

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 March 2005 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Eric Carter (in the chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, Ian Bruckshaw, Michael Denny, Gareth Griffiths, Bill Hollis, Len Lovett, Geoffrey Stephenson and Joanna Walker.

Also in Attendance Mr Chris Smith – Frankley Youth Affairs Forum
PC Bradford – South Sector Crime Fighting Team
PC Sheldon – South Sector Crime Fighting Team

There were 3 members of the public present.

PUBLIC MINUTES

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Trefor-Jones (Another meeting) and Williams (Illness)

MINUTES

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

- 1088 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 21 February 2005, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1089 Hereon, the under mentioned Member declared his interest in the Agenda item indicated below –

| Councillor | Agenda Item | Interest |
|------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Gareth Griffiths | Application For Grant Aid | Personal and Prejudicial – Member of the Frankley Safer Neighbourhood Project - Councillor left the room during consideration of this item |

| Councillor | Agenda Item | Interest |
|---------------|---------------------------|---|
| Ian Bruckshaw | Application For Grant Aid | Personal and Prejudicial – Member of the Frankley Neighbourhood Forum – Councillor left the room during consideration of this item. |
| Bill Hollis | Application For Grant Aid | Personal and Prejudicial – Member of the Frankley Neighbourhood Forum – Councillor left the room during consideration of this item. |

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

QUESTIONS

There were none.

COMMUNICATIONS

Frankley Transport Improvements

The following letter from Mr Tom Magrath, Project Director, CENTRO, was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 1)

- 1090 Councillor Denny expressed the view that, from the content of the letter, it appeared that the probability of the extension of the Cross-City line to Frankley was diminishing. However, the Chairperson pointed out that the current inaction was due to central Government's delay in making the necessary funds available. It was agreed to keep a watching brief on the matter.

APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID

(A) Frankley Safer Neighbourhood Project

The following application for Grant Aid submitted by the Frankley Youth Affairs Forum on behalf of the Frankley Safer Neighbourhood Project was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 2)

At the invitation of the Chairperson, Chris Smith, Project Manager, Frankley Youth Affairs Forum, presented the application. He explained that the Forum

was submitting the application on behalf of the Frankley Safer Neighbourhood. Following a survey of Frankley residents carried out last year, it emerged that not only was there a fear of being a victim of crime amongst residents there was also a lack of confidence in the using the national Crime-Stoppers telephone service. Despite assurances from the Police, some members of the public were yet to be convinced that their anonymity would be maintained should they use the Crime-Stoppers line. Additionally, another reason for setting up a locally based Crime-Stoppers line was that, on occasions, information which was reported to the National Crime-Stoppers Telephone line did not reach the local police.

In order to re-assure residents that their anonymity would be maintained if they reported information and to ensure that the information reached the local police, it was proposed to set up a local Crime-Stoppers Telephone Service. The Project Group considered that the most effective way to advertise the number would be by distributing Fridge Magnets with the details to every property in Frankley. Successful action by the Police as a result of information given to the telephone service would be advertised in the Neighbourhood News.

It was proposed to run the scheme for 12 months after which it would be evaluated.

A discussion then ensued during which Chris Smith and PC Bradford responded to Members' questions as appropriate.

The Chairperson and Councillor Linda Banks, while supportive of the proposal to provide a local Crime-Stoppers Telephone line, questioned whether the cost of providing each house with a Fridge Magnet was the best use of public money. However, Councillor Denny believed that the use of Fridge Magnets was a cost effective way of ensuring all residents on the estate were aware of the telephone number.

Councillor Linda Bank's proposition, upon being put to the vote was, on a show of hands, declared lost.

Councillor Denny's proposition, upon being put to the vote was, on a show of hand, declared to be carried.

It was therefore, moved by Councillor Denny, seconded by Councillor Bruckshaw and -

- 1091 RESOLVED : That the Council, in accordance with its powers under Section 31 of the Local Government and Rating Act 1997, agree to incur the following expenditure; £2884.80 towards the cost of providing a dedicated phone-line and answering machine to enable residents to report crimes and the provision of fridge magnets.

(B) Neighbourhood News – Printing Costs

The following application submitted by the Neighbourhood Forum for grant aid to cover the printing costs of the Neighbourhood News was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 3)

It was proposed by Councillor Joanna Walker, seconded by Councillor Denny and -

- 1092 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 £784 to pay for the printing of the December 2004 and February 2005 editions of the Neighbourhood News.

CO-OPERATIVE BANK ACCOUNT

The Clerk explained that because of the removal of former Councillor Grey from the list of people authorised to sign the Council's cheques, the Bank now required that the Council to submit a new Access Number to enable the accounts to be accessed over the telephone. The Terms and Conditions referred to were submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 4)

- 1093 RESOLVED: (i) That the Council agrees to the use of the Co-operative Bank plc ("The Bank"), Customer Services ("The Services") subject to the Terms and Conditions set out in the attached document and the Terms and Conditions of the Council's main account, a copy of which was produced at the meeting;
- (ii) That, in all other aspects, the Council's Mandate with the Bank will continue unaffected.

CODE OF CONDUCT CONSULTATION

The following consultation document circulated by the Standards Board for England was submitted -

(see interleaved document no. 4)

- 1094 The Clerk explained that the Standards Board for England, the body which was responsible for regulating the Code of Conduct was currently, at the request of the Minister of State for Local and Regional Government, reviewing the effectiveness of the Code with the view of possibly addressing those areas which were currently causing concern. A résumé of the

consultation document had been circulated to Members and, as any changes to the Code would affect the Members of the Council, the Clerk considered that it was important for the Council to submit a response to the document.

It was agreed the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson would draw up a draft response which would then be circulated to Members for approval.

