

NEW FRANKLEY IN BIRMINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

At the Annual Meeting of the New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council held at St. Christopher's Church Centre, Holly Hill, New Street, Frankley on 21 May 2001 at 1930 hours.

Present Councillor Sidney Grey MBE (in the Chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, David Burton, Sheila Burton, Eric Carter, Michael Denny, Paul Kane, Derek Lewis, Kathleen Lewis, Joanna Walker and Geoffrey Williams.

Officers in attendance: Andy Foster (clerk);
Lucy Ashton and David Banks (Birmingham City Council Social Services Department);
Graham Lennard (Birmingham City Council Cycling and Pedestrian Officer)

7 members of the public attended the meeting.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

It was proposed by Councillor Denny that Councillor Grey be elected Chairperson of the Council. Councillor Grey declined nomination.

It was proposed by Councillor Grey and seconded by Councillor Derek Lewis that Councillor Carter be elected Chairperson of the Council.

The nomination was put to the meeting and on a show of hands it was unanimously:

- 187 RESOLVED: That for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May 2002, Councillor Carter be elected Chairperson of the Parish Council.

Councillor Carter in the chair.

CHAIRPERSON'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

- 188 Hereon, the Chairperson made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairperson of the Parish Council.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

It was proposed by Councillor Grey and seconded by Councillor Kathleen Lewis that Councillor David Burton be elected Vice-Chairperson of the Council.

The nomination was put to the meeting and on a show of hands it was unanimously:

- 189 RESOLVED: That for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the parish Council in May 2002, Councillor David Burton be elected Vice-Chairperson of the Parish Council.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology was received from Councillor Karan Bolton (needing to care for her children).

TO APPOINT SCHOOL GOVERNORS AND REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

(l) Longbridge Ward Advisory Board

It was proposed by Councillor Grey and seconded by Councillor Denny that Councillor Carter be elected as the Council's nominee to the Longbridge Ward Advisory Board.

The nomination was put to the meeting and on a show of hands it was unanimously:

190 RESOLVED: That for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the parish Council in May 2002, Councillor Carter be nominated to serve on the Longbridge Ward Advisory Board.

(2) Birmingham Great Park Consultative Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Walker and seconded by Councillor Banks that Councillor Kane be elected as the Council's nominee to the Birmingham Great Park Consultative Committee.

The nomination was put to the meeting and on a show of hands it was unanimously:

191 RESOLVED: That for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the parish Council in May 2002, Councillor Kane be nominated to serve on the Longbridge Ward Advisory Board.

(3) Beeches Infant and Nursery School, Governor

.. It was proposed by Councillor Grey and seconded by Councillor Derek Lewis that Councillor David Burton be nominated as a governor of Beeches Infant and Nursery School.

The nomination was put to the meeting and on a show of hands it was unanimously:

192 RESOLVED: That for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the parish Council in May 2002, Councillor David Burton be nominated as a governor of Beeches Infant and Nursery School.

(4) Frankley Church Community Project management committee

Councillor Denny explained the purpose of the project and its local community work, and its funding by Birmingham City Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Kane and seconded by Councillor Grey that Councillor Banks be elected as the Council's nominee to the Frankley Church Community project management committee. The nomination was put to the meeting and on a show of hands it was unanimously:

- 193 RESOLVED: That for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the parish Council in May 2002, Councillor Banks be nominated to serve as the Council's nominee to the Frankley Church Community project management committee.

PLANNING, ENVIRONMENTAL, HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMMITTEE 2001-02

Following a discussion it was unanimously:

- 194 RESOLVED: (i) That for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May 2002, Councillors Banks, Kane, Walker and Williams be appointed to serve on the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Council being ex-officio members of the committee, and that Councillor Kane be appointed Chairperson of the Committee.

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR 2001-02

The Clerk explained that he had checked and the proposed dates did not clash with public holidays. It was moved by Councillor Williams and unanimously:

- 195 RESOLVED: That the meetings of the Parish Council for the forthcoming year be held on the following Mondays at 1930 hours at the St. Christopher's

Church Centre:-

June 18 2001, July 16 2001, August 20 2001, September 17 2001, October 15 2001, November 12 2001, December 17 2001, January 21, 2002, February 18 2002, March 18 2002, and April 15 2002, with the Annual Meeting being held on 20 May 2002.

MINUTES

- 196 **RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 16 April, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairperson moved and it was unanimously:

- 197 **RESOLVED:** That the thanks of the Council be tendered to Councillor Sidney Grey MBE for his work as Chairperson of the Council and for his wise guidance of the Council during its first year of existence.

QUESTIONS

- 198 Councillor Kane asked if there had any progress on the removal of graffiti from the rear of the shops at Holly Hill. The Chairperson asked the Clerk to comment; the Clerk said that he would urge action with the City Council.
- 199 Councillor Denny asked whether the Chairperson was aware that Lyttleton House elderly person's home was being passed to a private trust to operate.

The Chairperson asked the Social Services Department officers present to respond. Lucy Ashton explained that this was happening to Lyttleton House and to some other similar homes.

Bob Judges (Assistant Director, Social Services) and Hazel McAteer (service manager) were dealing.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Grey asked if it was possible for the Council to be told the terms of the transfer to the private trust.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Hazel McAteer to ask for information on the transfer.

200 Councillor Derek Lewis asked if it was possible for notices to be put up in the Parish about dog excrement and for bins to be provided. The Clerk agreed to contact the Environmental Services Department about the matter.

201 Councillor Walker asked if there had been any progress on the provision of composters. Councillor David Burton explained that the neighbourhood Forum would shortly be meeting Jeremy Shiels of the Environmental Services Department and he would let the Clerk know of progress following the meeting.

