

NEW FRANKLEY IN BIRMINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the New Frankley In Birmingham Parish Council held at St Christopher's Church Centre, New Street, Frankley on Monday, 21 February 2005 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Eric Carter (in the chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, Ian Bruckshaw, Michael Denny, Gareth Griffiths, Bill Hollis, Geoffrey Stephenson, Stephen Trefor-Jones, Joanna Walker and Geoff Williams.

There were 3 members of the public present.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies

MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Joanna Walker and –

- 1068 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17 January 2005, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1069 Hereon, the under mentioned Member declared his interest in the Agenda item indicated below –

Councillor	Agenda Item	Interest
W Hollis	Interviews for Co-option	Personal and Prejudicial - related to one of the applicants - withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the item

INTERVIEWS FOR CO-OPTION

The Chairperson welcomed the three applicants for the vacant post and briefly set out the procedure to be followed for the interviews. Accordingly, all three candidates withdrew from the meeting and were recalled, in alphabetical order, for interview. On the completion of the interviews and following some discussion a vote was taken and, Mr Leonard Lovett, having received an absolute majority of the votes cast

was declared to be the successful candidate.

- 1070 RESOLVED: That Mr Leonard Lovett be appointed a co-opted member of the Parish Council for the period ending with the municipal elections in 2008.

Accordingly, Mr Lovett made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was declared to be a Parish Councillor for the period ending with the elections in 2008.

The Chairperson thanked all the candidates for taking the time to offer themselves for co-option.

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODY

The Option Appraisal Project Team

Upon receipt of a nomination it was -

- 1071 RESOLVED: That for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2005, Councillor Trefor-Jones be appointed to serve as the Council's representative on the Option Appraisal Project Team.

Hereon, the Chairperson circulated the following document that set out the processes and procedures to be followed during the Northfield Stock Option Appraisal.

(see interleaved document 1)

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

QUESTIONS

Procedure For Future Interviews For Co-option.

- 1072 Councillor Denny felt that, for future interviews, members of the public should be asked to leave as, in his opinion, the presence for the public made the process even more daunting for the candidates. In response, the Clerk reported that as far as he was aware, there was no provision to exclude the public during the interviews but, before any further interviews were held, he would seek clarification of the matter.

NOMINATIONS FOR ATTENDANCE AT A ROYAL GARDEN PARTY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE ON THURSDAY 14 JULY 2005

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was -

- 1073 RESOLVED: That the Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils be advised that this Council nominate

Councillor Eric Carter and Mrs Doris Carter to attend the Royal Garden Party.

SECTION 137 EXPENDITURE

(A) Parish Vehicle Insurance

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

- 1074 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; expenditure of £431.00 to cover the cost of insuring the Parish Vehicle for 12 months.

(B) Starter Motor For The Parish Vehicle

It was proposed by Councillor Bruckshaw, seconded by Councillor Griffiths and -

- 1075 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; expenditure of £81.83 (including VAT) to purchase a new starter motor for the Parish Vehicle.

CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT BILL

The Clerk reported that the Government had recently introduced the above-mentioned bill which it felt would be of importance and which included specific recognition of the important role of parish and town councils.

The Government expected that the Bill would play a key role in its plan to create cleaner, safer, greener communities dealing with many of the problems that affect the quality of the local environment. A summary of the Bill's main provisions was submitted for Members' information.

(see interleaved document 2)

- 1076 RESOLVED: That the summary of the Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill be noted.

THE NEW NATIONAL AGREEMENT ON SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS

Following some discussion it was -

- 1077 RESOLVED: That the former Disciplinary and Grievance Committee be renamed as the Staffing Committee and that the New National Agreement on Salaries and Conditions of Service of Local Council Clerks be referred to the above Committee for scrutiny; further that the Committee be instructed to report to a future meeting of the Council with recommendations for formal adoption with regard to the Conditions of Service and Salary of the Clerk.

PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT COMPUTER

The Clerk proposed that, in addition to the specification set out on the agenda, a DVD-Writer be added at a cost of approximately £50.

It was moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Trefor-Jones and -

- 1078 RESOLVED: That approval be given to the purchase of a replacement computer for the Parish Office as follows -

ATX midi tower case; DFI KM400 motherboard, built in sound and graphics; AMD Sempron 2800+; Heatsink & Fan; 512mb PC2700 memory; CD-Writer; DVD-Writer; 1.44mb Floppy Drive; 40gb Hard Drive; XP Professional.

17inch LCD Monitor

TRAINING

(A) Preparing For And Surviving Audit

Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils -
Wednesday 23 March 2005 - Cost £20.00

(B) Freedom of Information Act And Data Protection Act Workshop

Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils -
Wednesday 27 April 2005 - Cost £20.00

(C) Responsibilities Of Local Councils

Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils
Saturday 12 March 2005 - Cost £30.00

- 1079 RESOLVED: That approval be given for the Clerk to attend the above-mentioned training courses and that the fees thereof be met by the Council.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 1080 The Clerk reported that in December 2004, the City Council's Development Chief Officers Group (DOG) considered a report that presented 4 options that had formulated from the results of the Frankley Walking Audit and the consultation exercise in October 2004. The report included a viability assessment of the each of the options. DOG had given approval for work on the scheme to continue but had requested that it be linked to the Housing Options Appraisal exercise.

