

**Minutes of the Blackbird Leys Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 29 July 2008 in the Jack Argent Rooms, Community Centre
Blackbird Leys, commencing at 7pm**

Present – Parish Councillors – G Roper – Chair, G Webb (left 8.45pm), C Martin, C Hatton, M Booker, R Morlin, R Humberstone (arrived 7.45pm), C Roberts, P Stannard and D Johnston.
Public – Ms Smith, Ms Griffin – Leys News, 2 PCSO's, Senior Street Warden, Mr and Mrs J Richards and Mr Booker. **In attendance** – Sue Lee (Acting Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence** were received and accepted from V Smith and S Fitzsimons.
2. **Update of register of interests** – Mr Humberstone still needs to return his register of interests form – the Acting Clerk advised that Oxford City Council have not decided if Parish Council forms will be available on the website but there are no plans as yet.
Action: Mr Humberstone
3. **Declarations of interest** – Mr Stannard and Mr Humberstone registered a personal interest in the grant applications from the Choir.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2008** – the minutes were proposed by Mr Webb for approval – unanimously approved with the alteration at 7 that Mr Roper could not attend the Police consultation and at 11 that Mr Webb and Ms Fitzsimons signed the cheques.
5. **Police/PCSO's/Street Wardens** –
Inspector Storey sent his apologies. PCSO's advised that -
 - they have been carrying out patrols at school times to stop cars parking on the yellow zigzag lines.
 - Quest has been running for 2 weeks – all calls will be responded to.
 - a speed initiative will take place shortly and all councillors are invited to visit the static speed cameras and see how they work. Warning letters will be sent to all those breaking the speed limit. PCSO's will advise Acting Clerk of dates when set.
 - PCSO's were requested to increase their presence in the area of the churchyard as this is a no alcohol zone and there are problems in the mornings here. In addition they would work with the college re bad language from students – especially to young school children.

Mr Taylor – Senior Street Warden advised that the street wardens are now up to full strength and their base has moved to Rose Hill until works are completed on the former health centre. They are operating the junior warden scheme over the summer and requested financial help from the Parish Council with running this along with suggestions for other activities.

6. **Matters arising**–
 - Update on Hyacinth Way – no news on the proposed works.
 - Alley behind Spar – R Morlin would bring this up for discussion at next NAG meeting – it was pointed out that both the Spar and Pathway workshops would be interested in taking on the land behind their buildings if the alley was closed. The bridge would have to close if the alley was closed – as there would be no access. **Action: R Morlin**
 - Notice boards have disappeared – Acting Clerk to check insurance and add to agenda for discussion re replacement, insurance, etc. at next meeting. **Action: Acting Clerk**
 - Insurance – Zurich have confirmed alterations to policy - as the refund is less than £25 it will be carried forward to next renewal.
 - Website – no action at present.
 - Oxford Mail had reported on grant allocations – the report included several inaccuracies and they have been asked to check facts before printing in future.

- Code of Conduct training – Oxford City Council have offered to attend a meeting to present training on the Code of Conduct – agreed for Acting Clerk to invite to 28 October meeting. **Action: Acting Clerk**

7. Public discussion –

- The meeting was advised of the lack of bins at Overmead Green – the Chair will report to City Council and discuss if they can provide more. V Smith has obtained some extra funding for refuse and recycling and would be asked to comment. **Action: Chair and V Smith**
- Damage to washing lines at Overmead Green and reports of children playing on the roofs was also reported and the **PCSO's** agreed to look in to these.
- Reports of excessive noise from the Sunday market. Complaints were received about a butcher's stall using a microphone - the member of the public was asked to raise this with their local councillor in order to make an official complaint. In addition C Roberts and Chair would look into the conditions of the lease and discuss with Environmental Health. **Action: C Roberts and Chair**
- The garage gutters at 43 onwards Blay Close have still not been cleared and the glass was only removed today. **Action: Chair**

