

At a meeting of the New Frankley in  
Birmingham Parish Council held at the  
Parish Council Office, 12 Arden Road,  
Frankley, on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019,  
at 1930 hours

Present:

Councillor Ian Bruckshaw (in the chair)  
Councillors Eric Carter BEM, Sue Baker, Linda Coates, Andrew  
Cartwright, Sidney Grey MBE, Joanna Walker, Sam  
Goodwin and Bruce Pitt

Also in Attendance Roger Griffiths (Responsible Financial Officer)

Members of  
the Public

## MINUTES

### **APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

5273 Apologises for absences for the reasons stated were received on behalf of Councillors Tammy Clayton (illness), Marion Keynes (illness) and Ward Councillor Morrall (holiday). Those apologies were accepted.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (EXISTENCE AND NATURE) WITH REGARD TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

5274 No declarations of interest were made at this point of the meeting.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.**

5275 No items were raised by the Members of the Public with respect to items on the agenda at this point of the meeting.

## **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Linda Coates, seconded by Councillor Cartwright, and, with none dissenting, was-

- 5276 **RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Stephen & Susan Trefor-Jones**

- 5277 The Chairperson announced the Stephen and Susan were planning to relocate to Devon in the near future and he invited Councillors to an informal cup of tea and a chat on Thursday from 2-4pm at the office to wish farewell to Susan and Stephen.

### **5278 Devolved Powers**

The Chairperson raised a number of areas he felt that the Parish Council could get involved in if the City Council devolved some of its powers and funding, such as pathways, sponsoring a vehicle, and a bus service to Longbridge and Northfield.

## **QUESTIONS**

- 5279 Councillor Cartwright queried whether a senior officer from the City Council could attend a meeting at the Parish the office to answer questions on what can or can't be done by the council. A discussion followed and the Chairperson resolved to speak to Glenn Smith for direction.

## **REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER AUTHORITY BY THE CHAIRPERSON AND OFFICERS**

- 5280 The report detailing the actions taken by the Chairperson and Officers in accordance with Resolution No 5249 was noted -

(Interleaved Document No.1)

## **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted –  
(Interleaved Document No.2)

It was proposed by Councillor Goodwin, seconded by Councillor Linda Coates, and, with none dissenting, was –

- 5281 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the schedule now submitted, be approved.

## **PROPOSED REPAIR OF FRONT DOOR AND SHUTTER**

The Clerk reported that quotations for the repair of the Shutter and Front Door had been received from 1 st Access UK. The cost of the Shutter repair was £450 plus VAT and that for the Front Door £145 plus VAT providing both jobs were carried out at the same time.

(Interleaved Document No.3)

It was proposed by Councillor Linda Coates, seconded by Councillor Joanna Walker, and, with none dissenting, was –

- 5282 RESOLVED: That the proposed repair of front door and shutter, as now submitted, be approved.

## **GRANT APPLICATION**

**Hereon, Councillors Pitt, Bruckshaw and Linda Coates declared a non-pecuniary in connection with the following item:**

### **Frankley Street Champions –**

An application for funding of £3246.11 was submitted to cover the cost of fuel for the truck.

(Interleaved Document No.4)

It was proposed by Councillor Grey, seconded by Councillor Goodwin, and, with none dissenting, was –

- 5283 RESOLVED: That, in accordance with its powers under Section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council agrees to incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area and its inhabitants and will benefit the area in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.

## **NEW WEBSITE QUOTATION**

A meeting had taken place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, attended by the website committee. After consideration of three quotes it was agreed that the most suitable was that by Parish Council Websites, at a cost of:

£829 Plus hosting fee of £15 per month.

When queried about the website, the Clerk explained it was becoming a legal requirement to display minutes, agenda and financial information, such as the Annual Return.

It was proposed by Councillor Goodwin, seconded by Councillor Joanna Walker, and with none dissenting.

- 5284 RESOLVED: That the proposed website quotation, now submitted, be approved.

## **PROPOSED PURCHASE OF ACOUSTIC PANELS**

A quote has been sourced from:

Portable Partitions Company

Versifold Room Dividers x 3

£2296.80 (inc. VAT)

A discussion then ensued regarding whether the proposed panels would solve the problems of noise transmission between the Community Room and the Parish Office. Councillor Pitt stated that the panels would be located so that the sounds generated within meetings in the Community Room would be absorbed acoustically by the strategic placement of the panels. With regard to the question of where the panels would be stored in the meeting, Councillor Pitt stated that they would be located against the walls of the room which would assist in dissipating meeting noise.

