

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 Monday, 21 June 2004 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Eric Carter (In the Chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, Karan Bolton, Ian Bruckshaw, Michael Denny, Sidney Grey MBE, Gareth Griffiths, Bill Hollis, Geoffrey Stephenson, Stephen Trefor-Jones, Joanna Walker and Geoffrey Williams

Also in Attendance Mrs Marion Chute – Community Librarian

There were 3 members of the public present.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

It was proposed by Councillor Grey and seconded by Councillor Trefor-Jones that Councillor Carter be elected Chairperson of the Council.

There being no further nominations, it was –

- 911 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2005, Councillor Carter be elected Chairperson of the Council.

COUNCILLOR CARTER IN THE CHAIR

- 912 Hereon, the Chairperson made the Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Chairperson of the Parish Council.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

It was proposed by Councillor Bruckshaw and seconded by Councillor Williams that Councillor Griffiths be elected Vice-Chairperson of the Council.

There being no further nominations, it was -

- 913 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2005, Councillor Griffiths be elected Vice-

Chairperson of the Council.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Longbridge Ward Advisory Board

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was -

- 914 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2005, Councillor Carter be appointed to serve as the Council's representative on the Longbridge Ward Advisory Board.

Frankley Community Church Project

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was -

- 915 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2005, Councillor Linda Banks be nominated to serve as the Council's representative on the Management Committee of the Frankley Community Church Project.

City Council's Standards Committee

Upon receipt of a nomination, it was –

- 916 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2005, Councillor Carter be nominated to serve as the Parish Council representative on the City Council's Standards Committee

CENTRO Frankley Public Transport Improvements Stakeholders' Conference

Upon receipt of nominations, it was –

- 917 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2005, Councillors Carter, Grey and Griffiths be appointed to serve as Parish Council representatives on CENTRO's Frankley Public Transport Improvements Stakeholders' Conference.

Northfield Constituency Pathfinder Group

- Upon receipt of a nomination, it was –
- 918 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2005, Councillor Carter be appointed to serve as Parish Council representatives on the Northfield Constituency Pathfinder Group.

District Committee (Northfield Constituency)

- Upon receipt of a nomination, it was –
- 919 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2005, Councillor Carter be appointed to attend meetings of the District Committee as a representative of the Parish Council.

DATES OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2004/2005

- 920 RESOLVED: That meetings of the Parish Council for the forthcoming Municipal Year be held on the following Mondays at 1930 hours at the St Christopher's Church Centre -

19 July 2004, 16 August 2004, 20 September 2004,
18 October 2004, 15 November 2004, 20 December
2004,
17 January 2005, 21 February 2005, 21 March 2005,
18 April 2005,
with the Annual Meeting of the Council and the Annual
Parish Meeting on 16 May 2005.

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENTAL, HIGHWAYS
AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Following receipt of nominations, it was:-

- 921 RESOLVED: That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2005, Councillors Linda Banks, Ian Bruckshaw, Geoffrey Stephenson, Joanna Walker and Geoffrey Williams be appointed to serve on the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee, together with the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the Council as ex-officio members of the Committee and that Councillor Bruckshaw be appointed Chairperson of the Committee.

**DATES OF MEETINGS OF THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENTAL,
HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR**

2004/2005

- 922 It was agreed that meetings of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee be held at the call of the Chairperson as and when there is business to be transacted.

SECTION 137 COMMITTEE

The Clerk explained that, for the reasons set out later in the Agenda, it was no longer necessary to fund the expenditure on the Parish Vehicle through Section 137. Therefore, as such expenditure no longer needed to be approved in advance, it was no longer necessary to have a Section 137 Committee.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 923 Hereon, the under mentioned Member declared his respective interest in the Agenda Item indicated below -

Councillor	Agenda Item	Interest
Carter	Chairperson's Allowance	Personal and Prejudicial – Approval of Chairperson's Allowance for the forthcoming Municipal Year

Hereon, the Chairperson withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item and the Vice-Chairperson took the Chair.

COUNCILLOR GRIFFITHS IN THE CHAIR

CHAIRPERSON'S ALLOWANCE

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

- 924 RESOLVED: That the Chairperson's allowance of £604 for the forthcoming Municipal Year as recommended by the Parish Remuneration Panel be approved and that the payment thereof be in 10 equal monthly instalments commencing at the end of June 2004.

Hereon, Councillor Carter returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair.

COUNCILLOR CARTER IN THE CHAIR

INCREASE IN MILEAGE ALLOWANCE

- 925 RESOLVED That the mileage rates, as set out below, be adopted for the Members' Allowance Scheme with effect 1 April 2004.