At 1958 hours, the Council adjourned to enable Members to inspect the plan relating to the following applications.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(A) S/01310/05/FUL
Rubery Lane, Land at, Rubery, Birmingham
Erection of 46 Dwellings and associated infrastructure works

The Clerk reported that the application was a revised application for the land off Rubery Lane which had been considered by the Council in July 2004, but which had subsequently been withdrawn by the Developer before determination by the City's Planning Control Committee.

1095 It was agreed that the Development Control Committee of the City Council be advised as follows –

Whilst it is acknowledged that the developer has moved one of the entrances/exits to the development from the original position located on the existing mini-roundabout on Rubery Lane, given the increase in traffic which will be generated by the development, the proposal to create a 'T' junction for the access/egress to and from the development on what is acknowledged to be already a very busy road remains a cause of concern. The Council would therefore, prefer to see that a further mini-roundabout be constructed on Rubery Lane to replace the proposed 'T' junction which it is felt would allow for safer access/egress to/from the development.

(B) S/01434/05/FUL
54 Radnor Close, Land Adjacent, Rednal, Rubery, Birmingham B45 0JN
Erection of single side and rear extension

1096 There was no objection to this application

(C) S/01719/05/FUL
67 Charnwood Close, Rubery, Birmingham B45 0JX
Erection of first floor side extension

1097 There was no objection to this application.

(D) S/01837/05/FUL
3 Charnwood Close, Frankley, Birmingham, B45
Erection of two storey side extension and installation of pitched roof to front

1098 There was no objection to this application.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

1099 The Clerk reported that at a meeting of the Frankley Officers Group held on 24 February, it was reported that, following a meeting between officers of the Housing and Economic Development Departments, the consultants had been requested to review the viability of the 4 original regeneration options to ensure that the final options, which would go out to consultation, would be viable. Following that review the consultants proposed 2 options which it was agreed would be the subject of consultation in Frankley.

However, because of the recent changes to Planning legislation which would require that the development be the subject of a Sustainability Appraisal, it was agreed that the two options for the regeneration of the Frankley Centre would be the subject of an informal consultation exercise alongside the options for the Stock Option Appraisal which it is anticipated would take place in April/July. As the proposals for the Frankley Centre could be affected by the outcomes of the Stock Option Appraisal, the informal consultation together with the results of the Stock Option Appraisal would give the City the chance to make any amendments to the options for the Centre prior to the Sustainability Assessment and the formal consultation.

It is envisaged that the final options for the regeneration would be ready for formal consultation by September.

CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

There was nothing to report.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Fumes From Strip Tinning, Arden Park Industrial Units

1100 Councillor Lovett reported that some residents of Ringwood Drive were experiencing some discomfort at the rear of their properties due to noxious fumes which it appeared were coming from one of the units on Arden Park Industrial Park.

The Chairperson advised that the Council had already reported the matter to the local Environmental Health Officer who was investigating the problem. He

gave an assurance that he would contact the Officer concerned to ascertain what progress had been made.

Pothole Repairs

- 1101 Councillor Stephenson complained about the standard of repairs currently being carried out to potholes in the highways. The contractor was merely filling the hole with tarmac and stomping it down. The edges were not being sealed and as a consequence, when it rained, water seeped down the join ultimately causing the tarmac to lift.

The Chairperson said that he was aware of the problem and had already reported it to the Highways department who had given an assurance that the matter would be investigated.

Boleyn Road – Water Flowing From Adjacent Land

- 1102 The Chairperson reported that Bromsgrove District Council, in response to requests from the Clerk, had undertaken an investigation into the cause of the water which originated from land owned by the Council. Although the water flowing across Boleyn Road from the land caused no problems in the milder weather, during period of freezing temperatures, the water froze on the road surface catching drivers unawares, Because of the icy surface cause by the leakage of water across Boleyn Road there had been a number of minor accidents on the bend. However, the investigation undertaken by BDC had revealed a fault in the 300mm drainage pipe which had now been rectified so hopefully the problem had been solved.

PAYMENTS

(A) Business Visa Credit Card

- 1103 The following Business Visa Credit Card Statement was noted -
(see interleaved document no 5)

(B) Schedule Of Payments

The following schedule of payments was submitted -
(see interleaved document no. 6)

It was proposed by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Joanna walker and –

- 1104 **RESOLVED:** That the payments, as set out in the Schedule now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At 2021 hours, the meeting adjourned to enable the Members of the Public to raise issues of concern.

There being no issues to be raised by the public the meeting was reconvened at 2022 hours

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

- 1105 RESOLVED : That, pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded for the meeting during the consideration of the following -

Interview For the Co-option Of A Councillor

The New National Agreement On Salaries And Conditions Of Service Of Local Council Clerks

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS HELD IN PRIVATE

Minute Nos. 1106 to 1107

INTERVIEW FOR CO-OPTION

In the absence of the sole candidate for co-option to the Council, it was agreed that the Clerk would ascertain the reason for Mr McDonnell's absence and, if appropriate, re-arrange the interview for the next meeting of the Council.

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

Following consideration of a draft Contract of Employment for the Clerk, it was agreed that he should work from home, on the understanding that he attended the Parish office as and when required, that he should receive a taxable payment of £350 per annum to cover the costs of working from home; that payment to be reviewed annually. Additionally, it was agreed that the hours of work be fixed at 88 per month in line with the recommendation of NALC/SLCC and that on retirement or death in service, a gratuity be paid.

During consideration of the salary scale to be paid to the Clerk, the Clerk withdrew from the meeting and, upon his return was advised that having regard to the duties currently undertaken by the Clerk and the duties included in the benchmark posts agreed by NALC/SLCC, the salary scale of scp 35-38 be set.

The meeting ended at 2100 hours.