

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, New Street, Frankley on 16 April 2001 at 1930 hours.

Present Councillor Sidney Grey MBE (in the Chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, David Burton, Sheila Burton, Eric Carter, Paul Kane, Derek Lewis, Kathleen Lewis, Joanna Walker and Geoffrey Williams.

5 members of the public attended the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Karan Bolton (another engagement and mistake over the day of the meeting) and Councillor Michael Denny (on holiday after Easter).

MINUTES

160 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 March 2001, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

161 The Chairperson read a letter from the Frankley Church Community Project asking the council to appoint a representative on the management committee of the Project. It was agreed to deal with this at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May.

162 The Chairperson referred to the City Council Unemployment Briefing dated 11 April 2001.

(see interleaved document No. 1)

He noted that unemployment in the Longbridge Ward had decreased since the previous Briefing in February.

163 The Chairperson reported on the City Council Transport Summit on 12 April which he and the Clerk had attended on behalf of the Council. There had been discussion of additional Metro lines and improvements to bus services. The Northfield and Selly Oak by-pass proposals were both moving forward. There had been no further news on the proposed rail extension to Frankley.

QUESTIONS

164 Councillor Carter asked if there had been any progress on providing office accommodation for the Council. Councillor Sheila Burton noted that the Clerk had been empowered to discuss this matter and suggested that one way of progressing it would be for the Clerk to write to the Secretary of the Reaside Centre Management Committee. It was agreed that the Clerk should do this.

165 Councillor Kane asked if in future, meetings of the Council could avoid Bank Holidays. The Clerk said that he would check dates against public holidays before presenting the timetable for next year to the Annual Meeting in May.

166 Councillor Linda Banks referred to the notice in the Post Office advertising meetings of the Parish Council, which had not been updated in the last couple of months. The Chairperson explained that by custom he had done this job. It was agreed that in future the Clerk would be responsible for placing a notice in the Post Office.

167 Councillor Kane asked about graffiti on walls in the Frankley Centre, especially on the unused shops facing the school. The Clerk agreed to contact the City Council about the problem.

- 168 Councillor Walker referred to a blockage of the stream at the rear of Romany Road. Councillor David Burton offered to investigate this.

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING ENVIRONMENTAL,
HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

The following Minutes of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee were submitted -

(see interleaved document No.2)

- 169 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 2 April 2001, be noted.

ACCOUNTS

The following draft payment list was submitted -

(see interleaved document No. 3)

It was moved, seconded and -

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

- 171 The Clerk referred to the payment of the Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils subscription and informed the Council that in future the Association would send copies of the Local Council Review to the Clerk for distribution. The Council currently purchased 13 copies, one for each Councillor and one for the Clerk. He asked for guidance on the number of copies needed in the future. It was agreed that copies should continue to be provided for each Councillor but that where councillors lived at the same address they could ask for one copy only if they wished.

- 172 At this point in the meeting, the Chairperson, Councillor David Burton and Councillor Sheila Burton, as Officers of the Frankley Neighbourhood Forum declared non-pecuniary interests in the following two agenda items and left the meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Walker, seconded and:

173 RESOLVED: That Councillor Carter do take the chair.

(Councillor Carter in the chair).

GRANT APPLICATION: FRANKLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

The Clerk read out the application from the Frankley Neighbourhood Forum for a grant of £125 towards the cost of producing the forthcoming issue of the Frankley Neighbourhood News.

(see interleaved document No. 4)

In response to a question the Clerk explained that a budgetary provision of £800 had been made for this for the year 2001-02.

It was proposed by Councillor Kane, seconded, and:

174 RESOLVED: That the Council, in accordance with its powers under Sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure, which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure: £125 towards the production of the Frankley Neighbourhood News.

GRANT APPLICATION: FRANKLEY COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Clerk read out the application from the Frankley Neighbourhood Forum for a grant of £800 towards the cost of the Frankley Community Awards for 2001. He explained that a budgetary provision of £800 had been made for this for the year 2001-02.

(see interleaved document No. 5)

Councillor Kane asked what the money would be used for. Councillor Williams explained the positive value for the area of the awards and the presentation ceremony.

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded, and:

175 RESOLVED: That the Council, in accordance with its powers under Sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure, which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure: £800 towards the Frankley Community Awards for 2001.

(At this point, Councillors Grey, David Burton and Sheila Burton returned to the meeting, and Councillor Grey resumed the Chair).

YEAR END FINANCIAL STATEMENT 31 MARCH 2001

The following report was submitted:

(see interleaved document No. 6)

The Clerk gave a brief explanation of the figures. He emphasised these were provisional figures and had not been audited.

It was proposed, seconded, and:

176 RESOLVED: That the statement be noted.

APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

The following report was submitted:

(see interleaved document No. 7)

It was proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded, and:

RESOLVED: That this Council accepts the Audit Commission's proposal to appoint District Audit as the Council's external auditors and that the Clerk inform the Commission accordingly.