ACCOUNTS

The following draft payment list was submitted -

(see interleaved document No. 1)

It was moved, seconded and -

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

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK / RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER

The Clerk explained that he would shortly be tendering his notice to the Council because his other work was making it impossible for him to continue. He regretted the necessity to do this so shortly after being appointed. He suggested that the Council should start the procedure for appointing a replacement Clerk on the same terms as his own appointment, by setting up an appointments panel to agree the details of advertisements etc., and to shortlist and appoint a Clerk.

The above suggestions were agreed.

Upon receipt of nominations to serve on the Appointments Panel, it was:

- 203 RESOLVED:
1. That an Appointment Panel be established and be authorised to agree the advertising for a Clerk to the Council / Responsible Finance Officer, to undertake the shortlisting and interviewing of potential candidates and to appoint, on behalf of the Council, a Clerk / Responsible Finance Officer.

 2. That Councillors Carter, David Burton, Sheila Burton, Derek Lewis and Kathleen Lewis be appointed to serve on the Appointment Panel and that Councillor Carter be appointed Chairperson.

 3. That the Job Description and Salary Scale of the post be those currently agreed.

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF TUDOR ROSE DAY CENTRE

The Chairperson introduced Lucy Ashton and David Banks of Birmingham City Council Social Services Department.

Lucy Ashton explained the difficult financial position of the Social Services Department and the pressures in areas such as children's services. There was a requirement to make savings of £5.5 million in the current financial year. Tudor Rose was being considered for closure because of its low usage, 10 people per day on average. The Social Services Advisory Team would be meeting on 12 June to make final decisions. She had been heartened by the way users had come together to make proposals of the future of the centre. The Department was supporting a bid for funding through the Neighbourhood Renewals Fund to provide services in Frankley by retaining Tudor Rose or finding a replacement for it. David Banks was setting up a project team which would manage any necessary changes, and she asked the Parish Council to nominate a member to the team.

David Banks said that he had met with users and stakeholders and was aware of the strength of feeling about the centre.

A number of members made comments and asked questions. Among the points made were:

- (i) the local voluntary sector was working to capacity in such ventures as lunch clubs
- (ii) the facilities provided by the Tudor Rose centre were much needed in the area
- (iii) councillors on the Advisory Team had not visited Tudor Rose and had no direct knowledge of it
- (iv) the Social Services Department seemed to be retreating from the area and it was unclear who they had talked to about alternative sources of funding to keep the centre open
- (v) the nature of the centre had changed since it was run by Worcestershire County Council, when it had been more of a general drop-in centre

The Chairperson proposed that members of the public present who were users of Tudor Rose should be allowed to speak, and this was agreed. Mrs. Ridler, Mrs. Bastable and other users commented on the drop in referrals to the centre since it was taken over by Birmingham City Council, and the ending of services for people aged over 65 at the centre.

In response, Lucy Ashton promised that the Social Services Advisory Team would be given a full account of responses to the closure plan. She emphasised that the main focus of the savings would be on employee costs as these represented the largest item in the budget. Councillor Denny pointed out that since the proposals were announced, a third of the time to the proposed closure date had already passed without a solution being found. David Banks said that the Department was exploring options but needed a response from the High School governors at their meeting about the future of the centre.

It was moved by Councillor Grey, seconded and unanimously:

204

RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May 2002, Councillor Denny be nominated to serve on the project team dealing with the closure of the Tudor Rose Centre.

At 2115 hours the meeting adjourned for 10 minutes to allow members to look at the plans for the Millennium Cycle Route and current planning applications.

MILLENNIUM CYCLE ROUTE

205 Graham Lennard, the City Council's Cycling and Pedestrian Officer, explained briefly the plans for the cycle route and the exhibition of the plans at the High School. All the funding for the route was not available in the current financial year and so the first priority would be to work on sections used heavily by pedestrians, with the remainder being done in 2002-03.

Member commented on the potential conflict between cyclists and pedestrians using the same narrow lengths of path. Graham Lennard said that detailed designs to reduce this conflict were being considered.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

206 1. S/01205/01/FUL 7 Quantock Close: single storey extension.

The Chairperson commented that this was an end house next to a field and there seemed to be little problem with an extension in this position. Councillor Banks pointed out that the flat roof might encourage children to climb on it. It was agreed that the Council had no objection to the proposal.

2. S/01887/01/FUL Unit 13 Tay Road: change of use to vehicle repair garage.

207 The Chairperson said that he had visited the premises. The use was already operating but it seemed clean and quiet. He had tried to contact people in the houses backing on to the site and those he had spoken to were happy with the change of use. The premises had previously been used by a courier service with vans coming and going at all hours of the day and night. It was agreed that the Council had no objection to the proposal.

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

The following report was submitted:

(see interleaved document no. 2)

208 Action was agreed as follows:

Minute No. 138: discharged

Minute No. 152: discharged

Minute No. 180: discharged

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(A) Public footpath between New Street and Princess Diana Walk

209 Mr. Stephenson asked if there had been any developments since the report submitted to the Council earlier in the year. The Clerk replied that there had not and that he had not received any reply from the original complainant to the letter he had sent her asking if she wished to take the matter further.

(B) Millennium Cycle Route

210 Arising out of the discussion earlier in the meeting, Mr. Stephenson mentioned the need for cycles to have warning bells and to use them on footpaths also used by pedestrians. The Clerk agreed to pass this comment on to Graham Lennard.

The meeting ended at 2145 hours.

Signed

Chairperson