

NEW FRANKLEY IN BIRMINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held at the Council Offices, 12 Arden Road, Frankley on Tuesday, 12 July 2005 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Ian Bruckshaw (in the Chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, Gareth Griffiths, Geoffrey Stephenson and Joanna Walker

APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE

- 124 Resolution No. 1145 of the Parish Council appointing Councillors Linda Banks, Ian Bruckshaw, Geoffrey Stephenson, Joanna Walker and Geoffrey Williams to serve on the Committee together with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Council as ex-officio members and appointing Councillor Bruckshaw as Chairperson was noted.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 125 The following Terms of reference of the Committee were noted –
(see interleaved document no. 1)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Carter (Another meeting) and Williams (Medical)

MINUTES

- 126 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 5 July 2004, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- A S/04089/05/FUL
New Street, Near Hereford Close, Rubery, Birmingham
Installation of telephone call box with food vending
machine.**
- B S/04088/05/FUL
Holly Hill Road, On the corner of Wareham Road, Rubery,
Birmingham
Installation of telephone call box with food vending
machine.**

The following applications were submitted –

(see interleaved document nos. 2 and 3)

Whilst it was recognised that BT Payphones needed to generate additional income in order that it may continue providing public payphones, it was felt that the current proposal was inappropriate for the following reasons –

- Many residents already felt threatened because of large groups of youths congregating around the current telephone kiosks at night and the addition of a vending machine to these kiosks would only make the matters worse. Additionally, the Parish Council had received a number of complaints from residents of properties adjacent to the proposed locations who were concerned that the proposal would create further nuisance for nearby residents because of gangs of youths congregating around the phone/vending machines;
- Although the application stressed the security of the vending machines/telephone kiosks, given the incidence of vandalism to the current telephone kiosks on the estate, it was felt that the new kiosks would be seen as a challenge and quickly vandalised;

However, should the Planning Committee be minded to approve the applications the Members considered that the following conditions should be attached to the Planning Consent –

- Although the applications specified a trial period of a minimum of 13 weeks, a maximum period of no more than 26 weeks should be specified;
- Should the trial fail for whatever reason, a clear undertaking must be given by BT Payphones that the combined vending machine/telephone kiosk would be immediately removed and replaced with a normal payphone;

- That the contact details of BT Payphone or Operator of the Vending Machine must be clearly displayed on the Unit and an undertaking given that the vandalised unit will be repaired or removed without delay;

Additionally, the Members felt that the results of the trial, be they successful or otherwise, should be communicated to the Parish Council at the end of the trials.

127 RESOLVED: That the Planning Committee be advised that whilst the Parish Council recognised that BT payphones need to generate income in order that BT may continue providing public payphones, it was felt that the current proposal was inappropriate for the following reasons –

- Many residents already feel threatened because of large groups of youths congregating around the current telephone kiosks at night and the addition of a vending machine to these kiosks would only exacerbate matters. Additionally, the Parish Council has already received a number of complaints from residents of adjacent properties that the proposal would create further nuisance for nearby residents because of gangs of youths congregating around the vending machine;
- Although the application stressed the security of the vending machines/telephone kiosks, given the incidence of vandalism to the current telephone call boxes in Frankley, it was felt that the new kiosks with the attached vending machine, would be seen as a challenge and quickly vandalised;

However, should the Planning Committee be minded to approve the applications the Parish Council would recommend that the following conditions should be attached to the Planning Consent –

- That the trial period be no longer than 26 weeks;
- That should the trial fail for whatever reason, a clear undertaking must be given by BT Payphones that the combined vending machine/telephone kiosk would be removed and replaced with a normal payphone without delay;

- That contact details of either BT Payphones or the Vending Machine Operator (preferably a 24 hour free phone number must be clearly displayed on the Unit and an undertaking given that the vandalised unit will be repaired or removed without delay;

Additionally, the Members felt that the results of the trial, be they successful or otherwise, should be communicated to the Parish Council at the end of the trials.

The meeting end at 1947 hours

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Chairperson