8. Planning applications and decisions:

Mr Webb reported back on –

- 46 Kestrel Way – 2 storey side extension and Crowberry Rd – 3 x 4 Bed houses – no plans received yet so no comments.
- 4 Kestrel Crescent – Single storey rear extension – **R Humberstone will request that this application be called in as concerns were expressed with regard to the flat roof.**
- Next Retail Ltd, Unit 4 Oxford Retail Park – new shop window to first floor level – **no objections**
- Harpers of Cowley – Retention of 4 front banner signs – **no objections**

Draft terms of reference for the planning committee were tabled for comment – carried forward to next meeting for comments. **Action: Acting Clerk for agenda**

9. Financial matters

The following expenditure totalling £5,604.15 was proposed for payment by G Webb with unanimous agreement:

HJC – Clerk's invoice	£258.90
HJC Services Ltd – telephone answering	£35.25
Leys News Grant – paperwork for grant was handed to A Clerk	£1800.00
CDI grant	£3000.00
Room Hire	£10.00
Adventure Playground Grant	£500.00

The cheques were signed by Mr Roper and Mr Webb.

- The current financial update and grants update were tabled as requested. There were no questions and it was proposed by the Chair with unanimous approval to email up to date grants list to Leys News for the website. **Action: Acting Clerk**

10. Grant applications

It was proposed by the Chair with unanimous approval that the grant application form should be amended to indicate that a member of the group must attend the parish council meeting when their grant is being discussed to answer questions, etc. Acting Clerk to be requested to amend form. **Action: Acting Clerk**

- a) Blackbird Leys Choir – tabled – the meeting felt that they did not have sufficient information to be able to discuss this grant as they had understood that the recording

session had been cancelled. The Choir were to be asked to resubmit the application and attend a parish council meeting to answer questions, etc. **Action: Acting Clerk**

- b) Greater Leys Youth FC – C Roberts outlined her concern that there were already several youth teams in the area and that this prospective team may have a detrimental effect on the Blackbirds. It was unanimously agreed not to award a grant and advise the team of the decision and that the Parish Council felt there were already sufficient teams in the area. **Action: Acting Clerk**
- c) Junior Warden scheme – it was proposed by the Chair with unanimous approval to award a grant of £150 to the Junior Warden Scheme. Clerk to advise. **Action: Acting Clerk**

11. Correspondence:

- Oxfordshire County Council – Review of Octabus Dial a Ride Service – no comments.
- SODC – South of Oxford Urban extension – no comments.
- OBE – Local support to enterprising residents – no noticeboard to display posters at present!
- Mr Lester had forwarded an inventory of equipment from the old PC office to the PC. He has asked where the equipment is at present. Acting Clerk to discuss with Clerk and Chair to discuss with Mr Cole, the previous Chair, and report back to next meeting.

Action Chair and Acting Clerk

In addition Mr Lester expressed concern re the website – the meeting advised that the new website was working well but that further discussion was needed with regard to content, etc. It was proving a cost effective and useful tool. The PC were concerned about Mr Lester's comments and suggested he be invited to attend the September meeting to raise them directly with the Council. Acting Clerk to write and invite him in response to his letter.

Action: Acting Clerk

12. Confidential Matters : minuted separately

13. Any other business

- G Webb advised the meeting that Kate Griffin was leaving Leys News – thanks were offered to her for all her hard work.
- The lack of white lines on the sleeping policemen in Cuddesdon Way was reported – **R Humberstone** will follow this up with the County Council.
- C Roberts advised that the residents of Clematis Place were being consulted re a possible play area.
- C Martin expressed concern that works were still not proceeding on the footpath by Knights Road – he was advised that this is an ongoing project. The **Chair** would raise this with Mr La Page.
- Reports were received of a brothel in Blay Place – **R Humberstone** agreed to look into this.

14. Date of next meeting: Tuesday September 30 2008 at 7pm. **No meeting in August**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.53pm

Signed.....

Dated.....