	Under 1000cc	Over 1000cc
Per Mile first 8500 miles	37.0p	40.4p
Per Mile after 8500 miles	10.8p	11.2p

MINUTES

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

- 926 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 17 May 2004, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 927 The Chairperson thanked the Members for electing him for a further term of office and went on to welcome the three new Members.

He then referred to the possibility of the additional work which could arise from the City Council's Localisation of Services Programme and in particular, the possibility of the introduction of a Community Based Housing Scheme for Frankley. There was also, the possibility of additional work arising from the regeneration proposals for the Frankley Centre.

QUESTIONS

There were none.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs Marion Chute – Community Librarian

- 928 The letter from Mrs Marion Chute thanking the Parish Council for the generous grants supporting the work of the Library was noted.

Mrs Sue Henderson – Playgroup Leader, Frogmill Play Group

- 929 The letter from Mrs Henderson thanking the Council for the grant towards the insurance costs of the playgroup was noted.

TRAINING

Parish and Town Council Induction Day – 10 July 2004

- 930 The Clerk reported that WALC and SLCC were running a one day training course on Saturday 10 July at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa. Although the course was primarily aimed at recently elected Councillors, those Members who had already served a term of office but had not undergone the initial training might wish to take the opportunity of adding to their experience.

However, although a number of Members expressed an interest in attending the course, given the proximity of the proposed date it was likely that they would not be free on that date. The Clerk explained that it was possible that the course would be repeated sometime in September and he agreed to circulate the September date once it was available.

Certificate in Local Council Administration

- 931 The Clerk reported that he had recently received notification from AQA regarding the assessment of his Portfolio in connection with the Certificate in Local Council Administration. Out of the 26 Sections of the Portfolio, he had unfortunately failed on one which meant that he had failed the course. However, he was investigating the arrangements for a re-sit of the failed section which he hope to re-submit in the near future.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Proposed Vodafone Installation at the Corner Of Frogmill Road and Tay Road, Frankley, Birmingham

The following letter and associated plans advising of the proposal to erect a 12 metre high mast at the junction of Tay Road/ Frogmill Road was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 1)

A lengthy discussion ensued during which the Clerk advised that, currently, the Government did not accept that the microwave emissions from Mobile Phone Masts caused illness to those living in close vicinity to the masts, and, accordingly, Local Planning Authorities were advised not to accept such concerns as valid objections to the siting of masts. However, in the Government's Planning Policy Guidance Notes, Mobile Phone Operators in were advised, were possible, to share masts to stop the proliferation of masts in any particular area. Therefore, while the Planning Authority and Vodafone were unlikely to accept concerns regarding ill health as valid objections, they had to consider mast sharing proposals.

Councillor Denny said that he was aware that a number of residents in the

area were extremely concerned about the siting of a mast. He added that 25 years ago a similar debate regarding the possible effects of smoking had taken place, but that it was now accepted the smoking was damaging to health. It was therefore quite possible that given time and appropriate research, the link between emission for masts and the abnormally high incidence of leukaemia and cancer in the immediate vicinity of masts would be proved. He therefore suggested that the Council should, notwithstanding the Government's advice, object to the installation on health grounds.

A number of Members who used the Vodafone service indicated that they had experienced no difficulty in obtaining a signal within the Frankley area and questioned whether an additional mast was necessary. It was therefore agreed to question the necessity of a further installation in the area and to point out that given the number of masts in the immediate area whether it would be possible to share an existing mast rather than install another one.

932 RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to Turner and Partners objecting to the proposed installation of a Mobile Phone Mast at the junction of Tay Road and Frogmill Road of the following grounds –

- That whilst the Government currently does not accept a link between the emissions from a Mobile Phone Mast and the abnormally high incidences of leukaemia and cancer in the area immediately surrounding the masts, a similar debate occurred approximately 25 years ago regarding the damage caused by smoking. Such a link is now accepted and therefore it is possible that given appropriate research a similar link will be established between Mobile Phone Masts emissions and the abnormally high incidences of leukaemia and cancer in those people living adjacent to the masts. Therefore, it is felt that the health concerns of the residents are justified.
- There appears to be no problem with the reception of the Vodafone service within Frankley and therefore the need for a further installation is questioned.
- Given the number of masts in the area around Frankley, it was questioned whether, if the need for an additional facility was proven, Vodafone would consider sharing one of the existing facilities

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/001744/04/FUL

Land At Arden Road, Frankley

Temporary Parking And Erection Of Fencing Ancillary To The Use Of The Unit

- 933 It was reported that Planning Approval had been given for the above application.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 934 The Clerk reported that he would be attending a meeting of the Officer's Steering Group on 23 June at which the preferred consultants would give a presentation as to the processes they proposed to adopt in connection with the formulation of a Master Plan for the regeneration of the centre. He would inform Members of the outcome of that meeting.

CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

Councillor Grey advised that he had received a letter which merely confirmed the position regarding the problems arising from the problems with funding as had been reported to an earlier meeting. He suggested and it was agreed that the Parish Council should write to the newly elected MEP's for the West Midlands explaining the situation and requesting that they investigate the possibility of European Funding being made available. Additionally, he felt that the Council should also write to the Chairman of the Strategic Rail Authority seeking clarification of the current situation.

- 935 RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the newly elected MEP's for the West Midlands requesting that they investigate the possibility of European Funding being made available to finance the extension of the Cross City Line and that the Chairman of the Strategic Rail Authority be requested to clarify the current situation regarding funding for the extension.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Annual Meeting of the Frankley Community Church Project

- 936 Councillor Denny announced that the annual meeting of the project would be held in the grounds of the Rectory on 14 July 2004 at 7.30pm.

Annual Awards Night

- 937 Councillor Grey reminded Members that the Forum's Annual Awards night would be held on Saturday 26 June at 7.30pm at the Austin Social Club, Tessel Lane.

Forestdale Nursery

- 938 Councillor Linda Banks advised that Jan Ward of the Forestdale Nursery would be leaving and that there was a leaving do to be held at Frogmill Tenants Hall on 15 July.

Bulk Collections

- 939 The Chairperson advised that he had recently received confirmation that the Bulk Collection service would be operating in the Frankley Area between 20 August and 10 September. It was anticipated that residents would receive a leaflet detailing when their collection would be made.

Operation Headway

- 940 The Chairperson referred to an operation currently being undertaken by the Police in Frankley. He remarked that there had been a noticeable increase in the Police presence and that he was aware that the number of petty crimes had been reduced. Councillor Trefor-Jones pointed out that the operation was only scheduled to last for 2 weeks.

VIREMENTS

Parish Vehicle

The Clerk reported that following an exchange of emails with more experienced Clerks, he had been advised that expenditure on the Parish Vehicle could be set against other Powers of the Parish Council rather than the restricted Section 137. He was therefore recommending that the budget for the Parish Vehicle be moved from the Section 137 budget.

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

- 941 RESOLVED That the Parish Vehicle budget be vired from the Section 137 Budget to a non-Section 137 Budget.

Parish Website

The Clerk reported that, unless any Member had concerns about the site, he was happy to sign it off and to pay the developers. However, as the expenditure on the website had to be approved after the Council's budget had been settled, it would be necessary to create a budget heading for the website and to increase the amount transferred from the Reserves by an equivalent amount.

It was proposed by Councillor Grey, seconded by Councillor Trefor-Jones,

and –

- 942 RESOLVED That a budget heading for the website be created and that the transfer from the Council's reserves be increased by an equivalent amount.

CHANGE TO SIGNATORIES ON THE COUNCIL'S CHEQUES

It was agreed that Councillor Griffiths replace former Councillor Reverend Lewis as one of the signatories on the Council's cheques.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Grey, seconded by Councillor Stephenson, and –

- 943 RESOLVED
- (i) That Councillors Linda Banks, Eric Carter, Michael Denny, Gareth Griffiths and Sidney Grey be authorised to sign cheques drawn on the Council's Business Account;
 - (ii) That the Co-operative Bank PLC (The Bank) shall continue to be the Council's Bankers;
 - (iii) That the Bank shall be authorised to honour all cheques and all other documents made or accepted on the Council's behalf even if such payment causes any account to be overdrawn or increase any existing overdraft, provided that such documents are signed in accordance with the specimen signatures shown in the Account Signatories Section (6) of the attached Change of Business Account Signatories Mandate;
 - (iv) That the Bank shall act on all specimen signatures in accordance with any instruction, notice, request or other document in writing concerning the Council's account (including the opening of new accounts, affairs or property as shown in the Account Signatories Section (6) of the attached Change of Business Account Signatories Mandate;
 - (v) That the Bank shall be sent a copy of any future resolutions which effect the terms of these resolutions;
 - (vi) That the Bank shall be sent a copy of any changes to the Council's Constitution;
 - (vii) That the Bank shall be notified in writing of any change of Member;

- (viii) That the Bank shall be notified in writing of any change of official authorised to sign on the Council's behalf;
- (ix) That the Bank shall otherwise continue to operate the Council's Accounts in accordance with the Business Account Mandate;
- (x) That the Bank shall be notified in writing of any overall change of control in the business;
- (xi) That all signatories to the Account are aged 18 or over.

PAYMENTS

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 2)

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

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

There were no items of local issues raised.

The meeting ended at 2039 hours.

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Chairperson