

**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 December 2003 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Eric Carter (In the Chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, Ian Bruckshaw, Michael Denny, Sidney Grey  
MBE, William Hollis, Paul Kane, Reverend Derek Lewis,  
Kathleen Lewis, Stephen Trefor-Jones, Joanna Walker  
and Geoffrey Williams.

Also in attendance: Mr Andy Ross, Frankley Community Church  
Project Community Worker

There were 4 members of the public present.

**PUBLIC MINUTES**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

**MINUTES**

- 787 RESOLVED: That the Public Minutes of the meeting of the Parish  
Council held on 17 November 2003, be noted.

**CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Dangers of Flooding**

- 788 The Chairperson reminded Members that now that the winter season  
had arrived with the associated wet weather, there was a possibility of  
drains/watercourses becoming blocked which could cause flooding to  
nearby houses. He asked all Members to be vigilant in ensuring all  
drains and watercourses within their areas were kept clear.

**QUESTIONS**

There were none.

APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID

At this point in the meeting, Councillors Linda Banks, Denny and Trefor-Jones, as Members of the Project, declared Prejudicial Interests in the Application and left the meeting.

Frankley Community Church Project – Lunch Clubs

The following application for Grant Aid was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 1)

Speaking in support of the Application, Mr Andy Ross said that it had recently come to attention of the Project that the transport previously used by the Lunch Clubs to transport the elderly to the St Christopher's Church Centre was not properly covered by insurance. The Project, therefore, had to seek an alternative provider who was insured and, unfortunately, that had resulted in an increase in the cost – hence the reason why Project was now seeking help with the costs from the Parish Council. He added that for many of the participants, the outing to the Lunch Club represented their only opportunity to socially engage and because of that, they looked forward to it.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Grey, seconded by Councillor Williams and -

- 789 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 the Frankley Community Church Project – Lunch Clubs towards the cost of providing transport for the elderly to attend the Clubs.

Hereon, Councillors Linda Banks, Denny and Trefor-Jones returned to the meeting.

NEW FRANKLEY IN BIRMINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

The following report of the Clerk was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 2)

The Clerk briefly introduced the report. With regard to the payment of travel expenses for travel outside the West Midlands conurbation, the Clerk advised that he had consulted with Officers of the City Council and had been assured that the provision recommended in the Panel's

report (the lesser of the mileage claim or standard rail fare) was not discriminatory as had been suggested by Councillor Trefor-Jones as there was no requirement to use the train only that the travel allowance would be paid either as standard rail fare or mileage allowance, whichever ever was the least. The Clerk requested therefore, that, on that basis, the Council reconsider its decision made at the last meeting and agree to adopt the recommendation of the Independent Parish Remuneration Panel. This was agreed.

Following some discussion regarding the position of the three Co-opted Members of the Council and the inability to include them within the proposed scheme, it was proposed by Councillor Grey, seconded by Councillor Joanna Walker and –

- 790 RESOLVED: That the Members' Allowance Scheme, as now submitted and as amended regarding the payment of travel allowances for travel outside the West Midlands conurbation be approved for implementation with effect on 1 January 2004

#### TUDOR ROSE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 3)

Councillor Trefor-Jones felt that, as Councillor Denny was the Council's sole representative on the Executive Committee of the Tudor Rose Community Centre the Council should do all it could to support him. He felt that Mrs Blundell and not the rest of the Executive Committee was the one causing the problems.

Hereon, the Clerk advised that he had received an email from the Charity Commission in response to a query he had sent following the last meeting of the Council. The Commission confirmed that the Membership of the Governing Body of the Charity (the Executive Committee), the Accounts of the Charity and Governing Document (the Constitution) were information that should be open to public inspection contrary to the view expressed by Mrs Blundell. Additionally, the Commission's records indicated that, currently, there was only one registered Trustee that would appear to suggest that Mrs Blundell was not fulfilling the requirements of the Commission in registering all Trustees. However, the Commission expressed some doubt as to the position of the Council nominating representatives to serve on the Executive Committee, as the Constitution did not appear to allow for that.

Councillor Denny confirmed that following the adoption of a new Constitution in November 2002, Members of the Executive Committee had to be Members of the Centre and offer themselves for election

annually. Consequently, he agreed with the view of the Commission that there was, currently, no mandate for the Council to nominate Members to serve on the Centre's Executive Committee.

Following some further discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk write to the Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Tudor Rose Community Centre formally withdrawing those Council nominees set out in its letter dated 20 May 2003.

- 791 RESOLVED: That the Executive Committee of the Tudor Rose Centre be advised that the Council formally withdraws the nominees contained in its letter dated 20 May 2003.

#### ANNUAL AUDIT

The Clerk reported that an unqualified audit opinion had been received from the Auditor. By issuing an unqualified opinion, the Auditor is satisfied that the information provided in the Annual return was in accordance with the Audit Commissions guidelines and that the Auditor had no matters which he wished to bring to the attention of the Council.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairperson thanked the Clerk for his work in ensuring the Council received another unqualified report.

- 792 RESOLVED: That the Auditor's unqualified opinion be noted and that a Public Notice advising of the closure of the accounts be displayed in the Parish Office.

#### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION – SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS

It was proposed by Councillor Grey, seconded by Councillor Joanna Walker, and –

- 793 RESOLVED: That the payment of £80 being the Clerk's subscription for 2004 to the Society of Local Council Clerks be approved.

#### PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE – PROGRESS REPORT

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 4)

- 794 RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

## TRAINING

- 795 The Clerk reported that he had booked a Mentoring session at the end of February to enable an independent examiner to go through his Portfolio. However, he reported that he was having difficulty in obtaining the required information relating to Planning matters from the City's Constituency Planning Officer. He explained that the Portfolio consisted of several Modules, all of which had to be passed for successful completion of the course – the failure of one Module meant the failure of the whole course. Therefore, it was vital that he was able to obtain the required information from the Planning Department.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### S/06742/03/FUL

118 Charnwood Close, Frankley, Birmingham B45 0JZ  
Erection of rear conservatory

Hereon, Councillor Trefor-Jones declared a Personal Interest in the Application as he was acquainted with the applicant.

It was proposed by Councillor Bruckshaw and –

- 796 RESOLVED That the Planning Department be advised that the Parish Council has no objections to Planning Application S/06742/03/FUL

### S/07203/03/FUL

69 Charnwood Close, Frankley, Birmingham B45  
Erection of two storey side extension

At 2008 hours the meeting was adjourned to enable Members to study the Plans.

The meeting reconvened at 2011 hours.

It was proposed by Councillor Bruckshaw and –

- 797 RESOLVED: That the Planning Department be advised that the Parish Council has no objection to Planning Application S/07203/03/FUL

## DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no decisions made on Planning Applications.

### FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 798 The Chairperson reported that it appeared that the Industrial Unit on the corner of New Street/Arden Road was near to completion. However, work on the smaller unit on Arden Road, provisionally leased to the Ring and Ride service, appeared to have come to a halt and he questioned whether the Developer was experiencing problems with funding as was being rumoured. He reported that he had recently had a meeting with an Officer from the City's Economic Development Department and Veronica Coleman, the Ward Support Officer, regarding the state of the shops and rear access to the flats at the Hollyhill Shopping Centre. He had asked that the doors on the service compartments alongside the shops be replaced and the graffiti cleaned off. Additionally, he had requested that the access stairwells to the flats above the shops be cleaned up.

He reported that a meeting of the Frankley Centre Development Steering Group had taken place in October but that the representatives of the Parish Council had not been advised of the meeting date – he was therefore, taking steps to ensure that the representatives were invited to the next meeting.

With regard to the replacement of the street lighting on Ormond Road and surrounding roads, the Ward Support Officer had advised him that the work was in the process of being put out to tender. In respect of the agreed maintenance work on trees on the Estate, he was aware that some work had already been carried out but that the prunings had been left and not cleared away. As always he was having trouble contacting Mr Paddy Holloway of the City's Parks Department to ascertain the current position.

### CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

- 799 The Chairperson reported that in the Minutes of the Northfield Constituency Committee, under the item 'Matters of Urgent Local Concern', it appeared from the content of the Minute that the decision not to extend the Cross City Line had been already taken. However, the Clerk had brought the matter to the attention of the Committee Clerk and at the meeting on Saturday, the Chair, Councillor Bedser, had amended the Minute as, to date, no decision had yet been taken.

### ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

#### Labour Party Pamphlet

- 800 Councillor Reverend Lewis, referring to the Labour Party pamphlet circulated with the recent edition of the Neighbourhood News, expressed his condemnation at the contents of the leaflet that, in his opinion, appeared to suggest that the Labour Party was the only

organisation doing anything constructive on the Estate and which totally ignored the efforts of the Parish Council.

The Chairperson said that it was the duty of all Parish Councillors to ensure that everybody on the Estate was aware of the Council's activities and he went on to detail the action initiated by the Parish Council against those residents dumping rubbish. Councillor Bruckshaw said that, while Estate was not the cleanest in Birmingham, since the establishment of the Parish Council, the situation had improved drastically.

Northfield Constituency Committee – Northfield Constituency Pathfinder

- 801 The Chairperson reported that the Northfield Constituency Pathfinder had recently published a draft Statement of Intent in connection with the arrangements for the devolution of Housing Management to the Northfield Constituency.

However, he was concerned that, although it had been proposed that representatives of the Parish Council sit on the Ward Partnership Board for the Longbridge Ward, the Parish Council, because of a lack of representation on the decision making bodies, was not currently in a position to put the views of the residents of Frankley adequately. He did not want representatives from Longbridge deciding what or what was not good for Frankley and he wanted more say in the day-to-day running of the Housing Service in Frankley.

PAYMENTS

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 5)

It was proposed by Councillor Bruckshaw, seconded by Councillor Grey and –

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

LOCAL ISSUED RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Industrial Units – Arden Road

- 803 Mr L Lovett confirmed that work was proceeding on one of the Units of the corner of New Street/Arden Road – floor being laid and partition wall constructed.

Cleanliness of the Estate

- 804 Mr L Lovett confirmed that since the action taken by the Parish Council against those caught dumping, the cleanliness of the estate had improved and he expressed his support for the action taken by the Council.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

- 805 RESOLVED: That, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, which includes the following exempt information, the press and the public be temporarily excluded from the meeting.

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Exempt Information</u>
Private Minutes of the Meeting on 17 November 2003	Information relating to a employee of the Council

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS HELD IN PRIVATE

(Minute No. 806)

MINUTES

The Private Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17 November 2003, together with the Public Minutes submitted earlier in the meeting, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

The meeting ended at 2037 hours.

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Chairperson