

**Minutes of the Blackbird Leys Parish Council Meeting  
held on Tuesday 30 September 2008 in the Jack Argent Rooms, Community Centre  
Blackbird Leys, commencing at 7pm**

**Present:** Parish Councillors – G Roper (Chair), G Webb, C Martin, C Hatton, M Booker, R Morlin, R Humberstone (7.45pm), C Roberts, D Johnston, V Smith (7.35pm) and S Fitzsimons.

**Public** – Ms Smith, 1 PCSO, Street Warden, Inspector Storey, Mr B Lester and representative from the Oxford Mail.

**In attendance** – Sue Lee (Acting Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence** were received and accepted from P Stannard and M Taylor (Street Warden).
2. **Parish Council Vacancies** – Oxford City Council had placed an advertisement in the Oxford Mail asking for interested parties to get in touch with the Parish Clerk. Mr Anthony Church of Cowley has expressed an interest. The Parish Council was asked for any other suggestions re co-option and there were none. It was agreed to revisit this at a later date.
3. **Update of register of interests** – Mr Humberstone returned his register of interests form – Acting Clerk to forward to City Council. **Action: Acting Clerk**
4. **Declarations of interest** – none.
5. **Minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2008:** the minutes were proposed by Ms Morlin for approval and were unanimously approved. It was **RESOLVED** to accept them as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.
6. **Police/PCSO's/Street Wardens** –  
Inspector Storey was welcomed to the meeting.
  - He updated the meeting on current crime figures – a rise of 4% overall due to a large increase in the theft of bikes but there has been a downturn in burglary and car crimes.
  - Cllr Roberts asked if any crimes on the buses had been reported. The need to ensure all crimes are reported was stressed.
  - Inspector Storey agreed to follow up on an issue which the police are currently working on with a multi agency approach regarding an alcohol problem.
  - Questions were asked re ASBO's and it was stressed that the police team were always available to answer any questions on a day to day basis. It was also advised that CANACT, which could be contacted via Oxford City Council's main phone number, could help with information in the public domain re ASBO's as well as the neighbourhood officer for Blackbird Leys.
  - Councillors felt that drug abuse in the parish was an escalating problem. The police had carried out a door to door survey but residents were still unhappy. It was stressed again that if there was any information that could help the police, it was vital to pass it on to them.
  - Police were aware of issues in Spindleberry Close and had arranged for vegetation to be cut back.
  - They were advised of a van blocking Knights Road making it almost impossible for buses to get past and abuse the disabled parking spaces by the Holy Family church.
  - The speed gun is now in action and the PCSO's have had training so they will arrange to take any interested parish councillor out to see it in action. It was advised that Brambling Way needed targeting.
  - Concern was expressed re fireworks leading up to bonfire night.
  - Tyres slashed in Blay Close were reported.
  - Lack of recent information from Ringmaster was mentioned and Inspector Storey will check that Cllr Webb's details are held correctly.
  - Inspector Storey or a colleague will report back on all issues at the next meeting.
  - It was requested that the minutes and agenda be sent to the PCSO's and not to individually named people as they have all moved on now. **Action: Clerk**
  - Feedback on the Leys fair was excellent and the presence of PCSO's, Street Wardens, etc., was good in raising residents' awareness of these roles.
  - Street Wardens thanked the Parish Council for their grant which enabled extra work to be carried out over the summer.

Inspector Storey and PCSO and Street Warden were all thanked for attending the meeting.

**7. Matters arising–**

- Alley behind Spar: the alley cannot be closed as Thames Water need access to the stream. Oxford City Council are looking into other ways to restrict access.
- Notice boards: the Acting Clerk advised that the boards were insured for £109 and that there was an excess on the policy of £100 so an insurance claim would not be possible.
- Code of Conduct training: Oxford City Council will attend the meeting on October 28 October to carry out training.
- Website: Cllr Webb will look in to the current situation with the website as Mr Lester has suggested no minutes have been posted there since 2007 – the Acting Clerk was confident that more recent minutes were available on the site.
- Cllr Humberstone advised that the planning application on 4 Kestrel Crescent could not be called in and he suggested that councillors advise planning enforcement if there is any evidence of a second storey.
- White lines on the sleeping policeman on Cuddesdon Way are now in place.
- No evidence was found of a brothel in Blay Close. Police, etc., to monitor.
- New pot holes in Pegasus Rd have been reported to the City Council

