

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
19 January 2004 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Eric Carter (In the Chair)

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

Also in Attendance: Richard Bridgeman (Frankley Neighbourhood
Office)
Judith Hinton (Leisure Centre Manager)

There were 3 members of the public present.

PUBLIC MINUTES

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Kane
(illness).

MINUTES

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

- 807 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held on 15 December 2003, having been previously
circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

QUESTIONS

Road Surface – Toucan Crossing, New Inns Lane.

- 808 Councillor Joanna Walker referred to the deteriorating state of the
road surface of the Toucan Crossing on New Inns Lane and
requested that it be resurfaced. However, given that the Crossing was

a joint initiative between Birmingham City Council and Bromsgrove District Council, approaches would have to be made to both Councils to ascertain which was actually responsible for the road surface. It was agreed that Clerk investigate as to which Authority was responsible and to request the responsible Authority to repair the road surface.

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID

A Frankley Neighbourhood Forum – Frankley Neighbourhood News

At this point in the meeting, Councillors Bruckshaw and Grey, as officers of the Forum, declared Prejudicial Interests in the Applications and left the meeting.

The following applications for Grant Aid were submitted -

(see interleaved documents nos. 1 & 2)

Councillor Denny commented upon the usefulness of the paper informing residents both living on the estate and in the surrounding areas and those working on the estate of the activities taking place.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Denny and -

- 809 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; grants of £154.54 and £192.23 (totalling £346.77) to the Frankley Neighbourhood Forum towards the cost of publishing the Frankley Neighbourhood News.

Hereon, Councillors Bruckshaw and Grey returned to the meeting.

B Frankley Kids Club

The following application for Grant Aid was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 3)

Ms Hinton said that the Club had started in September 2003 in response to favourable comments from Parents following the Summer Playscheme. It was designed to provide a range of activities that had not been previously available. In response to questions from Councillor Grey regarding the finances of the Club, Ms Hinton stated

that some of the staffing costs were covered because staffing contacts required some Saturday working. However, it was anticipated that, for the period January to April, staffing costs would amount to approximately £1,237. The fees for the period were estimated to be in the region of £630 leaving a shortfall of £607, which it had been agreed that the Leisure Centre would meet. Should the Application now before the Council be successful, that shortfall would be reduced to £107. However it was hoped that popularity of the Club would result in the fees being in excess of the anticipated £603. Hereon, Councillor Grey proposed that the Grant be increased to £600 thus ensuring a minimal shortfall.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Grey that the Grant Application be increased from £500 to £600. The proposition was seconded by Councillor Hollis and it was –

- 810 RESOLVED: That the amount requested in Grant Aid for the Frankley Kids Club be increased from £500 to £600.

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

- 811 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 Kids Club towards the cost of providing activities for children aged 5 to 11 on Saturday mornings from January to April 2004.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT – 31 DECEMBER 2003

- 812 The following report of the Clerk was noted -

(see interleaved document no. 4)

SPECIAL BULK COLLECTION – MARCH 2004

The Chairperson reported that the Council had approached the City Council with a view to providing a Special Bulk Collection during March, the costs of which would be funded by the Council. However, the City Council, which in previous years had ruled that these Special Collections could only be carried out on Saturdays, had initially offered 12 collections, on weekdays, spread over a period of three weeks. Because of the difficulty in leafleting 12 separate areas advising of the twelve different dates of collection and the problems that residents may face in putting items out for collection on a weekday morning, the Parish Council had asked that the City Council

reconsider its proposals. Additionally, the Parish Council had, in past years, been advised that part of the cost per household included a premium rate because of the overtime worked on Saturday. However, although the City had proposed that the Special Collections take place during the week, there had been no reduction in the charge per household. The Parish Council had also raised that matter with the City Council.

The Chairperson advised that since the despatch of the agenda, further discussions with the City had been held but, unfortunately, the Council's concerns had not been fully addressed. The City were maintaining that, due to other commitments, it was unable to offer a Saturday collection service as in the past. The Chairperson felt that, if the Council wanted a Special Collection to take place then it would have to be on the terms offered by the City. He went on that, because of the problems in leafleting 12 different areas advising of their individual collection dates, he hoped that Councillors would assist in the delivery of the leaflets.

