

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 March 2004 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: Richard Smith (Frankley Neighbourhood Office)
Alun Gunter (City Council's S W Regeneration
Team)

There were 2 members of the public present.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Trefor-Jones, seconded by Councillor
Williams and –

- 847 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held on 16 February 2004, having been previously
circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

RECORDING DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Clerk explained that, on the advice of a local Portfolio marker,
instead of recording a Member's Declaration of Interest immediately
prior to the agenda item concerned as was the current practice, it was
commonly accepted to be Best Practice for parish councils to have an
Agenda Item at the beginning of the Agenda where Members could
declare any interests which might arise during the meeting. This
practice was felt to be more transparent and 'Public friendly' as all
declarations were recorded in one place.

Following a brief discussion it was proposed by Councillor Kane,
seconded by Councillor Linda Banks and –

- 848 RESOLVED: That future Agenda for the Parish Council and its Committees contain an item at the beginning of the Agenda entitled 'Declarations of Interest' and that Members' Declarations of Interest in connection with matters on the Agenda be recorded there under.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 849 The under mentioned Members of the Council declared their respective interests in the Agenda Items indicated below -

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Linda Banks	Application for Grant – St Christopher's Church	Prejudicial – Member of the Community Church Project – Member withdrew during consideration of Item.
Ian Bruckshaw	Application for Grant – Frankley Neighbourhood Forum	Prejudicial – Officer of the Forum – Member withdrew during consideration of the item.
Michael Denny	Application for Grant – St Christopher's Church	Prejudicial – Member of the Community Church Project – Member withdrew during consideration of Item.
Sidney Grey	Application for Grant – Frankley Neighbourhood Forum	Prejudicial – Officer of the Forum – Member withdrew during consideration of the item.
Bill Hollis	Application for Grant – Frankley Neighbourhood Forum	Prejudicial – Officer of the Forum – Member withdrew during consideration of the item.
Stephen Trefor-Jones	Application for Grant – St Christopher's Church	Prejudicial – Member of the Community Church Project - Member withdrew during consideration of the item.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

QUESTIONS

Prospective Candidates for the Forthcoming Parish Elections

- 850 In response to a question for Councillor Kane, the Chairperson advised that in response to the article in the Neighbourhood News, the Clerk had received two letters from residents of Frankley expressing interest in standing for election to the Parish Council. Councillor Grey expressed concern that the City's Electoral Officer had yet to set the date by which nomination papers had to be submitted. However, the Clerk advised that he had been in contact with the Officer on a number of occasions in order to ascertain the nomination date and had been advised that the Government had yet to enact the appropriate legislation to move the Local Elections to the same day as the European Elections. Once the date for the Local Elections was confirmed then the nomination date would also be confirmed.

VARIATION TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

- 851 RESOLVED: That the order of business of the Council be varied so as to enable Agenda Item 11 'Frankley Centre Development' to be considered at this point in the meeting.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

The following draft report of the City Council's Strategic Director of Development was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 1)

In introducing the report, Mr Alun Gunter, acknowledged that in the past the redevelopment of the Frankley Centre had been largely ignored by the City Council. However, there was now a degree of optimism that the redevelopment of the Centre would take place and that all parties to the redevelopment were pulling together. He referred to the Frankley Officer's Group of which the Clerk was a member and to the work undertaken by the Group. He then highlighted the main aspects of the report referring in particular to the City's commitment to the continuance of the High School but with probably a different age range and the brief

to the Consultants to determine whether or how, in the context of the whole of southwest Birmingham, the Centre should be developed.

In response to a question from Councillor Trefor-Jones regarding Transport issues, Mr Gunter stated that, as part of the planning process, any potential developer would be required to put forward a traffic survey detailing the anticipated traffic movements, including delivery vehicles, public transport as well as the probable increase in private vehicles, which would arise from the development of the Centre and how that increase would be managed.

