

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
15 October 2001 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillors Linda Banks, David Burton, Shelia Burton, Michael Denny
Sidney Grey MBE, Paul Kane, Reverend Derek Lewis,
Kathleen Lewis, Joanna Walker and Geoffrey Williams.

There were 5 members of the public present.

In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson took the
Chair.

COUNCILLOR BURTON IN THE CHAIR

APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf Councillor Carter
(Holiday).

MINUTES

- 270 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held on 17 September 2001, having previously been
circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hereon, the Chairperson reported that Mr J Cade, Head of
Democratic Services, Birmingham City Council had invited him to
speak at a Democracy Conference at the Council House, Birmingham
in early December on Parish Councils and in particular, New Frankley
in Birmingham Parish Council and the experiences acquired when
establishing the Council.

- 271 RESOLVED: That the attendance of Councillor Burton at the
Democracy Conference to be held at the Council
House, Birmingham, on 1 and 2 December 2001 be
approved.

QUESTIONS

A Conduct of Meetings

- 272 Councillor Denny expressed his concern that at the last meeting of the Council, it was, on occasions, difficult to hear what was going on as members were speaking quietly. Additionally, a member of the public who had attended the meeting in order to raise a matter of concern, had left the meeting most annoyed that he had been unable speak as he had been unable to catch the Chairperson's eye when the subject was being discussed. Councillor Denny therefore requested that, in future, members speak clearly and more loudly and that the proceeding be conducted on a more formal basis.

B Police Response Times

- 273 Councillor Grey, referring to a recent robbery at the local Sub-Post Office, was extremely concerned that, according to the Sub-Postmaster, it had taken the police 15 minutes to respond to the incident from the time the alarm was activated. Given the assurances the Council had received from Inspector Pearson at a recent meeting of the Parish Council, he considered that response time to be unacceptable.

The Chairperson undertook to raise the matter at the forthcoming meeting of the Police Liaison Committee. It was further agreed that, should the response at the meeting be considered to be unacceptable, the Clerk be instructed to write to the Chief Constable expressing this Council's concerns.

C Old Chapel in Tessel Lane

- 274 In response to a question from Councillor Reverend Lewis concerning the old Chapel in Tessel Lane, the Chairperson advised that currently, a community association funded by the City Council was running it. The AGM of the association was due to be held in the near future and, if possible, he would attend the meeting and ask what the future of the chapel would be.

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

The following Minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 1 October 2001 were submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 1)

- 275 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport held on 1 October 2001 be noted.

PAYMENTS

The following Draft Payment List was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 2)

- 276 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Draft Payment List as now submitted, be approved.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2001

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 3)

Following a brief discussion, it was –

- 277 RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

COUNCIL BUDGET 2002-2003: TIMETABLE

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 4)

- 278 RESOLVED: That, subject to meeting the City Council's deadlines, the Budget Timetable, as set out in the report now submitted, be approved and that the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairperson, be authorised to fix the date for the public meeting to consult on the budget for 2002-2003.

PROVISIONAL BUDGET 2002-2003

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 5)

Following a brief discussion it was agreed to hold an informal meeting of the members of the Parish Council to discuss the budget with a view to submitting a final budget to the November meeting of the Council and a provisional date for the meeting of 5 November was agreed.

- 279 RESOLVED: That the Provisional Budget, as set out in the report now submitted, be noted and that the Clerk be authorised to convene an informal meeting of the Parish Council for the purpose of discussing the Budget.

Hereon, as officers of the Management Committee of the Frankley Neighbourhood Forum, Councillors Burton, Shelia Burton and Grey declared a non-pecuniary interest in the matter to be considered and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

APPLICATION FOR A GRANT – FRANKLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

The following application for a grant was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 6)

- 280 RESOLVED: That the Council, in accordance with its powers under Sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, agree 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 matter commensurate with the expenditure: £675 as a grant towards the production costs of producing the Frankley Neighbourhood Newsletter.

HOUSING POLICY IN FRANKLEY

The following letter from the Assistant Director, Housing Management, Birmingham City Council was submitted –

(see interleaved documents no. 7)

The Chairperson reported that following a recent Housing Liaison Board meeting he had managed to speak privately to the Director of Housing and had brought to his attention a dangerous outstanding repair. The Director had assured him that he would take a personal interest in the matter and the Chairperson was aware that, following that conversation, an officer from Housing had been out to investigate.

Referring to the letter, Councillor Grey felt that it had not addressed the issue of the bar on discussions of specific issues at meetings of HLB's. He maintained that since Birmingham Accord had assumed responsibility for repairs and the fact that the local housing office could no longer resolve problems with repairs, meetings of the HLB were the only forum that complaints regarding repairs could be raised.

However, because of the bar on discussion of specific issues, individual problems with repairs could not be raised or discussed.

Following further discussion, it was agreed to invite Ms Marson and the Head of Birmingham Accord to a future meeting of the Council to explain repairs policy on the Frankley Estate.

