

## NEW FRANKLEY IN BIRMINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

At the Annual Parish Meeting of the  
New Frankley in Birmingham Parish  
held at St. Christopher's Church  
Centre, Holly Hill, Frankley on 19  
May, 2000 at 2005 hours.

### Present

#### Electors of the Parish

ARB	385	Councillor Grey (in the Chair)			
ARX	1476	L Banks	ARZ	1776	K Bolton
ARZ	1945	D Burton	ARZ	1946	S Burton
ARZ	625	E Carter	ARX	436	P Kane
ARY	118	Reverend D Lewis	ARY	119	E Lewis
ARY	111	E Pleece	ARX	113	F Sidwell
ARX	114	S Sidwell	ARZ	1910	G Stephenson
ARZ	1768	J Walker	ARX	1011	M Wilson
ARX	1012	M Wilson	ARX	828	G Williams

17 Electors

#### Members of the Public

S Bridgman	Frankley Neighbourhood Office
Hon Alderman E J Eames	Association for Neighbourhood Democracy
J Harbidge	The Pikes, Deelands Road, Rubery
A Hodge	West Midlands & Warwickshire Association of Local Councils
F Lynch	Garden Close, Frankley
C Muir	St Christopher's Church Centre
S O'Flynn	Frankley Neighbourhood Office
T Thompson	Castle Bromwich Parish Council
Y Thompson	Elections Office – Birmingham City Council
C Woodall	Frankley Housing Officer

10 Public.

#### Officers

R Griffiths                      Acting Clerk to the Council

1 Officer.

Total Attendance 28

## ASSOCIATION FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD DEMOCRACY

1. Honorary Alderman Eames, Director of the Association, was invited to address the meeting. He remarked on the fact that the New Frankley in Birmingham Parish was the first Urban Parish in Birmingham – the first, he hoped, of many more. Until the enactment of the 1997 Local Government and Rating Act there had been considerable resistance to the establishment of Urban Parish Councils. However, under the provisions of the Act, it was now possible for Local Communities to petition for a Parish Council and the establishment of such Councils was much easier.

He felt that Parish Councils were of value to the community as they only served a relatively small area and would be, therefore, more in tune with what was happening locally. He had, along with Sir Richard Knowles, campaigned for the establishment of Parish Councils within Birmingham for many years. Having spent 43 years as a District Ward Councillor he was of the opinion that, given the size of Wards and the number of electors in wards, it was not always possible for Ward Councillors to be aware of all the local issues affecting the Ward. However, Parish Councils he considered were the ideal forum for residents to raise local issues of concern and have them dealt with locally. Finally, he expressed his Association's thanks for being invited to address the meeting and for the financial contribution which the Frankley Neighbourhood Forum had made to the Association.

## FUTURE PLANS

2. Hereon, the Chairperson, Councillor Grey, addressed the meeting.

He referred to the time he had spent as a Councillor on Romsley Parish Council prior to the 1995 boundary change. He had found his fellow Councillors to be genuine people working for the benefit of the Community and that was a principle he hoped to bring to this Parish Council.

In Frankley and Longbridge there were a number of groups which were working together. Meetings of the Ward Committee, the Ward Advisory Board and the Neighbourhood Forum were well attended and he hoped that future meetings of the Parish Council would be also. He considered the Council to be the final piece of the jigsaw.

He went on to pay tribute to all the work carried out by David Burton for all his work which had made the establishment of the Parish Council a reality. He also thanked Honorary Alderman Eames and Sir Richard Knowles, both of whom supported the principle of Parish Councils and who had assisted in the establishment of this Parish Council. He expressed his regret that Sir Richard Knowles had lost his City Council seat in the last Municipal Elections but hoped that Sir Richard would continue with his work regarding local democracy. He envisaged that in 10 years time there would be many Urban Parish Councils within Birmingham with Frankley leading the way.

He asked for the support of the local community in what would be a learning curve in the first year. He expressed the hope that the local community would become involved in the work of the Council and attend future meetings of the Council.

### MATTERS RAISED BY ELECTORS OF THE PARISH

#### (A) Quest Millennium Awards/Parish Councillor Training

Mr Stevenson expressed the hope that those Councillors who had not yet attended a training course for Parish Councillors, which was funded through Quest Millennium Awards, would avail themselves at the next opportunity.

Mr Burton thanked all those people who had assisted in the establishment of the Parish Council and in particular the funding made available by Quest Millennium Awards which had paid for Councillor training and the purchase of training materials.

Referring to the gavel used by the Chairperson during the meeting, Mr Burton advised that it had to be made and donated by Mr Smith, Richmond Road, Rubery and he requested that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Smith on behalf of the Council.

3. RESOLVED: That the Acting Clerk write a letter of thanks on behalf of the Council to Mr Smith concerning the donation of the Chairperson's gavel.

#### (B) Publicity for the Parish Council

4. Mrs Wilson hoped that eventually, the Parish Council would issue a leaflet detailing its powers as she had no idea of what the Council could or could not do. She also requested that meetings of the Council be publicised more widely by perhaps placing notices of forthcoming meetings at the local schools and library.

The Chairperson said that he accepted that there was a need to tell the community just what a Parish Council could do. With regard to additional publicity, he advised that, currently, Agenda and Minutes of all meetings of the Parish Council would be available for public inspection in the library. Additionally, there was a Parish Notice Board in the local Post Office which displayed the details of future meetings but he accepted that perhaps meetings of the Council should be more widely publicised.

Honorary Alderman Eames advised that his Association produced a leaflet which detailed the powers of Parish Councils and that he would send copies of the leaflet to the Council.

(C) Provision of Dog Litter Bins

5. Reverend Lewis requested that consideration be given to the provision of dog litter bins in the area because of the dangers, especially to children, of dog excreta.

Mr Burton undertook to contact the Environmental Services Department of the City Council as he was aware that they provided Dog Litter Bins which were sponsored by Crufts.

In response to a comment from Ms Bolton regarding the fact that some litter bins had not been emptied for some time and were becoming an eyesore, Mr Burton agreed to raise the matter with the appropriate City Council Department.

(D) Provision of a Community Post Box

6. Mr Carter suggested that, so as to enable electors to bring questions/problems to the attention of the Parish Council, consideration be given to the provision of a Parish post box.

The Chairperson said that the electors could currently write to him or the Acting Clerk should they wish to bring a question/problem to the attention of the Council. He added that publicity for the Parish Council, including contacts, would be in a forthcoming issue of the Frankley Neighbourhood Newsletter.

(E) Princess Diana Way

7. Mr Harbridge raised the matter of the state of the Princess Diana Way which he maintained was an eyesore and needed cleansing as a matter of urgency.

The Chairperson pointed out that, since the boundary change in 1995, there had been confusion as to which City Department was actually responsible for the Walkways in the Frankley area. The Forum had, in the past, requested several times that all walkways be named and adopted by one City Council Department which would then be responsible for the cleansing and the maintenance. However that had not yet happened and he undertook that the Parish Council would take up the problem of the anomalies relating to the walkways.

(F) Overgrown Footpath by the Side of the Bugle Horn Public House, Wareham Road

8. Mr Williams complained that the footpath at the side of the Bugle Horn Public House had become so overgrown, people could only use the path with great difficulty.

MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS

9. The Acting Clerk reported that congratulatory letters had been received from the Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks relating to the formation of the new Parish Council.

(See interleaved No. 1)

The meeting ended at 1935 hours.

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Chairperson