That link was currently being pursued with the Housing Department and discussions had taken place between the regeneration officers of the Economic Development Department and Helen Marson, Investment and Procurement Manager of the Housing Department. Further viability work has been requested of the consultants to ensure that constraints on housing stock could be managed.

Other on-going issues -

The Planning Department was preparing a Local Action Plan for Frankley that would determine land uses within a local planning policy framework. That LAP will supersede the current Unitary Development Plan.

Additionally, work was continuing to identify land ownership (other City Council departments) within Frankley and the regeneration options would be discussed with land owning departments and their endorsement sought for the regeneration proposals

CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

- 1081 There was nothing to report.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(A) Frankley Neighbourhood Caretakers Pilot Scheme

- 1082 The Chairperson reported that the pilot scheme was proceeding successfully, with over 5 tons of rubbish removed from the estate since the commencement of the scheme. However, there were still areas of the estate to be tackled and it was hoped that they would be completed in the near future. One of the problems was the removal of rubbish from the watercourses - because of Health and Safety implications it was

unlikely that the clearance work would be undertaken by the City Council staff but by operatives from a specialist firm.

He and the Clerk had had a meeting with Mrs Tracey Nicholls, Senior District Manager with responsibility for the Longbridge Ward, and had agreed that she report on the outcomes of the pilot to the March meeting of the Council to enable Members to determine whether to make the pilot permanent in the new financial year.

(B) Proposed Vodafone 3G Telecommunication Mast

- 1083 The Clerk reported that he had recently received notification from Turner and Partners, a firm of surveyors and valuers acting for Vodafone, that, because of a failure on planning grounds due to siting and appearance, Vodafone were not pursuing the proposal to install a 3G telecommunication mast at the junction of Tay Road and Frogmill Road.

However, the letter went onto advise that Turner and Partners were now investigating the feasibility of a site on Hollymoor Way, adjacent to the Business Park which was outside the Parish boundary which Vodafone felt "would create a lesser visual impact on the surrounding area that other locations identified previously". Councillor Denny undertook to convey the information to the residents in the area and the Clerk agreed to provide a copy of the letter.

(C) Change Of Licence - Bugle Horn Public House, Wareham Road

- 1084 The Clerk advised that he had received notification from the solicitors acting for Punch Taverns, the owners of the Bugle Horn, regarding an Application for the Transfer of the Justices Licences in relation to the above premises. The notification was for information only and no action of the Council was required.

(D) Conflict Of Interest

- 1085 Councillor Bruckshaw expressed concern over the fact that the Environmental Health Department, which provided the beat-sweepers, could withdraw their operatives on the basis that the Neighbourhood Caretakers were now carrying out the litter picking duties of the beat-sweepers. However, the Chairperson pointed out that the beat-sweepers were only responsible for cleaning litter off the highways, pavements and walkways whereas, the Neighbourhood Caretakers picked litter etc from the adjacent grass verges and hedges which were not the responsibility of the beat-sweepers. Nevertheless, he undertook to ensure that Environmental Health staff was not withdrawn from Frankley because of the work carried out by the Neighbourhood Caretakers. He added that, in view of the examination by District officers of the Service Level Agreements (SLA's) for Frankley, should Environmental Health withdraw staff then the contract payment would be reduced proportionally.

PAYMENTS

The Clerk reported that, in error, he had not made copies of the Credit Card Statement or Schedule of Payments for circulation to Members. However, it was agreed that he would read out each document for Members' information.

(A) Business Visa Credit Card

1086 The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement was noted -

(see interleaved document 3)

(B) Schedule Of Payments

(see interleaved document 4)

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

1087 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At 2017 hours, the meeting adjourned to enable the Members of the Public to raise issues of concern.

(A) Current Office Computer

In response to a question from Ms Bolton as to what the Council intended to do with the current computer once the new one had been obtained, the Chairperson said that it would be used for training those Councillors without access to a computer.

(B) Audit of Land

Mr Grey MBE welcomed the fact that the City Council appeared to be undertaking an audit of the ownership of the Council-owned land in Frankley. Such a definitive list would enable the Parish Council to address any problem to the correct land-owning department.

(C) Beat-sweepers

Mr Grey MBE said that it was important for the Council to ensure that the beat-sweepers were not reduced because of the activities of the Neighbourhood Caretakers and that there was a need to ensure that the Environmental Health Department was made to carry out its commitments within the SLA's with regard to litter picking. The Chairperson repeated that any reduction in the service level would result in a reduction in the payment to the contracting department.

(D) Grit Bins - Holly Hill Road

Mrs Hollis requested that the Parish Council call for the City Council to provide further Grit Bins on Holly Hill. However, the Chairperson said that its was unlikely that the City would provide further Grit Bins as a number had been provided last year.

The meeting was reconvened at 2024 hours

The meeting ended at 2024 hours.

Chairperson

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