

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 19 February 2001 at 1930 hours.

Present Councillor Sidney Grey MBE (in the Chair)

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

Visitor: Councillor Gordon Green (Ward Councillor).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Denny (on holiday to fit in with school half-term) and Councillor Reverend Lewis (ill with influenza).

MINUTES

125

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 15 January 2001, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

QUESTIONS

None.

ACCOUNTS

The following draft payment list was submitted -

(see interleaved document No. 1)

It was moved, seconded and -

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

COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2001-02

The following report was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 2)

After a short discussion, it was moved by Councillor Carter, seconded, and –

- 127 RESOLVED: That a precept be issued to Birmingham City Council for the sum of £27,513 for the financial year 2001-02.

LONGBRIDGE WARD ADVISORY BOARD: ELECTION OF NOMINEE

The Chairperson outlined the history of the Ward Advisory Board, its relationship to the Ward Committee, and the organisations represented on it. In answer to a question from Councillor Carter, he explained that it met every two months, and said that there was a need for members on the Board who would fight for the Frankley area but also take a wider view of questions which related to the whole ward.

It was proposed by Councillor David Burton, seconded, and unanimously -

- 128 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2001, Councillor Carter be nominated to serve as a member of the Longbridge Ward Advisory Board

BIRMINGHAM GREAT PARK CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE:
ELECTION OF NOMINEE

The Chairperson explained that this Committee, formerly known as the Rubery-Hollymoor Consultative Committee, advised on planning matters in the Great Park area.

It was proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded, and unanimously -

- 129 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2001, Councillor Kane be nominated to serve as a member of the Birmingham Great Park Consultative Committee

FLOODING IN THE FRANKLEY AREA

The following letter to the Chairperson from the Leader of the City Council was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 3)

At the Chairperson's request, the Clerk read the letter the Chairperson had sent to the Leader of the City Council following the January Parish Council meeting.

A discussion followed. Councillor Carter expressed scepticism about the amount of work that would actually be done in Frankley, and said that improvements needed to be made to the whole drainage system, since, if some parts only were repaired, the problems would move to other places in the system. Other members expressed some satisfaction at the fact that the bid for drain work had been successful and that some work would be done. The Chairperson said that all possible sources of funding needed to be investigated; the Ward Committee on 17 February had discussed this matter.

It was proposed, seconded, and -

- 130 RESOLVED: That the reply from the Leader of the City Council be received.

LYTTLETON HOUSE ELDERLY PERSONS' HOME

The following letter from the Assistant Director, Adult Services, Social Services Department, was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 4)

Councillor Carter said that the Parish Council needed to be kept aware of developments and to see how the proposal to transfer the home to a trust worked out.

It was moved, seconded, and -

- 131 RESOLVED: That the letter from the Assistant Director, Adult Services, Social Services Department, be noted.

"A NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR GOVERNANCE": CITY COUNCIL CONSULTATION PAPER ON DEVOLUTION

- 132 Copies of the report were made available to members.

The Chairperson said that the paper was a long document which covered many areas. He was glad to see that it had a positive attitude to Parish Councils. Councillor Burton said informal discussions about parishing were taking place in several other areas of the City, including Brindleyplace, Castle Vale, Moseley and Sutton Coldfield.

It was agreed that a full discussion of the paper should take place at the March meeting of the Parish Council, and that members should notify the Clerk of any parts of the document they wished to discuss or needed further information on.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE COUNCIL

- 133 Councillor David Burton advised that he understood the Reaside Centre might have office accommodation available which the Parish Council could share, and which would have secure storage for a computer and documents. He felt that it would be helpful for the Parish Council to have an office base in the area as soon as practicable. He was asking the Council to agree to discuss the idea with the Reaside Centre management committee.

A discussion followed in which some members expressed

concerns about sharing an office, and about the efficient use of taxpayers' money.

The Chairperson proposed, and it was seconded and -

- 134 RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to enter into negotiations with the Reaside Centre management committee with regard to the renting of office space by this Parish Council, and to report any proposals to the next appropriate Council Meeting.

GRANT APPLICATION FORM

The Clerk circulated a revised application form.

(see interleaved document No. 5)

The Clerk explained that in view of the comments made at the last Council Meeting he had sent a copy of the revised form to Councillor Denny, who was happy with the version now submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Bolton, seconded, and -

- 135 RESOLVED: That the grant application form, as now submitted, be approved.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

ROYAL GARDEN PARTY 11 JULY 2001

The Chairperson invited nominations for a name to go into the Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils' ballot. The Chairperson, Councillor David Burton and Councillor Carter were nominated. A ballot was held and drawn by Councillor Green. Councillor Grey being successful, it was agreed to nominate the Chairperson for the Association's ballot.

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RESOLVED: That the Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils be advised that this Council nominates Councillor Sidney Grey as its representative for inclusion in the ballot to attend the Royal Garden Party on 11 July, 2001.

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

The following report was submitted:

(see interleaved document no. 6)

137

Action was agreed as follows:

Minute No. 105: The Clerk agreed to inspect the length of Ormond Road and write a letter to the Transportation Department drawing attention to the sinking drain covers

Minute No. 106: The Clerk to chase the outstanding invoice from City Supplies and be authorised to spend all or part of the balance of £500 voted for protective clothing on Wellington boots

Minute No. 107: The Clerk to investigate this and if necessary obtain a quotation for insurance to cover the volunteers

Minute No. 123: discharged

Minute No. 124: discharged

At 2035 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) Public Participation in Meetings

138 Councillor Green referred to occasions when the City Council and the Parish Council were providing similar services and there needed to be an exchange of information and co-ordination of action. He emphasised his support for Parish Councils. He had not contributed until this item had been reached, but would like the opportunity for himself and his Ward colleagues to speak in Parish Council meetings, and asked if this could be arranged.

The Clerk explained the wording of this agenda item and that it followed advice he had received.

The Chairperson said that when he had been a member of Romsley Parish Council, County and District Councillors had been asked to contribute on items. This Council had allowed a resident to speak in the past on a matter of local concern, and could ask Ward Councillors to contribute.

The Clerk agreed to look at the Council's Standing Orders and see if they could be amended to allow Ward Councillors to contribute more easily to discussions.

(B) Training and Equipment for Parish Councillors

139 Mr. Stephenson explained that there was still money left from the Quest Millennium grant for training and equipment for developing a parish council in Frankley. He would welcome suggestions for spending the money.

(C) Tree Cutting in Romany Road

140 Councillor Walker expressed the thanks of her neighbours at 51 Romany Road for tree cutting work recently done by the City Council.

The meeting ended at 2055 hours.

Signed

Chairperson