



At a meeting of the New Frankley
in Birmingham Parish Council held
at the Parish Office, 12 Arden Road
on 17th April 2023, at 19:30

Present: Councillor Linda Coates (Chairperson)

Councillors Ray Price, Joanna Walker, Mike Murphy, Sue Baker,
Marion Kenyon and Sam Goodwin.

Also present: Rachael Anstey (Clerk), Margarita Fackrell (Responsible
Financial Officer).

Members of
the Public: 3

MINUTES

APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

6413 Apologies for absences were received, on behalf of Councillor Alarra Cowie and Kate Strachan (personal circumstances). The apologies were accepted. A query was raised about what is a reasonable amount of time considered for maternity leave for a councillor and if a councillor on maternity leave should representing the Parish Council at any future meetings. It was determined to seek the Parish Council's legal position on this.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (EXISTENCE AND NATURE) WITH REGARD TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

6414 There were no declarations of interest with regard to items on the agenda.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

6415 No items were raised by the Member of the Public with respect to items on the agenda.

MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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

6416 **RESOLVED:** That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 20th March 2023, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

6417 An interview committee was required to interview two applicants as appropriate members for co-option of the two casual vacancies. It was decided that Councillors Goodwin, Murphy, Joanna Walker would be able to take on this role on Thursday 27th April at 1pm. A set of questions would be forwarded to the panel and the applicants would be invited to attend the Parish office by the Clerk.

6418 The Finance & Management Committee meeting date was set for Thursday 4th May at 1pm to discuss the grant applications.

6419 Administrative Assistant had tonsillitis, and her son has chicken pox, it was unlikely she would be in the office for the rest of the week.

6420 Arden Road shops rear carpark lights are reported to be working, except one.

QUESTIONS

6421 A query was raised about the status with the National Probation Service after confirmation that facilities for comfort breaks could be provided making it feasible. Now that the weather was drier the Clerk would find what the schedule was.

It was suggested that it might be better to approach the Probation Service to see if you could get individuals on probation for unpaid work to avoid the difficulties of supervising a group which had worked in the past at New Starts.

6422 When a grant application form had been requested it was sent out in a hard copy or pdf format. The query was about why it could not be received in an editable format rather than having to submit it handwritten. The Clerk would make this version available at the earliest opportunity.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

(Interleaved Document No. 1-7)

6423 The bank statements received put the combined bank balances at £55,087.71 in total.

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

6424 **RESOLVED:** that, the payment schedule be approved.

The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) pointed out the precept amount of £50,328, had been received for 6 months, April to September 2023. It was proposed by

Councillor Marion Kenyon, seconded by Councillor Mick Murphy, and with none dissenting, was-

6425 **RESOLVED:** that, the bank reconciliation and the year end accounts up to 31st March 2023, be approved.

6426 Section 1 of the Accountability and Governance Annual Return 2022-23 statements were read aloud to ensure a sound system of internal control and arrangements in place for the accounting statement, confirmed to the best of their knowledge by answering 1-7 with a yes, 8 was not applicable.

6427 National Association of Local Councils (NALC) had been notified by the Local Government Association (LGA) that it had come to an agreement on the 2022/2023 pay offer with the unions representing local government employees. The unions met on 1 November 2022 and agreed to accept the offer. The term of that agreement included the following:

- With effect from 1 April 2022, an increase of £1,925 on all NJC pay points 1 and above.
- With effect from 1 April 2023, an increase of one day to all employees' annual leave policy template to reflect these changes shortly.

A concern was raised about already approved pay increase would show in the account as money owed to staff that hasn't been paid. The RFO needed to look into it with Payroll, based on pro rata, and provide clarification at the next meeting.

6428 The raising of the national minimum wage to £10.40 per hour from 17 November 2022 was presented in the Autumn Statement to Parliament.

