

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 20 August 2001 at 1940 hours.

Present

Councillor Eric Carter (In the Chair)

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

Also in Attendance: Ms Carole Woodall – Frankley Housing Manager
Inspector Kevin Pearson – West Midlands Police
Mr John Harbidge - Learning Support Unit,
Frankley Community High School

There were 4 members of the public present.

APOLOGIES

There were none

MINUTES

- 244 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16 July 2001, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 245 Further to his statement at the previous meeting concerning the role and presence of the Parish Council within the community and the assistance received from various City Council officers/departments, the Chairperson indicated that he had omitted to express his appreciation to the Frankley Housing Group. He requested that Ms Woodall convey the Council's thanks to her staff.

QUESTIONS

Removal of Election Posters

Hereon, Councillor Reverend Lewis reported that election posters in respect of Clive Walder had yet to be removed from street furniture in

Holly Hill Road, New Street, Boleyn Road and Ormond Road. He requested that the necessary action be taken to ensure their prompt removal.

- 246 RESOLVED: That the City Council Elections Office be advised that not all Clive Walder's Election Posters have been removed from street furniture within the Parish and therefore request that the necessary action be taken to ensure their prompt removal.

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

The following Minutes of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 30 July 2001 were submitted -

(See interleaved document No. 1)

- 247 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 30 July 2001, be noted.

ACCOUNTS

The following Draft Payments list was submitted –

(See interleaved document No. 2)

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

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK

- 249 RESOLVED: (i) That the decision of the Appointment Panel to appoint Mr R Griffiths as Clerk to the Parish Council/Responsible Finance Officer be endorsed;
(ii) That, for as long as he is Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr R Griffiths be appointed Proper Officer of the Council.

COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2000-2001

The following Accounts for 2000-2001 were submitted –

(See interleaved document No.3)

Mr Foster gave an explanatory commentary on the accounts. He added that the next steps were for the Internal Auditors (Councillors Kane and

Walker) to meet with him to go through the accounts in detail, for the accounts to be publicly displayed on the Parish Notice Board and for himself and the Chairperson to arrange a meeting with the Auditor.

- 250 RESOLVED: The Parish Council Accounts for 2000-2001, as now submitted, be approved.

NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND BIDS

- 251 Ms Woodall (Frankley Housing Officer) gave a presentation on the bids, the projects that had been funded and the benefits to the community of those projects following which she responded to Members questions and comments.

POLICING IN THE FRANKLEY AREA

- 252 Inspector Pearson of West Midlands Police explained how the Frankley Area was policed following which he responded as appropriate to Members specific questions and comments.

The Chairperson made reference to the possibility of the Council leasing a local shop to serve as a Parish Office and asked whether the Police would be interested in using the premises as a surgery on an occasional basis. Inspector Pearson indicated that he would be interested in using the Office and undertook to hold further discussions once all the details were known.

LEARNING SUPPORT UNIT, FRANKLEY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

The following report of the Bala Expedition 2001 was submitted –

(See interleaved document No.4)

- 253 Mr Harbidge of the Learning Support Unit, Frankley Community High School, gave a brief summary of the main features of the Bala Expedition. He thanked the Council for its grant that enabled the project to go ahead.

PUBLIC FOOTPATH BETWEEN NEW STREET AND PRINCESS DIANA WALK, FRANKLEY

Councillor Grey reported that he had recently walked the Right of Way, gaining access through a gap in the fencing as the gates were locked. Because the gates were locked, people using the Right of Way were gaining access through gaps in the fence which was causing damage to the fence and there was therefore, an urgent need to get the problem resolved. He questioned whether the Council should be taking the matter up with the City Council's Planning Department as permission for the fence was granted subject to the gates being left unlocked and

free access to the Right of Way – that condition was obviously not being adhered to.

