

NEW FRANKLEY IN BIRMINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on Monday, 2 April 2001, at 1930 hours at St Christopher's Church Centre, Holly Hill, New Street, Frankley.

Present Councillor Eric Carter (In the Chair)
Councillors Sidney Grey, David Burton, Joanne Walker, and Geoffrey Williams.

APOLOGIES

None.

MINUTES

36 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 5 March 2001, having previously been circulated, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No decisions had been made on applications reported to the Committee.

FLOODING IN THE FRANKLEY AREA

37

The Chairperson reported on a meeting held on 23rd. March which he had attended together with Councillor David Burton. Tracey Nicholls from the Housing Department and Clive Wright from the Transportation Department had been in attendance. Residents from affected areas in Northfield and Longbridge were present. Richard Burden MP was in the chair.

The new Flood Co-ordinator was being recruited and the post would have a remit which went across departments and was not confined to Housing. There was still no progress on insurance problems. The City Council had decided that it could not help with compensation to affected residents and businesses because it had no budget and no legal responsibility. There was a possibility of a rates holiday being granted to businesses. The City Council had no legal duty to buy back former council houses which were affected by flooding, though they might be able to issue certificates to owner occupiers after preventative work had been completed. Richard Burden had expressed his dissatisfaction that these issues had not been resolved positively.

The meeting had heard reports from flood volunteers and local groups. The Rea Valley residents were now happy with the progress in rebuilding the Northfield bridges. Councillor Burton and he had both expressed concern that Frankley was becoming a forgotten area and the meetings little more than talking shops. Clive Wright had said that £130,000 was available to start work as soon as possible to bring the Frankley drains up to adoptable standard but this had conflicted with Vaughan Fletcher's assurances at the February meeting. They had been promised a programme of action for the next meeting.

A discussion followed in which concern was expressed at the lack of progress and conflicting information on work to be done in Frankley.

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had written to Transportation following the last committee meeting to ask what the money was to be used for, and enclosing a list of flooding sites provided by Councillor Burton, but had had no reply.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

38 Councillor Burton said that he had spoken to the Area Planning Officer, Mrs. Cox, who had told him that she had met the developer and discussed “slight amendments” to the proposals.

A discussion followed in which concern was expressed at the delay in starting the regeneration of this area, and the following points were made:

- (i) there was concern that the proposals might be altered in a fundamental way without being referred back to the Parish Council
- (ii) there were rumours that the developer might be thinking of starting work on the New Street corner site rather than that fronting Arden Road because he could not get the Planning Department’s agreement
- (iii) there was a lack of information from the Planning Department on what had happened to the applications

It was suggested that a Planning Officer be invited to the next committee meeting to explain the situation, and the Clerk agreed to contact the Department and request this.

Councillor Grey mentioned that he had spoken to Councillor Coyne and raised the idea of a “summit meeting” to discuss the Frankley centre, flooding, and other outstanding problems in the Frankley area.

EXTENSION OF THE CROSS CITY LINE TO FRANKLEY

39 Councillor Grey referred to the Transport Summit being held on April 12th. Councillor Burton said that he had been told that at the last Great Park consultative meeting that more information would be available there on the railway scheme. He understood that Councillor Bedser had expressed his support for the railway extension through to Frankley.

The meeting ended at 2012 hours.

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Chairperson