PROGRESS REPORTS

6429 The outstanding minutes had been circulated about communication received on the CCTV from ATEC, the email from Adam Stevens on 4th April was read aloud:

"I'm sorry to read you are making a complaint, I understand and appreciate your frustrations. Although the Commonwealth Games work did provide a distraction, we were unable to start work until now regardless. The cause of the delay is due to mainly to the network connection not being in place. Other delays were caused by the redesign of the trees blocking the line of sight to the wireless links. Initially the plan was to prune and manage the tree's foliage/canopy.

Another delay was due to the 230 vat power not being installed into the camera's column/locations. ATEC provided a quote for this work which was completed expediently. Following your recent confirmation that the network link is in place we have worked with BCC IT to ensure that this is connected through to BCC CCTV network so that a connection can be

established. This is being tested later today/tomorrow on the proviso that this is successful our installation will begin on 11th April. My colleague Nil will confirm following that."

Confirmation had been received that ATEC had attended the library on 6th April from David Mann. The Clerk had not heard back on the success and there was doubt that the installation had not gone ahead on 11th April as planned. The Clerk had written asking for a detailed breakdown of the outstanding jobs and timescales to get to completion but had not heard any more so would chase it up again.

6430 BCC household bins had not been collected down the whole of Crompton Road for 3 weeks running with rubbish overflowing. In general, there had been a lot of reports about the fly tipping in the area.

6431 PAT test booked for 24th May at 9am, with Roger Kenyon, a reminder that all electrical items were to be brought in on that day, for example laptops, sewing machines, an air conditioning unit in the storage container.

6432 On 21st April the defibrillator was being serviced/maintained.

6433 The usual resident complaining every week about parking on the corner of Arden Road outside the Blaze Industrial Park, despite the Police looking into it. The Chair noticed that the Blaze, Strip Tinning and Ring & Ride carpark was full all day. The suggestion was to encourage the businesses' employees to use the free ample car parking at Arden Road shops by writing to them to let them know. The Clerk would run a draft letter passed the Chair before posting.

His other gripe was the dangerous delivery drivers up on the pavement. He wanted to see his local MP Gary Sambrook face to face about these issues. However, his sick elderly father's request for a wet room was finally being looked at tomorrow after two years after being reduced to washing in the kitchen with a flannel.

6434 We were awaiting confirmation on a new date for the Police drop-in session, from the PSCO, Aimee Hynett, after she apologised for missing the last one.

6435 Another success story to share was the troublesome and noisy neighbour, who fly tipped her rubbish out of the window and had visitors all hours at the flat in Devon Road, had been moved on and the aggrieved tenant was delighted.

POLICY AND INSURANCE REVIEW

(Interleaved Document No. 8-9)

It was proposed by councillor Goodwin, seconded by councillor Joanna Walker, with none dissenting was-

6436 **RESOLVED:** That, the Social Media Policy was reviewed with no changes.

6437 The annual liability insurance policy renewed on 1st June 2022 was to expire on 31st May 2023. The Clerk had made a request to Mark Alexander of Gallagher Company

for the renewal quote from 1st June 2023, to include the CCTV premium. In September 2021, it had been quoted as an increase to the annual premium by £134.84 pounds including IPT. It was one payment over 3 years, protected against inflation, under a long-term agreement with Hiscox Insurance Company Limited until 31st May 2025.

The insurance company had forwarded a questionnaire to review the Parish Council's circumstances, which was read aloud stating the policy covered the following:

crisis management at £25,000,
employee dishonesty at £150,000,
Legal expenses up to £135,000,
Libel and slander at £500,000,
official and trustees liability £500,000,
employer's liability £10million
personal accident £100,000,
defibrillator and cabinet cover up to £5,000,
public liability £10million.

Optional extensions: only covered for business interruption, increased cost of working up to £10,000, loss of earnings £15,000.

Contents cover £8,0390, it was felt this was too low.

Outdoor furniture £30,429, it required checking that this the CCTV.

Street furniture £665 – covered the benches.

At the upcoming F&M Committee meeting would assess the above and check value of assets and contents in line with inflation.

