

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, 15 November 2004 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Carter (in the chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, Ian Bruckshaw, Michael Denny, Sidney Grey MBE, Gareth Griffiths, Bill Hollis, Geoffrey Stephenson and Stephen Trefor-Jones.

There were 2 members of the public present.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor Williams (Work commitments)

MINUTES

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

- 1014 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 October 2004, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1015 Hereon, the under mentioned Members declared their respective interests in the Agenda items indicated below –

Councillor	Agenda Item	Interest
Linda Banks	Application for Grant Aid – Easter Playscheme	Personal – Employed by the Playscheme
Ian Bruckshaw	Application for Grant Aid – Frankley Neighbourhood Forum	Prejudicial – Councillor is a member of the Forum's management committee – Member

		withdrew during consideration of application.
Sidney Grey	Application for Grant Aid – Frankley Neighbourhood Forum	Prejudicial – Councillor is a member of the Forum’s management committee – Member withdrew during consideration of application
Bill Hollis	Application for Grant Aid – Frankley Neighbourhood Forum	Prejudicial – Councillor is a member of the Forum’s management committee – Member withdrew during consideration of application.

CHAIRPERSON’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none

QUESTIONS

There were none.

COMMUNICATIONS

- 1016 The following letter from Tom McGrath, Projects Director of CENTRO was noted –
(see interleaved document no. 1)

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID

A The Cock Inn

The following application for Grant Aid to fund the purchase of kit and other football equipment was re-submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 2)

The Clerk reminded Members that the application had been deferred from the last meeting to give Mr Cull the opportunity of providing further details regarding the application. He added that Mr Cull had been invited to attend

this meeting or, alternatively, provide written details to support the application. Whilst the project was felt to be worthy of support, Members reiterated their concerns as to the lack of detailed information to support the application. Following some discussion, it was agreed to write again to Mr Cull explaining that without supporting detail, the Council could not approve his application and suggesting that, if his work at the Cock Inn prevented him from attending the Council meeting, then he could either provide written details for the Council to consider or, alternatively, visit the Parish Office and provide the details to the Clerk.

- 1017 RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to Mr Cull to explain that without the details to support his application, the Council could not approve the application; further, that Mr Cull be invited to either provide written supporting details for consideration of the Council or, alternatively, attend the Parish Office and provide the Clerk with the details.

B Frankley Neighbourhood Forum

The following application for Grant Aid towards the cost of publishing the bi-monthly Neighbourhood News was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 3)

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

- 1018 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 £1,568 towards the cost of printing the April, June, August and October editions of the Neighbourhood News..

C Frankley Easter Playscheme

The following application for Grant Aid towards the costs of running the Frankley Easter Playscheme 2005 was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 4)

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

- 1019 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 towards the cost of operating the 2005 Frankley Easter Playscheme.

D Frankley Saturday Kids Club

The following application for Grant Aid towards the cost of running the Frankley Saturday Kids Club was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 5)

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

- 1020 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 towards the cost of running the Frankley Saturday Kids Club.

FRANKLEY SUMMER PLAYScheme REPORT

The following report of the Playscheme co-ordinator was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 6)

Councillor Trefor-Jones suggested, and it was agreed, that it would be good publicity for a précised version of the report to be included in the forthcoming edition of the Neighbourhood News and that the report highlight the support of the Parish Council.

- 1021 RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

DRAFT BUDGET 2005/2005

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(see interleaved document no.7)

During his explanatory commentary on the major aspects of the proposed budget, the Clerk drew Members' particular attention to the proposal to include a sum of £15,000 in the budget so as to allow the Council to

undertake those activities which were the responsibility of the City Council but which it was felt were not being adequately undertaken by the City Council. Whilst it was recognised that the Parish Council, since its inception in 2000, had sought to avoid the 'double taxation' of Frankley residents, efforts to get the City Council to fulfil its obligations in matters such as the maintenance of walkway hedgerows and the cleaning of the River Rea and its environs had proved difficult. The Clerk reported that he had written to the District Director earlier this year requesting that consideration be given to the Parish Council undertaking a number of activities within the parish on the basis of matched funding. However, the response from the Director had been that the District was still in the process of sorting out its budgets and established contracts so that the suggestion could not be considered at that time. Whilst the proposal of matched funding still remained a long term option, the Clerk felt that in order to resolve the immediate problems, action had to be taken in the short-term. Therefore, if the Parish Council wanted to progress the matter it would have to fund those activities which were of concern to residents itself even though they were the responsibility of the City Council. In response to questions from Members as to what would happen should the City Council prevent the Parish Council taking the proposed action, the Clerk felt that it was unlikely that the City Council would stop the Parish Council as it would be getting the work done at no cost to the City. Councillor Grey suggested that, should the City prevent the Parish Council undertaking the maintenance work, then the fact should be highly publicised in the Neighbourhood News. Councillor Denny felt that instead of calling the budget heading 'Environmental Works (hedges/river banks etc)' it should be renamed 'Work not carried out or carried out unsatisfactorily by the City Council' and additionally, it should be made clear that the sum included in the budget was a one-off and should not be regarded as a precedent. Following some further discussion during which it was agreed to increase the amount allocated for the Frankley Neighbourhood News from £2,000 to £2,500, it was proposed by Councillor Hollis, seconded by Councillor Bruckshaw and –

- 1022 RESOLVED: That the budgeted expenditure for the 2005/2006 Financial Year of £67,925, funded by a precept of £57,581, £9,169 under spend for 2004/2005, £1,000 VAT Refund and £175 Bank Interest, be approved and that, accordingly, a Precept of £57,581 be issued to Birmingham City Council as the billing authority.

