

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
16 February 2004 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Eric Carter (In the Chair)

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

There were 3 members of the public present.

PUBLIC MINUTES

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor Denny.

PUBLIC MINUTES

- 829 RESOLVED: That the Public Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 January 2004, be noted.

MATTERS ARISING

Minute No. 808 Road Surface – Toucan Crossing, New Inns Lane

- 830 The Clerk reported that he had ascertained that the responsibility for maintaining the crossing lay with the City Council. He had therefore written to the Transportation Department advising of the deteriorating road surface and had since received an assurance that the City was aware of the problem and that remedial work was in hand.

Minute No. 814 Public Transport Improvements for Frankley

- 831 The Clerk reported that CENTRO had agreed that Councillor Carter be an additional representative of the Council, that both Councillors Carter and Grey could attend meetings of CENTRO as representatives of the Council and that all paper work associated with the meetings would also be sent to the Clerk.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holly Hill Methodist C of E Infant and Nursery School

The following article from the 13 February edition of the Bromsgrove Standard was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 1)

- 832 The Chairperson, referring to the article, paid tribute to the school and its staff on its accomplishment in gaining an 'outstanding' Ofsted report resulting in the school being placed as one of the top seven in Birmingham. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Headteacher congratulating the school on its achievement.

Royal Garden Party – Buckingham Palace

The Chairperson reported that WALC was seeking nominations from the Parish Council for an invitation to a Royal Garden Party to be held on 6 July 2004. The final selection of a name from those submitted by parish councils in Warwickshire and West Midlands would be by drawn from a hat with the successful name forwarded to the Lord Chamberlain.

As the invitation was to recognise unstinting services to local councils, the Chairperson proposed that, in view of his previous work for the community, Councillor Grey be the Council's nominee. The proposal being seconded by Councillor Reverend Lewis, it was –

- 833 RESOLVED: That Councillor Grey, together with Mrs Grey, be this Council's nominees to attend the Royal Garden Party to be held on Tuesday 6 July 2004.

QUESTIONS

There were none.

FRANKLEY LEARNING NETWORK

Councillor Trefor-Jones advised that the Frankley Learning Network was part of the Learning Skills Council which promoted basic core literacy/ numeracy /IT skills for adults.

- 834 RESOLVED: That Councillor Linda Banks be authorised to attend the meeting of the Frankley Learning Network on Tuesday 24 February 2004 and that attendance thereat be considered an approved duty.

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES – CO-OPTED MEMBERS

The following draft letter to the local Member of Parliament was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 3)

The Clerk explained that NALC had circulated a draft letter to all its member parish/town councils together with the request that the letter be sent to their MP's in the expectation that pressure would be placed on the Government to make the necessary amendment to the Regulations.

- 835 RESOLVED: That the letter as now submitted, be sent to Richard Burden, Member of Parliament for Birmingham Northfield.

PARISH WEBSITE

At 1943 hours, the meeting adjourned in order to allow Members to look at some screen-shots of the proposed website.

At 1947 hours the meeting reconvened.

The Clerk, referring to the Council documents which would be placed on the site (Minutes/Agenda etc), advised that such documents would be more secure if they were converted to the pdf format (portable document file) before uploading onto the site. Not only was that format more secure against unauthorised access to the documents, but, unlike a document in the 'Word' format which could only be read in the 'Word' program outside the website, a pdf document could be read within the website. He therefore sought approval to purchase Adobe Acrobat 6 at an approximate cost of £250. Additionally, the Clerk sought approval to upgrade the telephone line in the office to Broadband that would cost approximately £30 per month.

Following some further discussion, during which it was agreed that all text on the website pages should be the minimum of 12pt for those with a visual disability, it was proposed by Councillor Trefor-Jones, seconded by Councillor Bruckshaw and –

- 836 RESOLVED: (i) That the purchase of Adobe Acrobat 6 software and the upgrading of the telephone line in the office to ADSL standard so as to enable Broadband connection to the internet, be approved;

- (ii) That Leonard Heath Associates be advised that all text on the website should be not less than 12pt.

TRAINING

The Clerk reported that he would be attending a one-day course on the Planning Process on 24 February at the University College, Worcester.