- 281 RESOLVED: That Ms Marson, Assistant Director, Birmingham City Council's Housing Department and the Mr J Bell, Managing Director of Birmingham Accord be invited to attend a future meeting of the Council in order to explain Housing Repairs Policy.

WALC CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 8)

A NALC Draft Corporate Plan

Whilst supporting the need to provide a high level of services as envisaged in the draft Corporate Plan members agreed with the proposal by WALC of a phased increase in the level of affiliation fee.

B Allowances for Members of Local Authorities and Similar Bodies

Members generally welcomed the proposal to reimburse Parish Councillors. However, the proposal to pay a Participation Allowance to each member was not supported as it was felt that such an allowance could be seen by the electorate as a payment for being a Parish Councillor. The proposals to pay travel allowances for travel both inside and outside the parish area was welcomed and it was considered that consideration should be given to the payment of a specific allowance for approved duties undertaken within the parish.

- 282 RESOLVED: That the above comments be forwarded to WALC

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE COUNCIL

- 283 Members were advised that a letter advising of the formal approval to the granting of the lease to the Parish Council had recently been received from the Property Services Division, Birmingham City Council. However, arrangements for the execution of the tenancy agreement would only be made once Planning Permission for the Change of Use had been obtained. The Clerk confirmed that an application for the Change of Use had now been submitted.

PROBLEM OF TREES ON THE FRANKLEY ESTATE

The Clerk advised that, following the previous months meeting, where the question of problem trees on the estate had been discussed, on the instructions of the Council, he had written to the Local Area Housing Manager suggesting that a joint survey of problem trees be undertaken in order to ascertain the extent of the problem. The Local Area Housing Manager had responded indicating that she was happy to undertake such a survey. In order to make the best use of the limited time available for the survey, Councillor Carter had requested that each member draw up a list of trees they considered to be a problem and then these could be inspected by the Local Area Housing Manager and Councillors to ascertain the extent of the problem.

Councillor Grey requested that the list be drawn up before 1 November as the Ward Advisory Board would be meeting on that date and a bid for Urban Renewal funding could be made to finance the work required. He added that all problems, including problems with tree roots should be included.

- 284 RESOLVED: That all Councillors be requested to identify trees which, in their opinion, were causing problems within the Frankley Estate and that a list be compiled for submission to the meeting of the Ward Advisory Board on 1 November.

SAFER ROUTE TO SCHOOL – HOLLY HILL INFANTS AND REASIDE JUNIOR SCHOOLS

The following plans of the proposed Traffic Calming measures as part of the Safer Route to School for Holly Hill Infant and Reaside Junior Schools were submitted –

(see interleaved documents nos. 9 & 10)

At 2030 hours, the Council adjourned to examine the Plans for Traffic Calming measures for Holly Hill and Reaside Schools.

At 2036 hours the Council reconvened.

Councillor Linda Banks remarked that when the plans had first been submitted to the July meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee she had questioned why Traffic Calming measures for The Beeches Infant and Frogmill Junior Schools on Holly Hill and Frogmill Roads had not been included. While she supported the proposal currently before the Council she

would like to see similar measures introduced on Holly Hill and Frogmill Roads for the Beeches and Frogmill schools.

Councillor Denny commented that whilst he supported the introduction of Traffic Calming measures as part of the Safer Routes to School, it was unfortunate that many parents, when dropping their children at or collecting their children from school, exacerbated the safety problems by parking within the safety zone.

- 285 RESOLVED: (i) That the Transportation Department be advised of this Council's support for the proposed Traffic Calming measures for Holly Hill Infants and Reaside Junior schools as part of the Safer Route to School.
- (ii) That the Transportation Department be requested to consider similar Traffic Calming measures on Holly Hill and Frogmill Roads for The Beeches Infant and Frogmill Junior Schools.

REMOVABLE BOLLARDS - PATHWAY FROM ARDEN ROAD TO RINGWOOD DRIVE AND BALAAM WOOD

The Chairperson advised that the question had been raised at a Forum meeting as residents in Ringwood Drive were experiencing problems with youths driving stolen cars at speed down Ringwood Drive and through the bushes onto the pathway and then into Balaam Woods where the vehicle was set on fire. The residents were therefore requesting bollards be placed on the pathway to prevent vehicles being driven along the pathway. The Chairperson added that the bollards would have to be removable as the City Council needed to have vehicular access to the pathway.

Councillor Reverend Lewis stated that he believed that the Local Area Housing manager had obtained a quotation for the installation of removable bollards but that nothing had happened since.

It was agreed to ask the Local Area Housing Manager the up to date position regarding the installation of these bollards.

- 286 RESOLVED: That the Local Area Housing Manager be asked to provide the up to date position on the installation of removable bollards on the pathway leading from Ringwood Drive.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 287 Councillor Grey advised that the Developer had submitted a compromise application to the Planning Department that the Planners

had indicated might be more acceptable than the original proposals. The Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee had considered the plans at its last meeting and had supported them. On the site not owned by the City Council, the Developer had submitted a planning application to build a Supermarket and that he already had a firm interested in leasing it.

CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

- 288 Councillor Grey reported that there were still problems with the level crossing in Rubery Lane. The Transportation Department were looking at several alternative proposals one of which might include a bridge over Rubery Lane. Another suggestion was to close that part of Rubery Lane and divert traffic via Ormond Road, Arden Road, New Street and Frogmill Road. Both the above proposals would obviously have to be the subject of wide consultation. However, the Environmental Impact Report could not be completed until a decision had been made on how the extension to the Cross City Line would cross Rubery Lane. The Transportation Department would be calling a meeting of the 'stakeholders' in early November and the proposals would then go out to public consultation in late November/early December. He stressed that no decision would be made until the public consultation exercise had been completed.

2001 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD FOR LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS

The Council was advised that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services had reached agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2001. As a consequence of that agreement, the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks had jointly recommended that salary scales of all full time and part-time Clerks be adjusted by 3.5%.

Based on the monthly figure of 76¼ contracted hours the new salary scale for the post would, therefore, be £7486 to £8758.

Councillor Grey felt that, notwithstanding the fact that Clerk's salary could be obtained from the Council's Accounts, in future years the item should be placed on the Private Agenda.

Councillor Denny agreed and also felt that although the proposed increase was a nationally agreed award, the Clerk should withdraw during consideration of the item.

Accordingly, the Clerk withdrew from the meeting. Upon his return, he was advised that the Council had approved the increase payable from 1 August 2001.

- 289 RESOLVED: That, in accordance with the recommendation of the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks and based on 76¼ contracted hours per month the salary scale for the Clerk be increased to £7,486 to £8,758 per annum.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following Planning Application for a One 2 One Cell Site at Frogmill Farm was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 11)

At 2053 hours the meeting was adjourned in order to allow members to examine the accompanying plans.

At 2056 the meeting reconvened.

Members had no objection to the proposed siting of the One 2 One mast at Egghill Farm and it was agreed that Bromsgrove District Council be informed accordingly. It was noted that the application site was outside the Parish area and that Bromsgrove District Council were under no obligation to consult the Parish Council. It was, therefore, agreed that the appreciation of the Council be conveyed to Bromsgrove District Council for consulting the Council when under no obligation to do so.

- 290 RESOLVED: (i) That Bromsgrove District Council be advised that this Council has no objection to the proposed siting of a One 2 One cell site at Egghill Farm.
- (ii) That the appreciation of this Council on being consulted on the above planning application when under no obligation to do so be conveyed to Bromsgrove District Council.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

A Dog Wardens

- 291 Councillor Reverend Lewis requested that the Environmental Services Department be requested to ensure that the City's Dog Wardens visited Frankley on a regular basis. It was suggested that a list of those areas that needed to be targeted be compiled and the list passed onto the Dog Wardens with a request that the sites be visited on a regular basis.

B Emergency Information Kits

- 292 Hereon, the Chairperson advised members of a scheme, supported by Birmingham City Council and the National Health Service and currently funded by Lions Club International, whereby residents would be provided with an Emergency Information Kit. The kit comprised of a small plastic container, a form and two labels. The form would be filled in and would contain information such as name, the next of kin, the name of the doctor, any medication currently being taken and any specific illnesses the occupant may be suffering from. The form would be kept in the small plastic container which would then be kept in the refrigerator. One of the labels provided with the kit would be affixed to the rear of the front door and the other on the refrigerator door. Should the person be taken ill at home and be unable to provide the emergency services with the necessary information, they would be alerted by the notices that the information required was stored in the refrigerator. The Forum would initially be getting 250 of the kits for distribution around Frankley and the Chairperson reported that the Doctors and Pharmacists on the estate fully supported the initiative. Additionally, staff at the Neighbourhood Office would assist those people requiring help in filling in the forms

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

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 12)

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Minute No. 183 | As no funding was currently available to provide the signage it was agreed that the Minute could be discharged. |
| Minute No. 227 | It was agreed that Councillor Burton would confirm with the Environmental Services Department that there would be no charge for the provision of the bins. |
- 293 RESOLVED: That the action as set out in the foregoing preamble be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Drains Cleansing

- 294 A member of the public referred to the rubbish being dumped on Boleyn Road by the contractors who were cleaning the drains and requested that it be moved as he had seen children playing with it.

The Chairperson advised that the rubbish from the drains was being put on Boleyn Road as the Gully Cleansing vehicle did not have enough storage space. Arrangements had been made for the rubbish to be collected and he undertook to contact the Transportation Department to ensure that the rubbish was removed.

The Chairperson advised that, as members were aware, the Transportation Department had identified funding which would be spent on cleaning drains in Frankley in order to alleviate the problems of flooding. To date, all the Highway drains had now been cleaned, those drains in the closes were currently in the process of being cleansed and the pathway drains would be done once the work in the closes was completed.

Problem Trees

- 295 In response to a question from Mr Stephenson regarding problem trees, Councillor Grey indicated that, if the bid for Urban Renewal Funding was successful, the money would be spent in the whole of the Longbridge Ward not just Frankley.

The meeting ended at 2122 hours

.....

Chairperson