He had requested information as to the person responsible for issuing order and insisted that residents' views be taken into account regarding the level of pruning.

Councillor Ken Wood expressed concern at the amount of rubbish which was left in the hedges once they had been cut back. He was of the opinion that all the rubbish should be removed after cutting. He undertook to make enquiries together with a request that the rubbish be removed.

## **REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS FOR THE LONGBRIDGE WARD**

### **Neighbourhood Caretaking**

2386 As Chair of the Northfield Constituency Committee Councillor Wood wished to extend the Committee's appreciation that the Parish Council had agreed to continue its funding of the Neighbourhood Caretaking scheme for a further year.

### **Removal of lead from roofs**

2387 Councillor Wood was aware that currently there was a spate of lead being removed from houses on Frankley. He advised that the local Police had clues as to those responsible which hopefully would lead the arrest of the culprits. Councillor Griffiths reported that one person had been arrested already.

### **Heating Boiler Repairs**

Councillor Wood referred to the central heating boiler problems experienced by some tenants over the prolonged cold period in December. Due to the severity of the cold spell, the City's heating contractor and the Call Centre were inundated with calls for assistance from Tenants who were having problems with their heating. The biggest problem was the condenser boilers where the outlet pipe was freezing up. Apparently this was a nation wide problem - whilst the boiler could cope with overnight temperatures below freezing, they could not cope with a prolonged period of sub-zero temperatures. Bosch were currently organising a nation wide conference involving other manufactures in order to find a solution to the problem.

## **LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were none.

The meeting ended at 2015 hours

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Chairperson

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Date