

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
18 February 2002 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Eric Carter (In the Chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, Sidney Grey MBE, Paul Kane, Reverend
Derek Lewis, Kathleen Lewis, Joanna Walker and
Geoffrey Williams.

There were 5 members of the public present.

APOLOGY

An apology for absence due to work commitments was submitted on
behalf of Councillor Denny.

MINUTES

Hereon, the Clerk advised Members that he had recently heard from
the Standards Board for England who had pointed out two slight
errors in the recently approved Code of Conduct for Members.
The errors were as follows –

In Paragraph 1. (2), the addition, following the words "Code of
Conduct", of "shall not"; and
In Paragraph 1. (4), the addition of the following "(b) the 'responsible
authority' is Birmingham City Council"

In response to a question from Councillor Grey, the Clerk advised that
he would be circulating the amended Code to all Members together
with the amended Standing Orders which were to be considered later
in the meeting.

It was therefore, proposed, seconded and -

- 362 RESOLVED: That the foregoing amendments to the Parish
Council's Code of Conduct for Members be approved
and that an amended copy be circulated to all
Members.

It was proposed, seconded and -

- 363 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21 January 2002, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

ATTENDANCES AT OTHER BODIES

A The Improvement and Development Agency (IdeA) Review

- 364 RESOLVED: That the attendance of Councillor Grey at a meeting of the Improvement and Development Agency Review Team on 19 February 2002 be approved.

B Birmingham Transport Summit

- 365 RESOLVED: That the attendance of Councillor Grey at the Birmingham Transport Summit on 26 March 2002 be approved.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

QUESTIONS

Egghill Development

- 366 In response to a question from Councillor Reverend Lewis, the Chairperson advised that he had visited the site and was informed that the buildings currently being constructed where to house the ancillary workers to the construction such as Architects etc.

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

The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Public Transport and Highways Committee held on 4 February 2002 were submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 1)

- 367 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Public Transport and Highways Committee held on the 4 February 2002 be noted.

CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 2)

Hereon, the Clerk pointed out that the reference to Standing Order 51 on page one of the report should in actually refer to Standing Order 58.

Following a brief introductory commentary from the Clerk it was proposed, seconded and –

- 368 RESOLVED: That the amendments as detailed in the report now submitted and as amended be approved and that they be incorporated into the Council's Standing Orders; further that every Member be issued with an amended copy of the Standing Orders.

CASUAL VACANCIES

The Clerk advised that, as there had been no claim for a bye-election within the stipulated time following the resignations of Councillors Karan Bolton, Shelia Burton and David Burton, it was now up to the Council to fill the vacancies by co-option. An advertisement had been placed in the latest edition of the Frankley Neighbourhood News seeking applications from residents of Frankley or those working in Frankley who were interested in serving the Community by becoming a co-opted member of the Parish Council.

The closing date for the receipt of application was Friday 1 March and the Clerk suggested that an Interview Panel be established in order to short list the applicants if necessary (during week commencing 4 March) and to interview candidates during week commencing 11 March. The successful candidates would then be invited to become co-opted members of the Council at its meeting on 18 March 2002.

The Clerk further advised that, following advice from Mr Ahmad, Chief Legal Officer of Birmingham City Council, should none of the applicants prove suitable, then the Council could reject all the applicants and re-advertise. However, the process by which prospective candidates were to be chosen had to be transparent and the criteria they would be judged against had to be open, fair and not discriminatory in any sense.

A discussion then ensued as to whether the Council or the Interview Panel should set the criteria and, on the suggestion of Councillor Grey it was agreed that rather than shortlist candidates, all candidates would be interviewed and that during the week commencing 4 March, the Panel would meet to draw up criteria.

Upon receipt of nominations, it proposed, seconded and -

- 369 RESOLVED: (a) That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2002, an Interview Panel be established to draw up criteria for the interviews, to interview candidates and to recommend to the Council prospective Co-opted Members.
- (b) That Councillors Carter, Grey and the Reverend Lewis be appointed to serve on the Panel with Councillor Carter appointed as Chairperson.

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID

A Tudor Rose Community Centre

The following application for Grant Aid was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 3)

The Clerk reported that the Management Committee of the Centre had now withdrawn the application which had been deferred at the last meeting of the Council. He also reported that Councillor Denny had asked him to advise the Council that in his opinion, the needs of the Tudor Rose Centre would be best served by purchasing a new computer rather than spending money on upgrading an old computer.