Councillor Denny raised the matter of the probable re-organisation of educational provision within the whole of Frankley and said that he was recently at a joint meeting of the Reaside and Holly Hill Governing Bodies and while questions had been raised as to the feasibility of an amalgamation, there had been tacit support for a 'Holly Hill' campus providing nursery, infant, junior and senior education. However, there was concern that there had been no formal consultation on the proposals to date although the report referred to the closure of Reaside as if the decision had been already taken. In response, Mr Gunter accepted that the wording in the report was a lot firmer than was intended to be. The proposals were still in the very early stage of development based on the concerns of the Headteachers in the area as to the falling birth rate and the effect of that on school rolls. He reiterated the comment made earlier that the City was committed to keeping the High School open but not necessarily in its present form and stressed that efforts would be made to encourage pupils from the Estate to attend one of the Estate schools rather than one off the Estate.

Councillor Grey referred to a number of factual errors in the report and went on to express his concern that, just as the Great Park development had not met its employment potential, it was likely that the development proposed for the Centre would not be what residents of the Estate wanted nor would it generate the employment opportunities that were required in the area. He was also concerned over the possible effect that the development of the Longbridge site would have on any possible retail provision for the Centre. If permission for a large 'low-cost' retail outlet was granted for the Longbridge site then it was unlikely that a retail outlet for the Centre could be justified even though an outlet on the Longbridge site would be difficult for Frankley residents to access without private transport. He felt that the proposals put forward for the regeneration of the Centre by Arden Park Properties should have been proceeded with and suggested that all the work carried out during the last few years now seemed to have been wasted. He continued by saying that confidence needed to be put back in the area and he was not sure that the proposals outlined in the report would achieve that. Regarding transport links and employment opportunities, he pointed out that the high-tech jobs envisaged in the A38 Technology Corridor would not provide employment opportunities for the vast majority of Frankley Residents who needed transport links

to the North and East of Birmingham where appropriate employment opportunities existed.

- 852 RESOLUTION: That the report be noted.

SECTION 137 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Frankley Neighbourhood Forum

The following application for a Section 137 Grant was submitted –

(see interleaved no. 2)

It was proposed by Councillor Trefor-Jones, seconded by Councillor Williams and –

- 853 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; approval to the grant of £1372 to the Frankley Neighbourhood Forum toward the cost of producing four editions of the Frankley Neighbourhood News.

St Christopher's Church Extension

The following application for a Section 137 Grant was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 3)

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

- 854 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; approval to the grant of £2219 to the St Christopher's Church Building Fund towards the cost of building the proposed extension.

STANDING ORDERS/FINANCIAL REGULATIONS.

The Clerk explained that he had recently received a set of Model Financial Regulations issued by NALC. As well as redrafting the present Financial Regulations to take account of the changes recommended by NALC, he was proposing to redraft the Council's Standing Orders by

removing the financial sections that rightly should appear in the Financial Regulations. In accordance with Standing Order No. 77, which required that any motion to permanently vary or revoke any Standing Order do stand adjourned to the next meeting of the Council, the Clerk would submit a report detailing all the amendments to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

It was therefore, proposed by Councillor Hollis, seconded by Councillor Joanna Walker and –

- 855 RESOLVED: That the Council's Financial Regulations be redrafted in accordance with the advice received from NALC and that the Council's Standing Orders be redrafted to exclude any Financial Regulation and that the redrafted documents be submitted for approval to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

TRAINING

- 856 The Clerk reported that he had recently undergone a mentoring session with a local Portfolio marker and had received an encouraging appraisal of his Portfolio.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

At 2021 hours the Council adjourned so as to allow Members to study the Plans for the Application.

At 2025 hours, the Council reconvened.