However, Mr Foster advised that the access to the Right of Way was a matter to be dealt with by the City Council's Transportation Department and, accordingly, it was –

- 254 RESOLVED: That the City Council's Transportation Department be advised that access to the Public Right of Way between New Street and Princess Diana's Way, Frankley is still being denied and therefore this Council urges that the necessary action be taken to ensure that the gates remain unlocked.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE COUNCIL

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(See interleaved document No. 5)

In introducing the report, Mr Foster indicated that during a telephone conversation with Mr King that morning, Mr King had informed him that Property Services had recently let one of the shops at £6000 pa. The effect of that letting might mean that Property Services would not be willing to accept a rental less than £6000 for 12 Arden Road. Nevertheless, Mr Foster suggested the Council offer £5500pa for the lease and should that be unacceptable then the Council would have to pay the asking price.

Councillor Kane felt that, in setting the rent, account should be taken of the fact that the Council was not a commercial organisation. However, Mr Foster said that Property Services operated within strict guidelines and would not normally go below the guideline rental. Whilst not against the principal of securing accommodation for use as offices for the Parish Council, Councillor Kane did have reservations as to the anticipated cost.

In response to a question from Councillor Grey, Mr Foster advised that planning application for the change of use would be submitted as soon as the lease was signed. Additionally, whilst decoration/alteration to the internal layout could proceed once the lease was signed, he would not recommend that the Office be opened until the formal approval of the change of use was received.

- 255 RESOLVED: That, as a variation to Minute No. 238 of 16 July 2001, the Clerk, acting with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, be empowered to offer the City Council's Property Services Section a sum not exceeding £6000 (six thousand pounds) per annum for a lease of 12 Arden Road as offices for the Council, and to report on

progress to the September meeting of the Parish Council.

(Councillor Kane requested that his name be recorded as having voted against the forgoing resolution)

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

FRANKLEY CENTRE AND RELATED PLANNING MATTERS

The following letters from

- (i) The City Council Planning Department; and
 - (ii) The potential Developer of the Frankley Centre site
- were submitted –

(See interleaved documents Nos. 6 & 7)

Councillor Grey considered that, from the content of the letters, it would appear that the City Council was prepared to write off the current proposals for the Frankley Centre. He pointed out that the Developer's original scheme had the full backing of the Council yet, despite that backing, the Planning Department were insisting on changes which, in his opinion, would chop the Centre in half and was not the integrated Centre the Council wanted. Additionally, he considered the requirement in relation to the repositioning of the Service Roads would cause more noise nuisance and disturbance to the neighbouring properties.

Mr Foster felt that the Council's expressed wish for an Urban Centre would be far better served with what the Planning Department was proposing. Additionally, if the Developer did not amend the scheme along the lines suggested but still wanted the original scheme considered by the Development Control Committee, he could force the issue and demand that the Plans be considered by the Committee. However it was most likely that the officer's recommendation to the Committee would be to refuse the application.

Following further discussion it was agreed that Mr Buckenham be invited to attend a site visit in order to discuss the outstanding issues and that, subject to Mr Buckenham's agreement, the Developer be also invited to attend. Should the Council be dissatisfied with the outcome of that visit then the City Council's Development Committee be invited to visit the site.

- 256 RESOLVED: (i) That Mr P Buckenham, Principal Planning Officer, Birmingham City Council, be invited to attend a site visit in connection with the Frankley Centre Scheme in order to discuss, with Members, the outstanding issues in relation with the Scheme and

- further, providing that Mr Buckenham has no objection, the Developer also be invited to attend.
- (ii) That, if the Council are not satisfied with the outcome from (i) above, then an invitation be issued to the City Council's Development Control Committee to visit the site.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

There were none

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

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(See interleaved document No.9)

- 257 RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Paving Slabs Outside the Reaside Centre

- 258 A Member of the Public requested that the cracked/broken paving slabs outside the entrance to the Reaside Centre, which were a danger to users of the Centre, be replaced.

The Meeting ended at 2156 Hours

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Chairperson