6438 The Information Commissioner's Office renewal annual fee of £40 was due, reduced to £35 if paid by direct debit, our registration expired on 8th May 2023. It was proposed by Councillor Marion Kenyon, seconded by Councillor Goodwin, with none dissenting was-

6439 **RESOLVED:** That, the ico fee would be paid and The Clerk would ensure that the Parish Council worked towards GDPR compliance by implementing the latest model publication scheme.

6440 New internal audit date was moved to Friday 28th April 2023.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

6441 A discussion enthused about moving the Parish Council meetings to an earlier start time of 7pm. There was the suggestion to involve members of the public who don't

want to come down at night if the meeting could be held at a different day and time.

The Parish Assembly coming up was a good opportunity to use a different venue, such as at No.4 The Hub on a Saturday afternoon, as it was a community event to encourage participation, invite community groups to speak or provide a statement to be read aloud. Refreshments could be provided, children welcome, to try to get the public to tell us what they want they want from the Parish Council. The Chair to assist with a poster to advertise it, use the Let's Chat Bus, the Vicar, Friends of Balaam's Wood and the Street Champions. The proposed date was the Saturday before the next meeting, 20th May 2023 which was before the AGM, if the AGM was be pushed back a week to the 22nd May 2023 at 7pm.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(Interleaved Document No. 10-11)

The following new planning applications were considered:

Application No. [2023/01561/PA](#)

Application Type Householder

Site Address: **75 Savernake Close, Rubery, B45 0DD**

Proposal: Erection of single storey extension

Application No. [2023/01532/PA](#)

Application Type: Householder

Site Address: **4 Lyall Gardens, Rubery, B45 9YW**

Proposal	Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a proposed garage conversion into habitable room.
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6442 Both proposals looked reasonable, if the Chair of the Planning Committee could check with the neighbours if they had any objection and report back.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

6443 There were no decisions made on planning applications.

TRANSPORT ISSUES

6444 The latest update on 144 from 144A into 20.

Still waiting for a reply from National Express on why we haven't got a direct bus to the Queen Elizabeth hospital, like other areas. The suggestion was to ask the community what bus service they are looking for as a discussion topic at the Parish Assembly. To then look at options, one might be subsidising patients to get to the hospital.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Interleaved Document No. 12)

- 6445 Frankley Health Centre had been taken over by Hollymoor Medical Centre. Apparently when you phoned to get an appointment patients were sent to Hollymoor or College Green. There was a need to establish what services were in the area now and encourage residents to make better use of the pharmacist instead of having to travel for minor ailments.
- 6446 Street champions took 10.1 tonnes to Lifford. The truck was running fine, the mechanic had been working on it but was waiting for spare parts.
- 6447 In the creation of new Longbridge town centre with a cycle route, was the promise of 4000 high end jobs but what was needed was apprenticeships.
- 6448 On the topic of the Parish Assembly again, the Chair would send an invite out to the local MP Gary Sambrook.

REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

6449 There was no report from the District Councillor.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- 6500 A member of the public had received a letter delivered to him, for the attention of the Parish Council apologising for not being happy with the phone system. He went on to thank Councillor Murphy and Kate Strachan for their hard work recently. The District Ward Councillor Morrall had attended the Easter event.
- 6501 On 23rd April there was a national Government alert at 3pm, which can be switched off on tablets and phones. The Clerk to put a message on the website about how to switch off the alerts for those vulnerable residents sheltering.
- 6502 On the progress reports it should be the chair of committees who should be doing these reports to take the pressure off the Clerk. It shouldn't be the case that everything is passed onto the Clerk all the time. For example, the Street Champions

was separate to the Parish Council all the staff were required to do was pass the message on.

A request was made to find out what Committees were, the Clerk would feedback on this.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRPERSON AND OFFICERS

It was proposed that-

- 6503 **RESOLVED:** The Chairperson (or in her 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.

MEETING ENDED AT 21.09 HOURS

Chairperson.....

Date.....

Draft - subject to Council's approval