THE CLERK'S TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

A Statutory Dismissal, Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures

The following report of the Clerk was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 8)

The Clerk reported that since circulating the Agenda and supporting papers he had received copies of Model Dismissal, Disciplinary and Grievance procedures from NALC (National Association of Local Councils) which he had circulated and was recommending that the Council adopt in the place of those originally circulated.

(see interleaved document no. 9)

Following a brief discussion and on receipt of nominations it was –

- 1023 RESOLVED:
- (i) That the Model Disciplinary, Dismissal and Grievance Procedures, as circulated by the National Association of Local Councils, be approved and incorporated into the Clerk's Contract of Employment; further, that the Chairperson be authorised to sign the amended Contract of Employment on behalf of the Council;
 - (ii) That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2005, Councillors Carter, Denny and Trefor-Jones be appointed to serve on the Council's Disciplinary/Grievance Committee;
 - (iii) That, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2005, Councillors Bruckshaw, Grey and Stephenson be appointed to serve on the Council's Appeals Committee.

B New National Agreement on Salaries and Conditions for Local Council Clerks

The Clerk reported that the National Association of Local Councils, the employers' body and the Society of Local Council Clerks, the employees' representative body, had agreed a new Terms and Conditions Document for Clerks. There would be a new model contract of employment for clerks, a new basis for calculating salaries and guidance on good employment practice in local councils. The new system for calculating salaries would replace the population based scales with new salary scales based on evaluated benchmarks. Councils would identify the appropriate salary range for a particular post by reference to the benchmark profiles of posts. There would be 5 years salary protection for those clerks whose salary was reduced as a result of the new system. Details of the scheme would be circulated shortly.

- 1024 RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.

TRAINING

Certificate In Local Council Administration

- 1025 It was noted that the Clerk had successfully completed his Portfolio and had gained a pass in the AQA Certificate in Local Council Administration

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**A S/05805/04/FUL
18 Arden Road, Frankley, Rubery, B45 0JA
Changes to Shopfront**

- 1026 It was noted that, following consideration and using the powers delegated by the Development Control Committee, planning approval had been granted for the above development.

**B S/05391/01/FUL
New Street, Site A, Frankley
Proposed Retail Development**

- 1027 It was noted that, following consideration of the application by the City Council's Development Control Committee on 11 November 2004, it was resolved that planning consent should be refused. It was further noted that the reason given for refusal was that the proposal was premature pending the adoption of a development strategy for Frankley centre, which was proposed to be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

**C S/03482/02/FUL
New Street, Site C, Frankley
Erection of two units for Class B1, B2, B8 and ancillary A1 use,
car parking and service area.**

- 1028 It was noted that, following consideration of the application by the City Council's Development Control Committee on 11 November 2004, it was resolved that planning consent should be refused. It was further noted that the reason given for refusal was that the proposal was premature pending the adoption of a development strategy for Frankley centre, which was proposed to be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 1029 The Clerk reported that at the last meeting of the Frankley Regeneration Group, the consultants had presented a number of options for consideration by the Group. Although it had originally been anticipated that the Consultants would be undertaking a public consultation on the various options following that meeting, it had been agreed that the viability of the options needed to be examined so as to ensure that the options presented to the public during the exhibition were viable. Accordingly, there would be a further meeting of the Group on 25 November when the 4 options for public consultation would be determined. However, he had received an email that afternoon from the Consultants which advised that because the Housing Department, which was the owner of the Centre, now wished to be consulted about the proposals, the public consultation would now probably not take place until the New Year.

Members were concerned at the delay in producing options for consultation especially when the original timetable had stated that the option would be available for consultation at the beginning of November. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk write to the Project Leader expressing the Council's concern regarding the delay in producing options for public consultation.

- 1030 RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Project Leader expressing the Council's concern as to the continuing delay in producing regeneration options for the Frankley centre for public consultation.

CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

- 1031 There was nothing to report.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Northfield District Governance Commission

- 1032 The Clerk reported that he had received an invitation for himself and the Chairperson to attend a meeting of the Commission on Monday 22 November at which the role and function of the Parish Council would be discussed in relation to the District Committee.

The Chairperson indicated that one of the topics for discussion was the role of the Ward Committees given that a number of other districts had abolished their Ward Committees. It was generally felt that, in Longbridge, the Ward Committee played a vital role and should therefore be retained.

Christmas Meal

- 1033 After some discussions it was agreed that the Christmas Meal be held at the Emerald Restaurant, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15 December. The Clerk undertook to circulate Members with the details together with a reply slip indicating the number attending.

Speeding Sign

- 1034 Councillor Bruckshaw reported that an electronic speeding sign had been played opposite the Old House on New Street which he hoped would deter motorists from speeding.

PAYMENTS

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 9)

It was proposed by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Linda Banks and –

- 1035 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At 2045 hours the meeting adjourned so as to enable the Members of the Public to raise issues of concern.

Speeding Sign

Mr Len Lovett reported that whilst initially the sign had had the effect of causing motorists to reduce their speed, it would appear that now they were used to it, the majority of motorists ignored it.

Publicising Summer/Easter Playscheme

Mr Lovett urged that the article which it was proposed to insert in the Neighbourhood News regarding the Summer/Easter Playschemes should ensure that the support of the Parish Council should be highlighted.

The meeting was reconvened at 2050 hours

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

- 1036 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 No 1037

REVIEW OF CLERK'S SALARY

The Clerk withdrew from the meeting during the consideration of this item. Upon his returned he was informed that, in recognition of his achievement in gaining the Certificate in Local Council Administration, he was awarded an additional salary spinal column point.

The meeting ended at 2053 hours.

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Chairperson