

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
20 October 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: Richard Smith (Frankley Neighbourhood Office)

There were 3 members of the public present.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Grey, seconded by Councillor
Reverend Lewis and -

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

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

QUESTIONS

There were none.

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 10 JUNE 2004

The following report of the Clerk was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 1)

The Clerk gave an introductory commentary highlighting the salient points of the report following which he responded to questions from Members as appropriate.

- 758 RESOLVED:
- (i) That the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, originally scheduled to be held on Monday 17 May 2004, now be held at 1930 hours on Monday 21 June 2004 at St Christopher's Church Centre, Holly Hill;
 - (ii) That the period of office of all appointments/nominations made by the Council, originally due to expire at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2004, be extended so as to expire at the Annual Meeting of the Council in June 2004;
 - (iii) That the Annual Parish Meeting be held at 1900 hours on Monday 17 May 2004 at St Christopher's Church Centre, Holly Hill.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The following report of the Clerk was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 2)

The Clerk gave an introductory commentary during which he emphasised that the report was for information only and that, at this time, the Council was not required to make a decision. Also, in addition to the three options outlined in the report for the creation of a website, the Clerk added that he had been advised by an IT Officer of the City Council that it would be possible to employ a consultant to design the site and oversee the 'in-house' production. A number of Members felt that, so as to ensure a professionally finished product, a specialist firm should be engaged. However, the Clerk expressed his concerns that, by not being involved in the building of the site from scratch, could leave the Council at a disadvantage when it came to making changes in the future. However, it was felt that the Council could ensure that successful supplier offered adequate training so as to ensure that the Clerk could maintain and amend the site. It was agreed that tenders be sought from three website design firms and three consultants and that the Clerk report again once all tenders had been received.

- 759 RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT – 30 SEPTEMBER 2003

The following report of the Clerk was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 3)

The Clerk introduced the report.

760 RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

PROVISION BUDGET 2004/2005

The following report of the Clerk was submitted.

(see interleaved document no. 4)

In introducing the report, the Clerk explained that, when setting the provisional budget for 2004/2005, he had used the budget and expenditure figures from previous years in an attempt to produce a budget which more accurately reflected the Council's actual expenditure against budgets. In the previous two years, the Council had underspent on its budget leading to an increase in the Council's reserves. As part of next year's provisional budget, the Clerk proposed to offset some of the expenditure by transferring £10,000 from reserves. He added that it was proposed that the budget would not be formally approved until the next meeting of the Council, thus giving Members the opportunity of suggesting amendments/additions for approval at the next meeting.

A discussion ensued during which the following suggestion were made –

- That the Clerk contact Frankley Library, the Easter/Summer Playscheme and the Frankley Community Church Project in order to ascertain the likely size of their applications for grant aid which would help Members determine the size of the Miscellaneous Grants Budget.
- That the amount allocated for Section 137 – Environmental Services be increased from £1,000 to £2,000
- That the amount allocated for Contingencies – Election Costs be increased from £3,000 to £4,000 given that it was anticipated the cost of an election was £2,000

Councillor Grey urged Members to consider the draft budget and to propose additions/amendments to it before the next meeting

761 RESOLVED: That the report and appendices thereto be noted and submitted for formal approval to the November meeting of the Council.

TRAINING

There was nothing to report.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk advised that since dispatching the agenda, a Planning Application for alterations and extensions to the St Christopher's Church Centre/Holly Hill First Aided School had been submitted.

S/05879/03/FUL

Holly Hill First Aided School, New Street, Frankley, Birmingham B45 0EU

Proposed alterations and extensions to Holly Hill School and Church Centre

At 2023 hours the meeting was adjourned so as to allow Members to study the Plans accompanying the Application.

At 2030 hours the Meeting reconvened.

- 762 RESOLVED:- That Birmingham City Council's Planning Department be advised that the New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council has no objection to Planning Application S/05879/03/FUL

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no decisions made on Planning Applications.

CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

- 763 The Chairperson referred to the latest leaflet published by CENTRO (Frankley Rail News) regarding the Frankley Extension. Unfortunately, the distribution of the leaflet on the estate had been patchy and he therefore read out the results of the consultation exercise. He added that copies of the leaflet were available at the Council Offices.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 764 The Chairperson advised that he and the Clerk had met with Officers of the Economic Development Department to discuss the regeneration of the Frankley Centre. The City hoped that, with regard to the regeneration of the Frankley Centre, the process was close to resolution. It was accepted that there was a need to develop not only the land at the Centre but also the surrounding land and the present Shopping Centre. Any scheme had therefore, to be significant and which would provide a focus for the area which would really mean something, making the best use of the land currently in the ownership of the City. The initial thoughts were that the scheme would be a

mixed-use scheme involving housing, business, light industrial, retail and community use.

The City considered that the scheme would be evolved by co-operation between the Community, the City Council and the Developer. What the Department intended to do was to pool all the land in the Centre which was in the City's ownership and talk to other City Council Departments together with the other land owners in the area, such as the Health Authority, with a view to inclusion in any possible regeneration scheme. Approaches would then be made to major developers that specialised in this type of regeneration.

With regard to progressing the scheme it was envisaged that the first Planning Applications for the development would be submitted in approximately 12 months time – although, obviously, that would depend on a number of factors so there could be no guarantee of that timescale. Experience showed that if the planning framework was right, and that included consultation with the residents, it paid dividends in the long run. It was proposed that draft development guidelines would be agreed which would then go to the City Council's Cabinet for consideration and approval.

It had been agreed that a further meeting take place at the Parish offices in approximately 3 months time.

The Chairperson said that from the meeting it appeared that things were starting to look promising for the regeneration of the Centre, which he maintained, was due to the pressure exerted by the Parish Council. Councillor Grey added that pressure needed to continue to be brought to bear on local Ward Councillors and members of the Cabinet.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Parish Council Christmas Meal

- 765 The Chairperson referred to the handbill giving details of the Christmas Meal that had been circulated to Members along with the Agenda. He requested that Members contact him at the end of the meeting, as he had to book the numbers for the meal that night.

Parish Remuneration Panel

- 766 The Clerk reported that the Parish Remuneration Panel had completed its deliberations and a draft report would be presented to the Panel that evening for approval. It was likely therefore, that the final report together with the Panel's recommendations would be submitted to the Council for consideration at its next meeting.

Reaside Community Centre

- 767 The Clerk reported that Members of the Reaside Community Centre Committee had sent a card to the Council thanking it for the approval of a Grant

Neighbourhood Watch – Smart Water

- 768 Councillor Trefor-Jones advised that members of the Neighbourhood Watch together with officers of the WM Police would, in the near future, be visiting houses on the estate offering to mark property with Smart Water so that, should it be stolen and subsequently recovered, it could be identified. The scheme would commence, in the first, instance in those areas prone to burglary and then be extended to all other areas of the estate.

Car Watch – Great Park Estate

- 769 Councillor Trefor-Jones referred to a scheme currently being implemented on the Great Park Estate whereby members of the Neighbourhood Watch patrolled the area identifying vehicles that were felt not to be secure. Details of the vehicle were taken and an advisory letter sent to the owner of the vehicle. The object of the scheme was to encourage vehicle owners to be more responsible when leaving their vehicles.

Road Safety – Frankley Estate

- 770 Councillor Bruckshaw advised that the Police, as part of the project to measure speeds of vehicles on the main roads through the estate, had installed the small black pads that had recently appeared on the roads in the estate. The results of the current survey would indicate to the Police those stretches of roads where speed limits were routinely exceeded and therefore to identify those areas in which to make the best use of limited resources. Whilst the current generation of sensors only measured a vehicle's speed as it passed over it, the next generation, by means of a magnetic sensor affixed to the vehicle containing all the vehicle's details, would be able to record the vehicle's details and speed as it passed over the sensor.

PAYMENTS

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 5)

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

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

LOCAL ISSUED RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Council Website

- 772 Mr Geoffrey Stephenson, referring to the proposal for a Parish Council Website, said that it was important that more than one person was fully trained in the mechanics of how to maintain/amend any website.

The meeting ended 2052 hours

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Chairperson