**8. Public discussion:** guttering on 51–58 Blay Close is still blocked and there is broken furniture in the bin area and the old bin frames need removing to prevent children climbing on to the roof – Chair will follow these up with City Council. **Action: Chair.**

**9. Planning applications and decisions:**

Mr Webb reported back on:

- 9 Pear Tree Close – application received too late for comment
- Marks & Spencer – request for portacabin – no objections.
- 1 Woodruff Close – PC have registered objections and Cllr Smith will arrange to have the application called in.
- Brook View – front and rear single storey extension – no objections.
- 2 Sandy Lane – received too late for comment – Cllr Smith will check to see if it is possible to call this in due to over development of site.

Draft terms of reference for the planning committee had been circulated for comment – it was proposed by Cllr Webb and it was unanimously RESOLVED to adopt these.

**10. Financial matters**

The following expenditure totalling £1912.57 was proposed for payment by G Webb with unanimous agreement:

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| HJC – Clerk's invoice August and September | £ 517.80 |
| HJC Services Ltd – telephone answering     | £ 70.50  |
| Leys Fair Marquee hire                     | £1000.00 |
| Junior Street Wardens                      | £ 150.00 |
| Room Hire                                  | £ 10.00  |
| S Lee – expenses maternity cover           | £ 32.86  |
| HJC Services – photocopying                | £ 82.77  |
| H Shayler – postage                        | £ 31.50  |
| Netstationers – paper                      | £ 17.14  |

The cheques were signed by Mr Roper and Ms Fitzsimmons

The Chair advised of expenses of £17.35 due to him – Clerk to arrange for next meeting.

**Action: Clerk**

**Grant applications**

- Blackbird Leys Choir – not resubmitted.
- Oxon Association for the Blind – copies of the application had not been circulated to councillors so they were unable to comment. Clerk to ensure copies were received for the next meeting and invite them to attend. **Action: Clerk**
- Leys Unity – it was proposed by the Chair that this item should be treated as a confidential item and this was unanimously RESOLVED.
- Inventory of equipment – Mrs Shayler has advised that from the list of equipment she has the laptop with bag and charger and mobile phone and charger in her possession together with the Parish Council envelopes. She mentioned that she believed that Mrs Marshall had the box of litter free badges and had offered to store the 8-person tent and may have had the filing cabinet (not on the list). The printer was left for the next occupant as no one wanted this together with the desk. Mr Lester advised that he had no further interest in any of the equipment once he had left the Parish Council. His comments re no one on the Parish Council caring were discussed and

the Chair pointed out that the high level of attendance by Councillors should indicate the high level of care they have for the community.

- e) Financial update was circulated for comment.
- f) Grant update was circulated for comment.
- g) Income received: second-precept payment received – £15,000.

**11. Correspondence:**

- BLNSS AGM – invitation for 1 October – Mr Webb to attend.
- OCC – Better Ways to Schools – Orchard Meadow Primary School improvement to humped crossing – Cllr Smith to write to request a zebra or pelican crossing as these proposals were not felt to adequately meet the needs of the site. **Action: Cllr Smith**
- OCC – Disabled Persons Parking Places – Oxford – Cllr Hatton inspected this and had no comments.
- Planning for Gypsy’s Travellers and Travelling Show People’s Accommodation Needs – public exhibition, 15–16 October Oxford Town Hall – no takers.

**12. Any other business**

- Mr Roper advised the meeting of Mrs Shayler’s resignation from the post of Clerk with effect from the January 2009 meeting – this will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.  
**Action: Clerk**
- Cllr Smith agreed to look into the need to pay the £10 parking cost of parking in the lay- by on Brambling Way.  
**Action: Cllr Smith**
- Cllr Hatton reported on issues with parking in disabled bays in Tesco’s and Cllr Smith agreed to contact them again to discuss.  
**Action: Cllr Smith**
- It was asked why the gates to the park had been locked – Cllr Smith advised that this was to help the football pitches keep in good condition while they were very wet.
- Cllr Roberts reported the need for more bins near her property and thanked Cllr Smith for more bins in other areas of the estate. Cllr Smith to investigate. **Action: Cllr Smith**
- The Acting Clerk was thanked for her work over the last 7 months.

**13. Date of next meeting:** Tuesday October 28 2008 at 7pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....