It was proposed by Councillor Goodwin, seconded by Councillor Linda Coates, and with none dissenting, it was –

- 5285 RESOLVED: That the proposed acoustic panels quotation, now submitted, be Approved and an order with Portable Partitions Company.

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 5286 There were no planning applications for consideration.

## **DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 5287 There were no decisions to be reported related to planning applications that the Council considered.

## **LONGBRIDGE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

- 5288 Councillor Cartwright confirmed that he intended to meet with Brett O'Reilly to discuss re-starting the Longbridge Consultative Committee. Councillor Cartwright would inform the council of any future meeting dates.

## **TRANSPORT ISSUES**

- 5289 There were no transport issues to report.

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

### **Reaside Centre**

- 5290 Councillor Goodwin reported that the footpath by the Reaside Centre had been eroded, with the kerb stones being flattened by lorries going over the pavement. The Chairperson said he will photograph it and email over to Glenn Smith, at Highways for pursual. Councillor Linda Coates mentioned a charity collection bin appearing at the Reaside Centre, Councillor Goodwin agreed to see who owns it and report back.

### **Street Lighting and Fly Tipping**

- 5291 Councillor Grey asked Councillors to check the non-functioning street lights in their area after Parish Council meetings, report back to the Assistant Clerk, and report when they're working. It was agreed that the same approach could be used to report fly-tipped rubbish. A discussion ensued about who could do what area. It was determined that all Councillors should inform the Assistant Clerk which area they could monitor to establish any gaps. It was suggested that a request in the Newsletter and on Facebook could be posted asking residents to report in the areas currently not covered by Councillors.

The council had organised the placement of new bins, and once all 10 are installed a collection system will be implemented. The Chairperson agreed to find out the size and source white translucent bags and the placement of HLB labels.

## **OUTSTANDING MINUTES**

The following schedule of Outstanding Minutes was laid on the table -

(Interleaved Document No.5)

**Parish Council Laptops**  
**Minute no. 5261**

The Clerk informed Councillors that New Starts had kindly loaned one of their laptops for a trial, which has been in use. Councillor Pitt being the only one to have used it reported it was adequate for occasional use. Much discussion took place, during which Councillor Pitt reminded Councillors not to talk over one another and the importance of allowing the chairperson to direct any debate.

It was agreed to continue with the decision to purchase one 17 inch laptop and one New Starts laptop to provide adequate facilities for Councillors to work from the office. If there was sufficient need a second laptop would be purchased. Councillors would be provided with memory sticks to allow work on the office laptops and home computers. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk would continue to use memory sticks on their own laptops to work from home.

It was proposed by Councillor Goodwin, seconded by Councillor Linda Coates, and, with none dissenting, it was –

5292 RESOLVED: To purchase one New Starts and one 17inch laptop.

**REPORTS OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

5293 There was no report from Ward Councillor Morrall.

**LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

5294 There were no items raised by members of the public.

**AUTHORITY TO CHAIRPERSON AND OFFICERS**

It was proposed by Councillor Cartwright, seconded by Councillor Goodwin, and, with none dissenting, it was -

5295 RESOLVED: That the Chairperson (or in his absence, the Vice Chairperson, if appropriate) is hereby authorised to act until the next meeting of the Parish Council, except in respect of the Council's functions in which case the appropriate officers are hereby authorised to act in pursuant of the powers delegated to them in consultation with the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson; further, that a report of all action taken under this authority be submitted to the next meeting of the Council and that such a report shall explain why this authority was used.

**PROVISION OF WORKPLACE PENSION**

(Interleaved Document No.6)

At this point the Assistant Clerk left the room.

The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) explained that although the council was exempt from automatic pension enrolment a request had been made for a voluntary pension scheme. The RFO recommended that the council adopt the government approved scheme NEST and pay a 3% contribution, alongside the employee contribution of 5%.

It was proposed by Councillor Pitt, seconded by Councillor Linda Coates and, with none dissenting, it was -

5296 RESOLVED: That the RFO implement the agreed voluntary pension contribution via the NEST scheme.

**MEETING ENDED AT 20.19 HOURS**

Chairperson.....

Date.....