

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, 20
December 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, Stephen Trefor-Jones, Joanna Walker and
Geoff Williams.

Also in Attendance Tracey Nicholls, Senior Manager – Northfield District
Jason Radford, Neighbourhood Caretaker Supervisor

There was 1 member of the public present.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies

MINUTES

1038 The Public part of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
15 November 2004 was noted.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CARETAKING PILOT

The Chairperson reported that, following a visit to Frankley by the District
Manager, Ifor Jones and City Councillors Brew and Barton and a
subsequent visit by Ms Nicholls and Mr Radford, it had been agreed to
place before the Council a proposal for a neighbourhood caretaking pilot
scheme to tackle some of the environmental problems currently
experienced in Frankley.

Hereon, Ms Nicholls and Mr Radford submitted draft proposals to which
they referred during their presentation -

(see interleaved document no. 1)

In response to Members' questions Ms Nicholls and Mr Radford responded
as follows –

- (i) The money saved in the Cock Hill and Middle Park projects arose because of a more efficient use of Council resources.
- (ii) Part of the role of the Wardens was to monitor the delivery of services under Service Level Agreements (SLA's) and to ensure that such work was carried out efficiently and effectively. If the Wardens found that work was not being carried out satisfactorily, there were mechanisms in place to ensure that the department concerned either did the work required to a satisfactory standard or, alternatively, would not be paid for the work. However, the point of the pilot scheme was to ensure that SLA's were delivered satisfactorily.
- (iii) In order to ensure that all parties involved in the Pilot were aware of their responsibilities, there was to be a meeting of representatives of all the departments concerned at the parish office which had provisionally been arranged for 12 January 2005.
- (iv) It was proposed to produce a newsletter for distribution around the parish providing details of the pilot scheme and publicising the Parish Council's involvement.
- (v) Whilst the City Council were asking the Parish Council for a contribution of £5,000 towards the cost of the three month pilot scheme, agreement to that funding did not mean that the Parish Council was committed to provide funding after the end of March. It had been agreed that there would be an evaluation of the scheme during March and the decision as to whether or not to continue funding would be up to the Council based on its evaluation of the success or otherwise of the pilot.

Following some further discussion it was proposed by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Hollis and –

- 1039 RESOLVED: (i) 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 sum of £5,000 as the Parish Council's contribution towards the City's Council's Neighbourhood Caretakers Pilot initiative to be undertaken within the parish between 10 January and 31 March 2005;

- (ii) That approval be given to the transfer of £5,000 from the Parish Council's deposit account to the current account.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

CASUAL VACANCY

On the proposition of Councillor Hollis it was seconded by Councillor Stephenson and –

- 1040 RESOLVED: That, as a result of the resignation for former Councillor Karan Bolton, the Council does hereby formally declare that a vacancy exists on the Council and agrees that a Public Notice advertising the fact be placed at various locations around the parish.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1041 At the invitation of the Chairperson, Councillor Denny expressed the Council's condolences to Councillor Grey on the tragic and untimely death of his son Christopher.

QUESTIONS

There were none.

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID

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 reported that despite several letters to Mr Cull requesting further information so as to enable the Council to consider his application, such information had not been forthcoming. Accordingly, he felt that he had no alternative but to recommend that the Council formally reject the application.

- 1042 RESOLVED: That the application submitted by Mr Cull for funding to start football teams in the local league be rejected on the grounds that, despite several requests for information so as to enable

the Council to consider the application, such information has not been forthcoming.

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The Clerk reported that whilst the review by the Independent Parish Remuneration Panel of the Members' Allowances Scheme only took place every two years, it was usual to apply a percentage increase to the allowances in the intervening years. According, the Clerk had ascertained from the City Council that it would be increasing allowances for the forthcoming year by 1.9% (apart from the mileage rates that were set nationally). It was therefore recommended that the Parish Council increase the Allowances by the same amount. A revised Schedule of Allowances was submitted.

(see interleaved document no 3)

Additionally, Members were advised that amended regulations came into force in November that allowed Co-opted Members to claim the allowances, apart from the participation allowance, that were set out in the Parish Allowances Scheme. Previously, because of an error in drafting the original regulations, Co-opted Members were not permitted to claim allowances.

- 1043 RESOLVED: That the revised Schedule of Allowances as now submitted be adopted as the Parish council's allowance scheme.

TRAINING

There was nothing to report.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/06429/04/FUL

115 Charnwood Close, Rubery B45

Erection of 2 storey side extension with Juliette balcony to the rear and single storey forward extension.

- 1044 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.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 1045 The Clerk reported that at the last meeting of the Frankley Regeneration Group, officers of the City Council expressed some concerns as to the amount of 'gap funding' (the difference between the developers projected costs and projected income from the development) and the consultants were requested to re-visit their projections for the gap funding required for each of the options on the basis that it would serve no purpose to publicly consult on options which, following further analysis, may prove to be unviable. Additionally, because the current shops/flats at the Centre were in the ownership of the Housing Department, the Housing officers needed to ensure that the Cabinet Member for Housing was made aware of the various options.

Accordingly, it was now unlikely that the proposed public consultation would not now take place until the end of January 2005.

Councillor Denny referred the fact that consent had been given to the proposal to build the Children's Centre that would be linked to the present Nursery School. However, the number of parking spaces for the school would be reduced as it was proposed to build the Centre on the present school car park. He therefore requested that, in considering the options presented for the regeneration of the Centre, consideration be given to the provision of adequate parking spaces for the school and the centre. It was agreed that the Clerk would raise the matter at the next meeting of the Group.

CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

- 1046 There was nothing to report.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Decent Homes

- 1047 The Chairperson reported that the District was currently formulating its proposals for the Decent Homes scheme which would include the provision of central heating, double glazing and other improvements to Council owned properties. Unfortunately, because the Frankley housing stock was relatively new, having been built in the 70's, it was unlikely that the properties in Frankley would be included in any refurbishment programme before 2009. In the meantime normal repairs would be undertaken.

A number of Members expressed concern over the quality of repairs currently carried out and in particular the replacement windows. There were numerous instances on Frankley where windows frames were rotten and required replacement. However, because the piecemeal approach, different types of windows were installed and the quality of workmanship left a lot to be desired.

PAYMENTS

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 4)

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

- 1048 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At 2038 hours the meeting adjourned so as to enable the Members of the Public to raise issues of concern.

Provision of Grit Bins

Councillor Barton indicated that he was hoping to obtain 5 additional Grit Bins for the Ward. The Chairperson suggested that two bins could be situated at the corner of Boleyn Road/Devon Road and the bend adjacent to the playing fields on Boleyn Road. Councillor Barton undertook to investigate whether or not it would be possible to position bins at those sites. The Clerk pointed out that the problem with Boleyn Road site was that water ran across the road from the adjacent playing field washing any grit away. He had recently written to Bromsgrove Council advising of the problem but had yet to receive a response.

Provision of Services – Birmingham City Council

Council Barton reported that it was unfortunate that the City Council had received no stars in the review of its Social Services provision but it was hoped that the City would at least gain one star in the review of Housing provision. However, the new Administration was currently undertaking a review of the staffing levels and services provided by the City Council with a view to providing its services more effectively and efficiently.

The meeting was reconvened at 2047 hours

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

- 1049 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

Private Minutes of the meeting
held on 15 November 2004

Confidential Information
relating to an employee of the
Council

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS HELD IN PRIVATE

Minute No. 1050

The Private Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2004, were, together with the Public part of the Minutes submitted earlier in the meeting, having been previously circulated, taken as read, confirmed and signed.

The meeting ended at 2049 hours.

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Chairperson