Councillor Grey felt that the problem was not as complicated as it looked. He proposed that the leaflets advising of the collection dates be delivered during the weekend at least 7 days prior to the collection date. Each house would receive a flyer advising of the their collection date giving at least a weeks notice. However, delivery of the leaflets to each household would require the co-operation of the Councillors.

It was proposed by Councillor Hollis, seconded by Councillor Reverend Lewis and –

- 813 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 provision of 12 Special Bulk Collections to be undertaken between Monday 1 March and Friday 19 March 2004 at a cost of £6700.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS FOR FRANKLEY

The Chairperson reported that CENTRO would be holding a half-day seminar on Proposals for Public Transport Improvements for Frankley towards the end of January and, as one of the key stakeholders, the Parish Council had been invited to send a representative to attend the meeting. Councillor Grey was the Council's appointed representative to attend such meetings but, owing to his increased work commitments, he would be unable to attend the forthcoming meeting. It was therefore, necessary to appoint an alternate to attend in his place.

Councillor Grey advised that if he were available to attend the seminar, he would like to continue to be the Council's representative. However, he felt that approaches should be made to CENTRO to seek its approval, not only for a substitute member to be appointed, but that both members be permitted to attend when possible. He went on to stress the importance of the rail extension to Frankley, as it would generate inward investment into the area. He referred to the recent sale by MG Rover of part of the Rover site to developers on a lease back basis. In his opinion such a move indicated that the long-term future of the plant was in doubt and he expressed his concern regarding employment prospects in southwest Birmingham if that should happen.

It was therefore proposed by councillor Bruckshaw, seconded by Councillor Joanna Walker and -

- 814 RESOLVED (i) That Councillor Carter be appointed as the Council's alternate representative to attend meetings with CENTRO in connection with Public Transport Improvements for Frankley.
- (ii) That the Clerk write to CENTRO seeking approval for both the Council's representatives to attend meeting with CENTRO.

TRAINING

There was nothing to report.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no Planning Applications to consider.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A S/05879/03/FUL
New Street, Holly Hill Aided School, Frankley B45 0EU
Proposed alterations and Extensions to Holly Hill School and
Church Centre

B S/06742/03/FUL
118 Charnwood Close, Frankley B45 0JZ
Erection of rear conservatory

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

In connection with the Application for Holly Hill School and Church Centre, Councillor Denny reported that one of the scheduled conditions relating the grant of planning permission was that no development work could take place until such time as a site assessment had been carried out as the School/Church had been built on what was considered to be contaminated land.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

Siting of Fencing Around the Arden Road Industrial Units.

The Chairperson reported that he had received a fax from the developer of the Arden Road Site, requesting that the Council write a letter of support concerning the positioning of the palisade fencing around the site as the City Planners had apparently raised objections to its present siting. He had looked at the fencing with Councillor Grey and could not see anything wrong with the current positioning. Although the developer had asked Planning for reasons for its objection, those reasons had not been forthcoming. Both he and Councillor Grey considered that the fencing, which had been erected between the boundary hedge of the development and the walk way was correctly positioned.

Councillor Grey said that the fencing had been erected in accordance with the planning application and that its positioning prevented muggers etc hiding in the hedging and jumping out on people using the walk way. Additionally, if Planning forced the developer to relocate the fence onto the other side of the hedge, the hedge would become the City's responsibility whereas in its current siting it was the developer's.

- 816 RESOLVED: That a letter of support be sent the Contracts Galleypearl expressing the Parish Council's support for the present siting of the palisade fencing around the Industrial Units on Arden road.

Development of Frankley Centre

The Chairperson reported that he and the Clerk had recently had a meeting with Alun Gunter, Regeneration Officer for southwest Birmingham regarding the proposed development of the Centre. The following notes of the meeting were submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 5)

Councillor Grey expressed his concern over what he felt to be the constant procrastination of the City Council to produce its plans for the development of the Centre. Last July, at a meeting of the Centre Steering Group, Councillor Ffello had given an undertaking that a comprehensive development plan for the Centre would be produced

within 6 months. Then, in October, at a meeting with the Chairperson and Clerk, Mr Spooner, the then head of Economic Development, had given an assurance that plans for the development of the Centre would be produced within 6 months. Then, at the Development Control Committee on 6 November, following consideration of the developer's proposals for the Centre, the Committee had instructed the Planning Officers to produce a development plan for the Centre for consideration by the Committee within 6 months. Now Mr Gunter was also promising a development plan within 6 months. In his opinion there were a lot of promises regarding the development plans but little action. He felt that the Council should write a letter to the City Council expressing its concerns of the delays in producing the plans for the Centre.

