

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 18 December 2000 at 1930 hours.

Present Councillor Sidney Grey (in the Chair)

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

MINUTES

The Clerk apologised for an error in the copies of the Minutes circulated to members. Resolution 81 (ii) should have read "In future years, roads with old Birmingham Housing Department lighting which had not yet been upgraded to modern standards would be in the street lighting programmes." The Minute contained in the Minute Book had been amended accordingly.

Councillor Michael Denny pointed out that he had been present at the Council meeting on 20 November 2000 and it was -

95 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20 November 2000 be amended to add Councillor Denny's name to those present at the meeting.

With this amendment, it was -

- 96 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20 November 2000, as amended, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

QUESTIONS

Grant Application Form

- 97 Councillor Denny asked whether, in view of the likelihood of the Council receiving applications for grants, a form should be devised to be filled in by applicants.

The Chairperson said that he supported this idea, and showed the Council the form used by the West Northfield Area Regeneration Initiative for submitting grant applications. It was agreed that the Clerk should draw up a form for grant applications using the Area Regeneration Initiative form as a basis and submit it to the next Council meeting.

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. 1)

Councillor Carter enquired as to the current situation regarding funding for flood relief works. The Clerk explained that he had spoken to the various officers concerned with the issue and most recently to Una O'Brien, the Flood Co-ordinator. He understood that there were three different bids for funding being pursued -

- (i) a bid of £12 million to the City Council and Severn-Trent water for major flood prevention work throughout the Northfield Area. The details of that bid were still being formulated.
- (ii) a bid for £1.6 million to the City Council for the

surveying, improvement and adoption of drains in the Frankley area which had been constructed by the City Housing Department but which had never been adopted by the drainage authority. This was being considered as part of the City Council's annual budget cycle.

- (iii) a bid for £210,000 to the City Council for emergency relief work, including assistance to residents who were without insurance or who could not clean their houses. That had been due to go to the last City Executive Committee meeting but had been withdrawn. However the Clerk understood that it would be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

Additionally Una O'Brien had offered to come to a Council meeting to explain the current situation.

A discussion followed during which several members expressed their concern about the lack of progress in carrying out flood prevention work. The Chairperson said that it was important to know what the £210,000 bid covered and how people could apply for help if it was available. Councillor Burton and Councillor Carter expressed concern about the lack of work to blocked drains and the suspicion that contractors were telling the Housing Department that had cleared drains when no work had been done.

On the suggestion of the Chairperson it was -

- 98 RESOLVED: That the Flood Co-ordinator be invited to attend the Council meeting on 15 January 2001 and that a letter be sent to her outlining the matters which were of concern to this Council.

Councillor Denny suggested that affected residents be invited to attend the meeting to hear the discussion.

It was moved, seconded and -

- 99 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 30 October 2000, be noted.

ACCOUNTS

The following draft payment list was submitted -

(see interleaved document No. 2)

It was moved, seconded and -

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

COUNCIL BUDGET 2001-02

The following report was submitted:

(see interleaved document no. 3)

The Clerk explained that the report submitted illustrated the effect of the precept required to fund the draft budget for 2001-02, namely £33,013. The cost to residents was an average of £10.25, which was slightly higher than he had estimated when building the budget itself. He felt it would be appropriate to talk to the Head of Democratic Services in the City Council about the possibility of transitional funding arrangements.

A discussion followed, after which it was moved, seconded and -

- 101 RESOLVED: (i) that the precept of £33,013 required to implement to draft budget for 2001-02 be noted.
- (ii) that the Chairperson and Clerk be authorised to discuss with the City Council's Head of Democratic Services and other officers the possibility of transitional funding for the financial year 2001-02.

PUBLIC FOOTPATH BETWEEN NEW STREET AND PRINCESS DIANA WALK

The following letter from the Project Leader, Local Policy Group, in the City Council's Transportation Department was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 4)

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The Chairperson requested the Clerk to send a copy of the letter to Mrs. Sue Baker of Lysander Close, who had first raised the issue.

The Clerk explained that he had sent a copy of the report presented to the last Council meeting to Mr. Laurie Ingram who chaired the Premises Committee of the School Governors, and was waiting for a response.

A discussion followed in which several councillors reported that they had always found the gates locked when trying to use the path. The Chairperson suggested that members make notes of their visits to the ends of the path and bring them to the next Council meeting.

RECYCLING OF GREEN REFUSE: PILOT PROJECT

The Clerk explained that he had spoken to the Secretary of the Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils, who had advised that the Council would need to use its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 to provide the service.

The Chairperson gave members an account of the current situation. He had been approached about the provision of extra collection sites but he felt that additional costs should not be incurred on the pilot project; additional sites might be provided on later occasions. The costs of the project would be slightly higher than he had originally anticipated because of the need to fence the collection sites. There was also a need to notify residents adjoining the sites and assure them that the areas would be cleared up after collection.

It was moved, seconded and -

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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: £1,000 on a pilot project to collect green refuse from local residents for recycling.

BANK DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

The Clerk explained that the Council currently had a balance of £12,000 in its bank account and he felt that the money should be used for the benefit of the Council. He had contacted the Co-operative Bank about opening a deposit account. The options available were an instant access account offering 1.55% p.a. interest and a 30 day account with a slightly higher rate. He was seeking authority to open a deposit account and transfer some of the Council's money into it.

A discussion followed during which Councillor Denny suggested that it might be wise to look at the interest rates offered by other institutions. In response the Clerk stressed the need for easy transfer of funds between deposit and current accounts.

It was moved, seconded, and -

- 104 RESOLVED: That the Council open a deposit account with the Co-operative Bank.

(Councillor Denny requested that his name be recorded as having abstained from voting on the above resolution).

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications to consider.

At 2020 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) Drains in Ormond Road

- 105 Mr. Stephenson reported that street drains in Ormond Road were subsiding. The Clerk was requested to write to the City Council's Transportation Department asking for action to be taken.

(B) Wellington Boots for Flood Monitoring Volunteers

106 The Chairperson explained that two staff members from the Neighbourhood Office helped the flood monitoring volunteers. It was pointed out that wellington boots could be provided for these volunteers from the money already approved for this work.

(C) Insurance for Flood Monitoring Volunteers

107 Councillor Carter asked if the flood monitoring volunteers were covered by insurance. The Clerk was asked to investigate this and speak to the Flood Co-ordinator in the first instance.

(D) Councillor Training Certificates

108 Councillor Sheila Burton asked whether the certificates had been received yet. The Clerk explained that he had raised the matter with Mr. Thompson who had agreed to pursue it with the Cheltenham and Gloucester College.

The meeting ended at 2033 hours.

Signed

Chairperson