A brief discussion followed during which it was agreed that the request for £600 be granted subject to the monies being spent on a new computer and the Management Committee signing a lease for the computer so that in the event of the Centre closing the Council could recover the computer.

It was, therefore, proposed, seconded and –

- 370 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 of its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure; a grant of £600 to purchase a computer for the centre, such a grant being subject to the Management Committee agreeing to sign a lease ensuring that, in the event of the centre closure, the computer would be returned to the Council.

The Clerk reported that since sending out the Agenda, he had received a further application for grant aid.

B Frankley Youth Centre

The following application for Grant Aid was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 4)

It was proposed, seconded and –

- 371 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 of its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure; a grant of £290 for the recovering and maintenance of 2 pool tables.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 372 Hereon, Councillor Reverend Lewis reported that recently two houses close to his property had had Conservatories constructed. He was not aware whether Planning Permission had been sought for the Conservatories and he questioned whether the owners needed Planning Approval.

The Clerk undertook to write to the Planning Department requesting information on whether or not Conservatories needed planning approval.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION – 12 ARDEN ROAD, FRANKLEY

- 373 Hereon, the Chairman reported that the partitioning in the Office had been started over the last weekend and it was hoped that the work would be finished during the coming weekend. He hoped to get an electrician in sometime during the week in order to sort out what was need in terms of electrical sockets etc.

With regard to the redecoration, the Chairperson asked for volunteers to help with the pre-decoration work such as filling in the holes in the walls.

In response to a question as to the likely date the Office would be finished, the Chairperson indicated that he hoped to have all the work completed by the end of March. Councillor Grey pointed out that invitations for attend the opening must be sent out soon otherwise it would be too late.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 374 Councillor Grey reported that he had recently spoken to Paul Buckenham of the City's Planning Department who had informed him that the Planning Application was now the subject of the formal consultation process with a view to the application being submitted to the City's Development Control Committee in mid-March. A copy of the application and the accompanying plans would be sent to the Clerk in the next few days for consideration by the Planning, Environmental, Public Transport and Highways Committee at its meeting on 4 March. If the Development Control Committee approved the application in mid-March then it was possible that the developer could start work by mid-April.

CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

There were no developments to report.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Dog Litter Bins

- 375 In response to a question from Councillor Reverend Lewis, the Clerk undertook to write to the Environmental Services Department regarding the provision of Dog Litter bins in the Parish.

Great Park Consultative Committee

Hereon, the following report on the meeting of the Great Park Consultative Committee held on 24 January 2002 was submitted by Councillor Grey –

(see interleaved document no. 5)

- 376 Councillor Grey then highlighted the main points of the meeting.

PAYMENTS

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 6)

It was proposed, seconded and –

- 377 **RESOLVED:** That the payments, as set out in the Schedule as now submitted, be approved.

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

The following report of the Clerk was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 7)

Minute No. 154

The Clerk reported that following a conversation with Mr Lewis from Travel West Midlands, he understood that a shelter would be provided at the 'bus stop close to Titania Close by the end of May.

Minute No. 155

The Chairperson reported that although repairs had been carried out to the area in front of the Gannow Shops/Reaside Centre there were, in his opinion, unsatisfactory. The replacement slabs had not been laid properly and appeared to be unsafe and also although two of the three bollards had been concreted in, the third had not been put back properly. He felt that within a very short time the bollard would be knocked over allowing vehicles access to the slabbed area.

However, it was accepted that as the repairs had been carried out, albeit unsatisfactorily, the Minute could be discharged.

Minute No. 361

The Clerk reported that Councillor Denny had been unable to discuss the matter with the Chairperson of Frankley Parish Council.

- 378 RESOLVED: That the report be noted and Minute No. 155 be discharged.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Interview Panel

- 379 Mr Stephenson remarked that if there were any female candidates, they might find it daunting with no female member of the Panel. In response Councillor Grey was sure that there would not be a problem and that the issue of gender would not play a part in the interviews.

Abandoned Vehicles

- 380 In response to a question from Mr Bruckshaw, the Chairperson and Councillor Williams agreed to investigate a number of apparently abandoned vehicles and, should they prove to be abandoned, make arrangements for their removal.

The meeting ended at 2045 hours.

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Chairperson