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

- 837 RESOLVED: That the attendance of the Clerk at the ‘Engaging the Community and Small Businesses in the Planning Process’ course, organised by West Midlands Planning Aid to be held at University College, Worcester, be approved.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no Planning Applications to consider.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/07203/03/FUL
69 Charnwood Close, Frankley, Birmingham
Erection of 2-storey side extension

- 838 Members were advised that, under delegated powers and after due consideration, planning approval had been granted in respect of the above mentioned Application subject to the conditions set out in the decision letter.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

A Minutes of the Frankley Officers Group

The following Minutes of the meeting of the Frankley Officers Group held on 26 January were submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 4)

B Frankley Town Centre Development

The following draft report of the Director of development was submitted –

(see interleaved document no, 5)

The Clerk reported that at the meeting of the Frankley Officers Group held earlier that day it had been reported that due the necessity to circulate the report to all the chief officers involved and then incorporate any suggested changes, the time scale in paragraph 5.4 of the report had slipped and that it was now likely that the Masterplan proposal would now not be ready until September/October. Additionally, the project was now known as The Frankley Centre Plan. He had requested that an officer from Economic Development attend the next meeting of the Council to give a presentation of the project and that had been agreed. After attending two meetings of the Group and talking to various officers of the Council, he did feel that the project was now being taken seriously and that there was enthusiasm from the various departments involved for the project to succeed.

Councillor Grey, while welcoming the progress was concerned that, even at this early stage the time scale was apparently slipping. He referred to the difficulties experienced in the past by the Parish Council to progress the development of the Centre and suggested that the current development project was only as a result of pressure from the Parish Council.

He also expressed concern over the development of the Longbridge Site as, although the Planning Framework stated that only a small foodstore, such as a local Spar, would be acceptable, the developers had submitted outline application for a foodstore of approximately 45,000 sq ft. If permission for a foodstore of that size were to be granted, although it would be of no advantage to Frankley, it would have an effect on the possibility of retail development in the Centre. Councillor Grey, referring to paragraph 3.1 of the report, stated that there were nearer 3,500 properties on Frankley, not as stated in the report, 2,400.

- 839 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Frankley Officers Group held on 26 January 2004 and the Draft Report of the Director of Development be noted.

CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

- 840 The Chairperson reported that the Stakeholders conference, originally due to be held at the end of January, was now scheduled to be held on Monday 19 April.

In response to a question from the Chairperson, Councillor Bruckshaw confirmed that the bid for funding the extension of the 49 Service to Longbridge Station had been unsuccessful.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Police Liaison Committee

- 841 Councillor Trefor-Jones reported that although there was evidence of motorists speeding on roads within the Estate, because there had been no fatalities, Frankley currently was not being considered for traffic calming measures. However, the PLC would be taking the matter up with the City Council.

Councillor Carter questioned as to whom he should complain to regarding the state of the community since the Police had been withdrawn from the Estate. He referred to instances of old ladies being mugged and youths riding motorcycles dangerously on pavements/pedestrian areas and not wearing crash helmets.

Councillor Trefor-Jones advised that the majority of the muggings were due to one person who had recently been released from prison. The Police were aware of who was responsible - it was a question of obtaining sufficient evidence to secure a conviction. Regarding the motorcycles, the police had recently taken action against several of the culprits and had issued them with a warning. Under the Anti-Social Behaviour legislation recently introduced, if the youths were caught again riding motorcycles in a dangerous manner, having been warned, the motorcycles could then be confiscated.

Councillor Carter said that he had complained regarding the lack of policing on Frankley on many occasions but with no success. Councillor Trefor-Jones stated that he had had difficulty in the past in contacting Inspector Campbell and had therefore reported the matter to Chief Superintendent Jordan at Bournville Police Station. He asked that anyone reporting a crime get a log number so that if the Police took no action the matter could be taken up with Chief Superintendent Jordan.

In response to a question from Councillor Grey, Councillor Trefor-Jones advised that the call out time to incidents was a maximum of 10 minutes.

Abandoned Vehicles

- 842 Councillor Bruckshaw referred to a recent incident where a neighbour of his had reported an abandoned untaxed vehicle to two police officers parked up in a panda car. Although they said that they would deal with the matter, they had subsequently driven off and ignored the vehicle.

Councillor Trefor-Jones advised that abandoned untaxed vehicles should be reported to the DVLA in Birmingham which would then

check the registration to see if the vehicle was taxed and if not, arrange for its removal by a firm of contractors.

PAYMENTS

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 8)

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

- 843 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

- 844 In response to a question from Mr Lovett, the Chairperson advised that, as far as he was aware, one unit at the south end of the development had been leased to TWM's Ring and Ride Service which was now operating out of the unit. The Unit adjacent to New Street/Arden Road was in the process of being leased to a firm of signmakers although he understood that there was some disagreement with the City's Planners as to the activities that could take place within the unit. It was possible that more units would be leased once the landscaping work on the development had been completed.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

- 845 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 held on 19 January 2004	Information relating to the letting of a contract for the provision of a website

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS HELD IN PRIVATE

(Minute no. 846)

MINUTES

The Private Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 January, having been previously circulated were, together with the Public Minutes submitted early in the meeting, taken as read, confirmed and signed.

The meeting ended at 2045 hours.

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Chairperson