

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 July 2001 at 1930 hours.

Present Councillor Eric Carter (in the Chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, Karan Bolton, David Burton, Sheila Burton, Eric Carter, Michael Denny, Sidney Grey MBE, Paul Kane, Derek Lewis, Kathleen Lewis, and Geoffrey Williams.

Officers in attendance: Andy Foster (clerk);
David Banks (Social Services Department)
Suzanne Roberts, Carole Woodall (Housing Department).

5 members of the public attended the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

MINUTES

228

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 June 2001, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairperson said that he thought the Parish Council was making progress and gaining the respect of local organisations and departments of the City Council. He felt that local residents, City Council officers and the Ward Councillors were all now more aware of the Parish Council's presence and its role than had been the case.

QUESTIONS

- 229 Councillor Grey asked if it was possible for councillors who were not members of the Planning Committee to be sent the agendas for the committee. The Clerk explained that any Councillor could request copies of committee agendas and he would send a copy of Planning Committee agendas to Councillor Grey in future.

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)

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

ACCOUNTS

The following draft payment list was submitted -

(see interleaved document No. 2)

Councillor Grey asked if the council's cover for financial loss was now adequate in view of the increased budget for the year 2001-02. The Clerk agreed to contact the Council's insurers and check the position.

It was moved, seconded and:

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

GREEN REFUSE COLLECTIONS 2001-02

- 232 Councillor Grey referred to the notice put up on the collection site with the words 'Tipping Site' on it. He felt that this might have contributed to the dumping of household refuse on the sites. He and Councillor David Burton expressed their thanks to Councillor Gordon Green and the Environmental Services Department for their help in clearing up the dumped rubbish. The Clerk was asked to write to Councillor Green to express the Parish Council's thanks.

There was a discussion of how future collections should be managed. Councillor Grey suggested using a lorry to collect items and take them to Cofton depot. Councillor Denny suggested that a small working party be set up to consider how future collections might be managed. It was moved, seconded, and:

- 233 RESOLVED: That a working party be set up to consider the management of future green refuse collections and report back to the Council, and that for the period ending with the annual meeting of the Parish Council in May 2002, Councillors David Burton, Denny, and Grey be appointed to serve on the working party.

MUNICIPAL HOUSING STOCK TRANSFER

- 234 Suzanne Roberts (standing in for Neil Wilkie) explained briefly the process leading to the vote on housing stock transfer. Members of the team would be making door-to-door contact with tenants in January – March 2002 to explain the scheme. She emphasised the size of the proposal – Area1 of 10 which includes Frankley contains 12,333 tenancies. The consultation would include a management plan for the future of the service and a service plan of work that would be carried out if the transfer was agreed. She asked how the Council felt Frankley could benefit consultation and how it should be carried out.

The Chairperson suggested listening to people on the doorstep. Councillor Denny said that public meetings might be helpful so

that people could hear questions being answered. Councillor Sheila Burton mentioned the Frankley Neighbourhood News.

Councillor Denny asked how the voting would be carried out. Suzanne Roberts said it would be by postal ballot run by independent scrutineers and would be counted on a city-wide basis.

Councillor David Burton asked what would happen to rents if the transfer was approved. Suzanne Roberts said that these would be capped at RPI plus 1% for 5 years unless improvements were made to properties. Council rents would rise in any case over the next few years because the Government was seeking to converge rents for differently-owned rented properties.

Suzanne Roberts was thanked for her helpful presentation.

TUDOR ROSE DAY CENTRE

235 The Chairperson proposed and it was agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow members of the public who used the centre to address the meeting.

Mrs. Ridler explained that an agreement had been reached with the City council for the users to take over the centre and run it themselves. The first meeting to discuss the new arrangements would be held on 6 August at the centre. A draft constitution had been drawn up and she wished to invite two members of the Parish Council to serve on the centre committee. David Banks said that the city's Social Services and Health Advisory team had agreed to re-invest the savings made by withdrawing from the centre into it. It might be possible to employ a community worker at the centre to cover the whole Frankley estate area.