Additionally, Councillor Grey believed that, because of the deteriorating state of the flats above the shops on the Holly Hill shopping centre, the Housing Department should cut its losses and close them down.

On the proposition of the Chairperson, it was agreed that a letter be sent to the economic Development Department expressing the Council's concerns over the continuing delays in producing a development plan for the Centre.

It was proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Denny and -

- 817 RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to the Economic Development Department of Birmingham City Council expressing the Council's concerns over the delay in producing a development plan for the Centre.

CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

There was nothing to report

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Car Park – Holly Hill Shopping Centre

- 818 Councillor Lind Banks requested that action be taken to prevent the constant flooding of the Holly Hill shopping centre car park. In response the Chairperson said that he had approached the housing department for the drains to be cleared, but, as usual, nothing had been done.

Speed Checks on the Estate

- 819 Councillor Bruckshaw reported that, following the recent speed checks carried out on the Estate, the Police had now contacted him

and advised that, as the original checks had been undertaken during the period MG Rover was shutdown, they would be undertaking further checks on dated yet to be determined, but such dates would be while MG Rover was working. He added that because there were no serious accidents on Frankley, it was not on the list for traffic calming measures.

Replacement Of Street Lighting

- 820 The Chairperson reported that he had been informed by the Ward Support Officer that the contract for the replacement of Street Lighting on Ormond Road and the surrounding roads, had been let and that work was due to start on the 19 January.

Arboreal Work

- 821 The Chairperson reported that he had contacted the Ward Support Officer in order to ascertain when the Tree Pruning Program was due to start, but, as yet, had received no indication as to the likely commencement date.

Utility Cupboards, Holly Hill Shopping Centre

- 822 The Chairperson referred to the recent break-in at Omco's Supermarket, during which the thieves had gained access to the shop through one of the utility cupboards. He reminded the Council that he had requested the Housing Department to brick up or replace the doors on those cupboards where the doors were missing, as they were no longer used and had become receptacles for rubbish etc. Additionally, where the doors were not missing, the cupboards could not be used as no-body had the keys.

Frankley Community Church Project

- 823 Councillor Denny, referring to the recent circulation of the Project's Annual Report to all Members, hoped that they had found it to be an interesting and informative read.

PAYMENTS

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 6)

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

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

LOCAL ISSUED RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Utility Cupboards Holly Hill Shopping Centre

- 825 Mr G Stephenson, referring to the Chairperson's remarks regarding the bricking up of the utility cupboards, pointed out that several of the cupboards contained services that were still in use. Additionally, Mr Bridgeman advised that the Neighbourhood Office had the keys for those utility cupboards which were locked and he confirmed that a number of them were still in use.

Disability Discrimination Act

- 826 Mr Stephenson referred to the fact that, on this occasion the Clerk had provided him with a large print version of the Agenda for which he was grateful. However, under the Disability Discrimination Act, the Council would be required to make all of its documents available in large print that could be read by the visually impaired.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

- 827 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>
Parish Council Website	Information relating to the letting of a contract for the provision of a website

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS HELD IN PRIVATE

(Minute No. 828)

PARISH WEBSITE

The Clerk submitted a report setting out the details of the tenders received for the provision of the design and development of the proposed website. Following a discussion it was agreed to adopt the domain name 'newfrankleyinbirminghamaparishcouncil'. Whilst it was accepted that the name was long it did accurately reflect the name of the Council. Further discussion ensued during which the pros and cons of the various tenders were carefully considered. Ultimately, it was agreed that the tender submitted by Leonard Heath Associates during which the pros and cons of the various be accepted as the proposal –

- allowed for expansion of the site to be carried out in house;
- included an element of training for the key personnel maintaining the site;
- included registration of the site with the major search engines;

The meeting ended at 2053 hours.

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Chairperson