

NEW FRANKLEY IN BIRMINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

At a Parish Meeting of the New Frankley in Birmingham Parish held at St. Christopher's Church Centre, Holly Hill, New Street, Frankley on 8 January 2001 at 1945 hours.

Present

Electors of the Parish

ARZ	1945	D Burton	ARZ	1776	K Bolton
ARZ	1946	S Burton	ARZ	1476	L Banks
ARB	385	S Grey	ARZ	1768	J Walker
ARZ	625	E Carter	ARZ	1910	G Stephenson
ARX	828	G Williams	ARZ	1229	M Wills
ARX	436	P Kane	ARZ	1227	J Wills

12 electors

Members of the public

M Denny Rector of Frankley; parish councillor.
C Williams Crychan Close (not of voting age).

2 members of the public.

Officers

A Foster Clerk to the Parish Council

1 officer.

Total attendance 15.

Councillor Sidney Grey MBE, Chairperson of the Parish Council, in the chair.

CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairperson explained the purpose of the meeting which was to present and discuss the Parish Council's budget and precept for 2001-02. He also explained briefly the powers of a Parish meeting and the rights of electors to propose resolutions and request a poll.

He then called upon the Clerk to present the Council's budget and precept.

PRESENTATION ON THE BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2001-02

The Clerk presented the Council's budget and precept using slides and a projector.

(see interleaved documents nos. 1 to 5)

- 10 The Clerk explained the major items of expenditure, i.e. tree and hedge cutting, green refuse collection, grants, provision of an office, pay and expenses, administration costs, and other miscellaneous spending. The total budgeted spend was £38,013 and the precept was required to raise £33,013. He emphasised that this met a target of costing £1 per month per property on average for residents of the parish.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

- 11 Mrs. Wills asked how decisions would be made on which trees and hedges needed cutting. She also mentioned the large number of paths in the parish with problems caused by overgrown hedges and asked if those were included.

The Chairperson explained that the Parish Council would assess the problems and request that the work be carried out by the City Council's Leisure Services Department in the first instance. He mentioned the national publicity given to tall leylandii hedges. Hedges which were growing over paths were included in the project but owners and tenants would be contacted first. He mentioned the continuing attempts to get the paths named and adopted by the City Council, which would make them the Transportation Department's responsibility. He encouraged residents to report problems with paths using the Parish Council's reporting form.

- 12 Mr. Burton asked about emergency work on large trees. The Chairperson emphasised that this would remain the City Council's responsibility.
- 13 Mr. Carter asked about the areas of woodland in the parish.
- The Clerk explained that the ownership of those areas was uncertain. He undertook to investigate the matter and report back to a future Parish Council meeting.
- 14 Mr. Stephenson asked whether the Parish Council was taking over responsibility from the City Council for the work, or just supplementing their programme.
- The Chairperson said that the current City Council budget in areas controlled by the Housing Department covered emergency work only. The Parish Council was supplementing this so that more routine, but necessary, work could be carried out.
- 15 Mr. Stephenson asked whether the proposed financial aid to the Frankley Neighbourhood News implied any control by the Parish Council over the newspaper.
- The Chairperson emphasised that that was not the case and that the current group of people who ran the paper would remain in control. The Parish Council was simply proposing to take over the funding responsibility from the Neighbourhood Forum.
- 16 Mrs. Wills asked who had the responsibility for keeping the River Rea clear of obstructions.
- The Chairperson said that in the parish area that was the responsibility of the City Council Housing Department, which had a £4,000 budget to cover two clearance operations per year. He hoped that the Parish Council's green refuse project would reduce the incidence of rubbish dumping in the river and so reduce the danger of flooding.
- 17 Mr. Carter asked how flood prevention measures would be affected by the proposed transfer of the City Council's housing stock to private landlords.
- The Chairperson said that he hoped flood prevention measures would have been completed by the time any transfer occurred. He was in contact with Mr. R. Burden MP about anomalies in the

system concerning the responsibility for footpaths and closes.

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Mr. Kane asked if the proposed training expenditure could be funded by the Department for Education and Employment or their agencies, which would leave more money for projects of direct benefit to parishioners.

The Chairperson said that that possibility was certainly worth investigating. The Clerk agreed to look into the question of outside funding.

There being no further questions the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 2036 hours.

Signed

Chairperson