



At a meeting of New Frankley
in Birmingham Parish Council, at
Parish Office on 12 Arden Road,
19 February 2024, at 19:00 hrs.

Cllrs present: Linda Coates (in the Chair)
Joanna Walker,
Sue Baker,
Alarra Cowie,
Kate Strachan,
Ray Price,
Mick Murphy,
Sue Bradley,
Marion Kenyon,
Phil Johnston.

Also, present: Rachael Anstey (Clerk),
Margarita Fackrell (RFO)

Members of
the Public: 1

MINUTES

Chair's Welcome and Announcements

- 6747 New councillor Johnston read aloud the declaration of acceptance of office and signed the form permitting him to vote at the meeting.
- 6748 A letter of receipt was provided by Acorns Children's Hospice for £151.02, for the collection over Christmas. The member of the public was thanked for taking over the donation.
- 6749 One councillor resignation was received. The staff member, who had previously handed in their notice, withdrew their resignation, and would continue to work but on four days a week basis.

Apologies for Absences

- 6750 None to report. It was noted at the last meeting Cllr Clayton had sent in her apology for absence for the last meeting, it had not been received until afterwards.

Declarations of Interests

- 6751 None to report.

Minutes

- 6752 It was **RESOLVED**: That, the minutes of the last parish council meeting held on 15th January, be approved.

INTERNAL BODIES:

Finance & Management Committee

- 6753 Following the circulation of the minutes of the F&M Committee meeting, held on 7 February 2024, and upon their recommendation, it was –
RESOLVED: That, parish council training, at a cost of £140 for 2 hours, and mentoring for staff, at £40 for the session, offered by Gill Lungley, be approved. The compulsory migration to a GOV.UK domain, be adopted.

Staffing Committee

- 6754 The Staffing Committee had met to discuss ideas of how to make it easier for the team to share the workload. Microsoft 365 was currently used by staff but perhaps not to its fully capacity. Training was highlighted if continuing with the renewal of its licence so that members could utilise its useful features, such as meeting up on Teams. There was a cost of £5 per licence user, which was discounted if registered as 'not for profit'. In the changeover to a GOV.UK domain, the provider would cover training as part of the process and at that point it could be ascertained if a licence for Microsoft 365 would still be necessary.

Appeals Committee

- 6755 There was no report.

Planning, Environmental, Highways, Public Transport Committee

- 6756 There was no report.

Street Champions

- 6757 Lifford Lane tip would remain open until 2025. From 19th February, crew would have to observe new rules on site of compulsory Personal Protective Equipment worn: gloves, hat, goggles and boots, with only one crew member permitted out of the truck. The recommendation of the parish council was high visibility. Crew members should submit a receipt for the various items to the RFO.
- 6758 The tailgate check was deemed a priority and should be done separately to the MOT by a specialist, before going back on the road. New Starts had passed on details of

their provider, at a cost of approximately £80 with the recommendation of paying extra for their mileage in order it was completed on site.

- 6759 Street Champions fell under the Parish Council. Confirmation received that the transfer of funds £12,326.72 went into the parish council's bank account.

EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS - GRANT RECIPIENTS:

Balaam's Wood Working Group

- 6760 Balaam's Wood group reported three benches purchased and currently stored at Lickey Hills Country Park for installation on the grassland part of the nature reserve in the Spring. Two benches, provided by the Rangers, had been painted black and once stencilled would be installed in the orchard.

Carnival and Events Working Group

- 6761 Dates on some forthcoming events were announced, with posters to follow, for:
30th March - Easter Egg Hunt.
29th June - Frankley Carnival
Also, mentioned Kathy, a contact at Forest School, and planned workshops:
Lego and sports.

Administration

Progress Report on Outstanding Actions:

- 6762 The outstanding issue with the drain cover in the front carpark at Arden Road shops was repaired.
- 6763 Arden Road shops had power to lighting.
- 6764 New councillor vacancy had been advertised with a closing date right before the next meeting to report back on the number of applicants.
- 6765 Cllr Kenyon was nominated as a representative for the City's Standards board. Robert Connelly would be notified to get in contact about training.
- 6766 Cllr Johnston was nominated as a representative for the Flood Plan and Resilience leader.

Parishioner's Correspondence:

- 6767 A complaint was received over installation of a telegraph pole directly in front of his property on Dartmoor Close, with the work completed without prior notification. Apparently, a consultation had taken place. A councillor had received a letter from the company installing the poles, compensation could be claimed only

if it was on their property, with the details passed onto the front office for handling enquiries.

Strategic Plan

- 6768 Feedback from the community conversations received had been residents loved living near nature but not the fly-tipped rubbish. Activities they wanted to see was Girlguiding, music. Looking at how the strategic priorities fit in, how to educate people living and getting tough on those dumping rubbish by reporting to them to the Police. Another idea of purchasing signage and putting up in hot spot areas stating 'no fly-tipping', such as in Wyre Close.
- 6769 The suggestion of putting up a message asking for volunteers for the Big Spring Clean Up by the Wombles, their next meet up to litter pick was at 11am outside Arden Road shops if the public wanted to join them. Also, a notice on the website, and social media, about the truck run by volunteers, so please do not dump rubbish.
- 6770 A councillor informed that 25 out of 30 libraries were likely to close, only one in each constituency to stay open. There was yet to be a public consultation, if there was one Frankley library would need our support to remain open. There might be the option to move out of the school and the potential to have a community run library, likely to happen by the summer.

Finance

(Interleaved Document No. 1)

- 6771 The RFO informed the budget sent in January 2024 after the last meeting, the City Council had asked for calculations and were awaiting their decision.
- 6772 A request was made to Eleanor Choudry for costing, directions and date for the internal audit.
- 6773 Bank reconciliation provided all bank statements for last month, notably as:
current account reported at £47,100.77,
deposit account balance at £44,993.51.
Total amount was £92,094.28

Payments schedule submitted for £6,175.41, with the biggest expenditure for tax and HMRC, lease of telephone, pension and back date of salaries and lastly heating. £46,000 was left in reserves. It was -

- 6771 **RESOLVED:** that, all the finance documents in the submitted report dated January 2024, be approved.
- 6772 Clarification on Barclays' Life Skills, it was run separately to the parish council and could not provide an invoice for funding.

Planning

- 6773 There were no new planning applications or decisions.

Report of the District Councillor

- 6774 There was no report.

Public Participation Session

- 6775 There were none.

Any Other Business

- 6776 A request for training on the appeals process by a member sitting on that committee. Gill Lungley's training session required all councillors to attend 2 hours on Monday evening, either 1st or 4th of the month, from 6:30pm. On the advice of the RFO of arranging it the sooner, the better. The Clerk would check dates with the trainer's availability and report back.

- 6777 A new youth club for young girls, in years 5 and 6, at 5:30pm, on Thursdays once a month, at no charge, in the Hub, was in talks with youth leader from In Unity.

Meeting closed at 20:20 hours.

Confidential items

- 6778 It was **RESOLVED:** that, a move to a closed session to discuss staff salaries, an upgrade in hours and duties for the Administration Assistant, be approved.

Under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public and press will be excluded from the meeting for this item by the reason of likely disclosure of exempt information relating to an individual, information which is likely to reveal the identity of the individual, and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person.

Chairperson.....

Date.....