S/01075/04/FUL

117 Charnwood Close Rubery, Rednal, Birmingham B45 0JY
Erection of Rear Conservatory

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

- 857 RESOLVED: That the City Council's Planning Department be advised that the Parish Council has no objection to the proposals contained in Planning Application S/01075/04/FUL.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

- 858 The Chairperson reminded Members that both he and Councillor Grey would be attending a meeting with CENTRO on 19 April following which he hoped that they would both have something to report.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Frankley Learning Network

- 859 Councillor Linda Banks reported that she had attended the meeting of the Network on 24 February and been requested to ask Members of the Council to submit to the Library any suggestions for courses.

Motorcycling

- 860 Councillor Trefor-Jones reported that recently the Police had apprehended a youth for riding dangerously on footpaths and pedestrian areas and, as the youth had been previously warned about the offence, the motorcycle had been confiscated. Therefore, if the public persisted in complaining about dangerous behaviour of youths on motorcycles, a result was eventually obtained. The Chairperson welcomed the action of the Police but pointed out that in most cases, because the motorcycles did not have number plates the Police could not trace the culprit.

Frankley Credit Union

- 861 Referring to the success of the Credit Union, Councillor Denny said that it now needed more volunteers to assist as collectors for a couple of hours per month. The Chairperson pointed out that the Council had originally offered the use of the small office at the Council Office but that the offer had not been taken up. It was likely that Gareth Griffiths would be willing to help if the Union operated from the Office.

Parish Boundary

- 862 Councillor Grey, referring to the Parish Maps that had been circulated previously (Frankley Centre Development) pointed out that the Parish Boundary behind the houses in Rubery Lane was incorrect. According to the Parish Maps provided by the Government at the establishment of the Council, the Boundary was the River Rea but the Maps previously circulated showed it to be Ringwood Drive. The Clerk undertook to point out the error to the Regeneration team.

PAYMENTS

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 4)

It was proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Williams and –

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

LOCAL ISSUED RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Clerk reported that during the Mentoring session that he had attended it had been pointed out by the Mentor that the Council's current practice of allowing the Public to raise matters of local concern under this agenda heading during the actual meeting was unlawful. The Clerk had been aware that the legislation relating to Parish Council meetings did not allow the public to participate in the proceedings of the Council, but he was also aware that a number of other Parish Councils also allowed Public participation during the meeting. However, in the light of the advice given he proposed three alternatives for the Council to consider –

- To allow a period prior to the commencement of the meeting to allow the Public to raise issues of concern which would then be considered during the meeting;
- To retain the present practice of allowing a period at the end of the Public part of the Agenda for the Public to raise issues of concern but that, in order to comply with the legislation, the meeting be formally adjourned during the item and reconvened at the end of the Public period;
- That the Council retain its present procedure (Not recommended)

A lengthy discussion ensued during which Members agreed that the Council had to comply with the legislation and the second option of adjourning the meeting during consideration of issues raised by the Public was preferable. It was also agreed that on those occasions when the Council felt it to be beneficial for the Public to participate in a debate, then the Council would adjourn the meeting so as to allow the Public to speak.

- 864 RESOLVED: That for future Agenda, the meeting be adjourned prior to consideration of the item 'Local Issues Raised by Members of the Public' so as to allow the Public to raise issues for consideration by the Council; further that, if during a debate on an issue, the Council feel that it would be beneficial for the Public to contribute, the Council to adjourn the meeting at that point.

At 2048 hours the meeting adjourned.

Public Participation

- 865 Mr Lovett and Mr Stephenson remarked that if the Public were able to participate too often then the length of meeting could be extended unnecessarily. The Chairperson remarked that it was up to the

Chairperson to control the meeting and ensure the expeditious conduct of business.

Motorised Scooters

- 866 Mr Lovett expressed concern as to the number of motorised scooters seen on the Estate which were being ridden on pavements/pedestrian areas and which were a danger to pedestrians. The Chairman agreed to refer to the matter in the next edition of the Newsletter.

The meeting reconvened at 2051 hours.

The meeting ended at 2051 hours.

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Chairperson