It was moved, seconded, and:

236 **RESOLVED:** That for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May 2002, Councillor Sheila Burton and Councillor Derek Lewis be nominated to serve on the management committee of the Tudor Rose Day Centre.

COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2000-01

The following report was submitted:

(see interleaved document no.3)

The Clerk explained that the next step was for the accounts to be audited by the council's internal auditors, Councillors Kane and Walker, and he would try to arrange for this to be done during the coming month. It was moved, seconded, and:

237 RESOLVED: That the accounts for the year 2001-02 be approved, subject to internal audit.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE COUNCIL

The Chairperson explained that providing an office for the Council was his first priority during his year of office. Two possibilities had been investigated. The first was use of the Reaside Centre. The Clerk and he had met Mr. Jones, the chair of the centre, to discuss the possibility of the Council renting accommodation there. He asked the Clerk to explain the problems. The Clerk explained that there was only one office in the centre and this was currently occupied by the 'Steps' employment programme. He felt that the Council needed a separate office for administrative reasons and also to provide a private space for interviews.

The Chairperson explained that the second possibility was to rent a shop in the Holly Hill centre. A party of Councillors and the Clerk had viewed an empty shop and he felt it had the potential to make a good base for the Council. The shop was in a central place and could be open at regular times with the Clerk present. It could also be used by ward councillors or the MP, and by the local police, for surgeries. It would be necessary to apply for planning permission for change of use of the shop to an office.

A discussion followed in which members emphasised the need to raise the profile of the Council. It was suggested that volunteers could help re-decorate the shop, and that it might be possible to obtain second hand office furniture from the City Council at modest prices.

It was moved, seconded, and:

238

RESOLVED:

1. That the Clerk, acting with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, start negotiations with the City Council's Property Services section and subject to satisfactory terms be empowered to offer a sum not exceeding £4,000 (four thousand pounds) per annum for a lease of 12 Arden Road as offices for the Council, and to report on progress to the August Parish Council meeting.
2. That the Clerk investigate the possibility of any financial assistance from the City Council, West Northfield Initiative or other public bodies towards the cost of leasing the premises.
3. That subject to satisfactory negotiations for the lease of 12 Arden Road the Council apply for planning permission for change of use of 12 Arden Road to use as offices for the Parish Council.

PATHWAY NAMES

239

Councillor David Burton reported that the Neighbourhood Forum had suggested the name 'Shires Walk' for the path leading from Ormond Road to Devon Road and that this suggestion was being submitted to the Housing Liaison Board for comment.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

None.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

240

Councillor Grey informed the meeting of his concerns about the delays in granting planning permission for the Frankley centre site. He was arranging a meeting with Richard Burden MP to discuss the problem and hoped that the Chairperson and other members would attend. The Clerk suggested that it might be useful to ask the members of the Development Control Committee to visit the site.

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

The following report was submitted:

(see interleaved document no. 4)

241 Concern was expressed about the lack of action on No. 149 (bus shelter in Rubery Lane) and No. 184 (car park outside Holly Hill shops). The Clerk was asked to chase action on these matters.

Carole Woodall informed the Council that a new highway maintenance contract for the Frankley area was out to tender.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(A) Wheelchair ramps on pavements

242 Mrs. Woolley said that wheelchair ramps had still not been constructed on pavements at many important places in the Frankley area, for example at the corner outside the Dingle social club. The Clerk was asked to pursue this matter with the Transportation Department.

(B) Footpath between New Street and Princess Diana Way

243 Mr. Stephenson asked about the present position concerning this path. Several councillors said that they had found the entrances to the path closed on the occasions that they had passed them. The Clerk said that he had had no response from the member of the public who had originally raised the matter to a letter asking if she wished to pursue the matter. It was agreed that the item should be placed on the next Parish Council meeting agenda.

The meeting ended at 2050 hours.

Signed

Chairperson