

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 17 May 2004 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Eric Carter (In the Chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, Ian Bruckshaw, Michael Denny, 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 absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Grey (Holiday)

PUBLIC MINUTES

- 890 The Public Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 April 2004 were noted

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 891 Hereon, the under mentioned Members declared their respective interests in the Agenda Items indicated below -

Councillor	Agenda Item	Interest
Ian Bruckshaw	Application For Grant Aid – Neighbourhood Forum	Member of the management committee of the Forum – Member withdrew during consideration of item
Bill Hollis	Application For Grant Aid – Neighbourhood Forum	Member of the management committee of the Forum – Member withdrew during consideration of item

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none

QUESTIONS

Retirement From The Council

- 892 Councillor Kane, who was not standing for re-election, thanked all the Members and the Clerk for their support during his term of office. He hoped that the Council would go from strength to strength and continue representing the views of Frankley residents. In response the Chairperson thanked Councillor Kane for his efforts on behalf of the Council which he appreciated were somewhat constrained by his work commitments. The Chairperson also thanked Councillors Kathleen Lewis and the Reverend Lewis for their work on behalf of the Council.

Forestdale Primary School Playing Field

- 893 Councillor Linda Banks referred to a leaflet which had been circulated in the area around the Playing Field which referred to the area as 'waste ground'. The Clerk advised that, as far as he was aware, the playing fields were still in the ownership of the City Council's Education Department as, because of problems relating to the maintenance of the grounds and safety issues, he had been in correspondence with both the school and the department. Although the school received, through its delegated budget, an amount for the maintenance of the playing field, it appeared that the amount was insufficient to maintain the playing field to an acceptable standard. Whilst it was accepted by the department that the school could not use the field because of the lack of maintenance, the department was unwilling to assume responsibility for the maintenance centrally. However, it was possible that, subject to certain legal constraints, parents could lease the field from the school for community use.

COMMUNICATIONS

- 894 The following communication from the head teacher of Reaside Junior School advising of the decision not to proceed with the development of the playing fields on New Inns Lane and that, contrary to the impression given in the report on the proposed regeneration of the Centre, Reaside School was not closing, was noted.

(see interleaved document no. 1)

Councillor Trefor-Jones suggested, in order to alleviate the parking problems which occurred on New Inns Lane during football matches, the Council should support the introduction of double yellow lines in the immediate vicinity of the playing field. However, the Clerk advised that

the Council had previously, during the consultation of the proposed development of the playing field, as an adjunct to its submission to Bromsgrove District Council, suggested the introduction of parking restrictions because of the problems caused by indiscriminate parking during matches. However, the residents of the roads off New Inns Lane had voraciously objected to that proposal which would, it was felt, merely move the parking problem from New Inns Lane to neighbouring roads. Accordingly, the Council had requested both the West Mercia Police and the West Midlands Police to patrol the area during Saturday and Sunday when matches were played to ensure that all parking was considerate.

The Chairperson suggested that the Councillor, who was a member of the local Police Liaison Committee, raise the matter at the next meeting of that Committee.

SECTION 137 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Frankley Neighbourhood Forum

The following application for a Section 137 Grant was submitted –

(see interleaved no. 2)

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

- 895 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 a grant of £900 to the Frankley Neighbourhood Forum towards the cost of running the Annual Awards Night.

Frankley Library – Large Print/Audio Books

The following application for a Section 137 Grant was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 3)

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Trefor-Jones, seconded by Councillor Linda Banks and –

- 896 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 a grant of £300 toward the cost of maintaining and replacing damaged and worn items in the Library's stock of Large Print and Audio Books.

Frankley Library – Community Website Support

The following application for a Section 137 Grant was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 4)

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

- 897 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 a grant of £300 to provide cover for those library staff setting up the community website.

Frankley Community Library – Uninsured Losses

The following application for a Section 137 Grant was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 5)

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

- 898 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 a grant of £200 towards the cost of the replacing electrical equipment stolen/damaged during the recent break-in.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

- 899 The Clerk reported that it was hoped that the website would be 'online' before the end of the month.

TRAINING

There was nothing to report.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 900 The Clerk reported that on Friday, 7 May, he had attended a meeting with City Council officers (the panel) at which the process for appointing the consultants to undertake the feasibility study into the various options for the regeneration of the Centre and the subsequent production of a master plan for the redevelopment of Centre was agreed. Four potential consultants had expressed an interest in the commission and all would be requested to submit their tenders for the work. It was hoped that, following consideration of the submitted tenders in June, the successful firm would be appointed and start work by the beginning of July. The consultants would then have approximately 2 months to undertake the survey, carry out public consultation in the area and produce a draft report for consideration by the panel by mid- to late-September. It was hoped that an executive summary of the draft report could be made available for all stakeholders with any comments fed into the final report due to be submitted at the beginning of October.

CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

The following letter from Mr Tom McGrath, Projects Director, CENTRO was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 6)

- 901 The Clerk reported that the letter set out, in summary form, the principal decisions reached at the Local Transport Seminar attended by the Chairperson, Councillor Grey and himself. He had consulted with Councillor Grey and it was proposed that the Council formally respond to the letter and agree with the summary therein.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/01075/04/FUL
117 Charnwood Close, Rubery, Rednal, Birmingham B45 0JY
Erection of rear conservatory

- 902 Members were advised that, after due consideration including all comments made regarding the Application, it had been determined that, using the powers delegated by the Development Control Committee, Planning Consent should be granted.

S/02138/04/FUL
7 Quantock Close, Frankley, B45 0DT
Erection of detached bungalow

- 903 Members were advised that, after due consideration including all comments made regarding the Application, it had been determined that, using the powers delegated by the Development Control Committee, Planning Consent should be refused. It was however, pointed out that the applicant could appeal the decision to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Revised Opening Hours For The Frankley Neighbourhood Office.

Councillor Bruckshaw referred to the proposals, currently the subject of consultation, regarding changes to the opening hours of the Frankley Neighbourhood Office. Currently the Office was open on Wednesdays (9.00am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 4.00pm), Thursdays (9.00am – 12.00pm) and Fridays (9.00am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 4.00pm) which meant that any resident receiving correspondence from the Housing Department, Benefits Service or Revenues (Council Tax) on a Saturday morning had to either wait until the Office opened on Wednesday or attend the Northfield Office which was always extremely busy. This resulted in large numbers attending the Frankley Office on Wednesday with numbers falling off for the rest of the week. In order to the best use of limited resources and provide a responsive user-friendly service to residents it was proposed to amend the opening hours as follows – Tuesday (9.00am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 4.00pm), Wednesday (9.00am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 4.00pm) and Thursday (9.00am – 12.00pm). The proposals were currently the subject of consultation with the Chair of the Northfield District Committee, the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Forum with posters advertising the revised opening times being displayed around the parish. Councillor Bruckshaw considered that the proposal should be supported as providing a more user-friendly service.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Bruckshaw, seconded by Councillor Carter, and –

- 904 RESOLVED: That the Frankley Neighbourhood Office be advised that the Parish Council supports the proposed changes to the opening hours of the Office.

Repairs to Road Surface, Holly Hill Road

- 905 In response to a question from Councillor Reverend Lewis regarding the road surface outside 140 Holly Hill Road which he reported at the last meeting, the Clerk advised that Highways had carried out an inspection of the road surface but considered it not damaged enough so as to warrant repairs at this time. However, it had been agreed that the location would be subject to regular inspections in order that the road condition be monitored.

PAYMENTS

The Clerk advised that, in accordance with Financial Regulation 12, there was a potential overspend in the Staff Expenses budget heading. That had arisen because, when the budget had been agreed last November, the proposed expenditure had been based on the previous year's spend. However, in December 2003, the Council agreed a Contract of Employment for the Clerk which allowed the Clerk to mainly work from home. Before the Contract was signed, the Clerk had been working from home but, because the issue of the working place had not been clarified, he had claimed no mileage for journeys undertaken on behalf of the Council when travelling between his home and Frankley. Once the matter of the location of the Clerk's place of work was agreed, mileage could then be claimed for journeys undertaken on behalf of the Council as per the Local Authority Conditions of Employment— hence the potential overspend. It was therefore suggested that, given that as there would be no Parish election in June, £1,500 be vired from the Election budget heading to the Expenses budget heading.

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

- 906 RESOLVED: That a virement of £1500 be approved from the Election Costs budget heading to the Staff Expenses budget heading and that a revised budget be circulated to all Members of the Council.

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 7)

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

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

At 1958 hours the meeting was adjourned so as to permit members of the public to ask questions.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Internet Link Between The Proposed Parish Website And The Neighbourhood News.

Mr Stephenson questioned whether it was proposed to create a link between the Council website and the site hosting the electronic copy of the Neighbourhood News. The Clerk advised that it was the intention that the website should provide as much information regarding the Frankley Community as possible and would be linked to the community

site currently under construction at the Library. There was no reason why the Neighbourhood News site should not be linked to the Council site or even hosted on the Council site. He agreed to investigate the possibilities once the Council site was 'on line'.

The meeting re-convened at 2002 hours.

THANKS TO MEMBERS

- 908 The Chairperson expressed his appreciation of the support he had received during the past year. He was sorry to see some members retiring but hoped that they would continue to support the Council in what ever way they could - after all they had helped to establish the Council over the past 4 years.

He went on to formally record his thanks to Gareth Griffiths without whose unstinting voluntary work in the Office, the Office would not be the success that it was.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

- 909 RESOLVED: In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, which includes the following exempted information, it is advisable in the public interest, that the press and the public be temporarily excluded from the meeting and they are therefore instructed to withdraw.

Agenda Item	Exempt Information
Review of Clerk's Salary	Confidential Information relating to an employee of the Council

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS HELD IN PRIVATE

Minute Number 910

The Minutes of the Private Part of the meeting held on 19 April, 2004, together with the Minutes of the Public Part which were submitted earlier in the meeting, having been previously circulated were taken as read and confirm and signed.

The meeting ended at 2007 hours.