ENVIRONMENTAL WORK IN THE YEAR 2001-02

The following report was submitted:

(see interleaved document No. 8)

In introducing the report, the Clerk emphasised that the figure of £1,500 was a high estimate of the cost of another collection and was based on the City Council's estimate of what they collected in January. He hoped that the actual figure would be substantially lower. The proposal to spend up to £1,500 without competitive tender was not in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders. However, as the City Council would be supplying a service that already had been the subject of competitive tender the expenditure could be considered as an exemption from the appropriate Standing Order. He asked the Council, and it was agreed, to consider an extra part to the resolution, exempting the expenditure from the provisions of the appropriate Standing Order and Financial Regulation.

The Chairperson explained the history of these proposals and the pilot collection carried out in January. It was unlikely that the Council would be charged for that work. He referred to the possibility of direct collection from residents and the need for this in order to serve people who were unable to bring their rubbish to the collection points. There was some discussion of the publicity given to the previous collection and it was pointed out that it had been advertised in the Frankley Neighbourhood News.

Councillor Burton referred to the possibility of obtaining composters at a reduced price from the City Council's environmental services Department and supplying them to residents. The Neighbourhood Forum was considering an approach to the City Council. There was some discussion of the question of charging for this and the need to identify residents of the area.

It was proposed by Councillor Banks, seconded and:

- RESOLVED:
1. That this Parish Council resolves to run a green refuse collection on a day to be agreed with the City Council Leisure Services staff, from sites to be agreed with them by the Chairperson and Clerk of this Council.
 2. That this Parish Council resolves in accordance with Sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972 to incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure: £1,500 (maximum) on a green refuse collection for local residents.
 3. That, as the Service to be provided by the City Council's Leisure Services Department has already been subject to competitive tender, the expenditure of a maximum of £1500 be treated as an exemption from Standing Order 74 and Financial Regulation 11(c) (The need to obtain competitive tenders for expenditure of over £1000).
 4. That the Clerk be requested to investigate further a direct collection service for green refuse and report to a future meeting of the Council.
 5. That the criteria set out above be agreed for tree and hedge work to be funded by this Council.
 6. That the Chairperson and Clerk or their nominees be authorised to inspect trees or hedges where work is requested by residents and to ask the City Council for quotations for such work, all such requests to be sent to the City Council by the Clerk.
 7. That sample quotations be requested for tree cutting work and the figures be reported back to a future meeting of the Council for action.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None.

REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN ON ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The following report was submitted:

(see interleaved document no. 9)

179 Action was agreed as follows:

Minute No. 108: discharged

Minute No. 149: The Clerk was asked to write to Mr. Nowell-Sullivan, after which the minute could be discharged.

Minute No. 152: With the consent of the Council, users of the Tudor Rose centre were allowed to address the meeting.

Mrs. June Ridler referred to meetings with users of the centre and other interested parties which had been held on 11 April, and to a meeting at the centre with the Assistant Director of Social Services, Birmingham City Council, which had been arranged for 24 April. It was agreed that the Chairperson and Clerk should attend this meeting on behalf of the Council. Mrs. Ridler and other users expressed their concern about the lack of referrals to the Centre in the last eighteen months, and about the distance from Frankley to the proposed alternative facilities. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Richard Burden MP before 24 April to find out his views on the matter and co-ordinate action if possible.

Minute No. 154: There was some discussion of the possibility of providing bus shelters in the parish and it was agreed that the matter could be further considered when Centro's response was known. The Chairperson referred to the lack of shelters by Holly Hill shops, particularly for passengers waiting for the 49A service. The Clerk was asked to check if the prices quoted by Centro included VAT.

Minute No. 158: discharged.

Minute No. 159: discharged.

At 2125 hours, on the proposition of the Chairperson, the meeting was adjourned in order to allow members of the public to raise local issues.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(A) Concrete lumps on the pavement at the corner of New Street and Holly Hill Road

180 Councillor Derek Lewis referred to the fact that the lumps of concrete were still present and a hazard to passers-by. The Clerk was asked to contact the Transportation Department again about the matter.

(B) Housing repair, Brightstone Road

181 Mrs. Ridler of Jubilee Close referred to the problem of rubbish in the watercourse nearby. The Chairperson and Councillor David Burton explained the role of the flood prevention volunteers and that they would deal with this.

(C) Brick pavings in Jubilee Close

182 Mrs. Ridler also raised the question of brick pavings in Jubilee Close which were out of place and a danger to pedestrians. Councillor David Burton offered to investigate and to ask the Clerk to write to the Transportation Department if this was necessary.

(D) Signage

183 Mr. Stephenson referred to signs marking districts in the City of Birmingham and questioned whether the City Council regarded Frankley as a district. The Clerk was asked to write to the Transportation Department to find out the current situation.

(E) Car park outside Holly Hill Road shops

184 Councillor Banks referred to the poor state of the car parking area in front of the shops. She understood that it was the responsibility of the Housing Department. The Clerk was asked to contact the Housing Department and ask for it to be repaired.

(F) Ownership of land at Holly Hill / Frankley Centre

185 Mrs. Taylor asked which departments of the City Council were responsible for which parts of the land in the Holly Hill / Frankley Centre area. The Clerk undertook to contact the City Terrier to find out.

(G) Manholes in Holly Hill Road

186 Mr. Rodgers of Titania Close referred to two manholes in Holly Hill Road which were a danger to pedestrians. Councillor David Burton and the Clerk undertook to investigate the problem and take any necessary action.

The meeting ended at 2145 hours.

Signed

Chairperson