

Minutes of the Blackbird Leys Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 24th February 2009 in the Jack Argent Rooms, Community Centre
Blackbird Leys, commencing at 7pm

Present: Parish Councillors – G Roper (Chair), G Webb, P Stannard, C Martin, M Booker, R Morlin, V Smith, D Johnson, C Hatton and S Fitzsimons. R Humberstone entered the meeting at 7.20pm

Public – Ms Smith and for part of the meeting Street Wardens, J Hayes & (Clock House IT Project). Representatives from Leys News Ltd, Blackbird Leys Neighbourhood Scheme, Pathways Workshop and OXCLEAN.

In attendance – Helen Shayler (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence C Roberts

2. Parish Clerk Vacancy - Clerk

4 Applications had been received for this position – it was agreed that G Roper, V Smith, G Webb, R Morlin and C Hatton would attend to take the interview. The clerk was asked to set up the interviews for Wednesday 11th or Thursday 12th March 2009.

3. Update register of Interests - it was confirmed that all Parish Council members now had the correct form filed at the City Council

4. Declarations of Interest were noted from S Fitzsimons re the Barn Youth Grant application, G Webb re the Clock house Grant application and P Stannard re the Credit Union should they come into discussions later in the meeting all due to being on relevant committees running these organisations.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on January 27th 2009 were signed as a true record.

Police, PSCO's and Street Wardens

There are ongoing investigations regarding the harming of cats by dogs and sharps have been collected from areas on the estate – if anyone has information regarding either of these issues then they should report to either crime stoppers or the street wardens. The Wardens are having success with the knife crime projects currently being run with an Arts and Craft each Friday with approximately 18 in attendance for each session – the Trax project is due to early March and will be running for 2 approx. months. It was stated that a lot of time had been put in by Malcolm for these projects to ensure their success.

Issues raised by the Parish Council – The Garages due to be knocked down in Brambling Way/Kestrel Crescent were being vandalised by local youths – V Smith commented that due to the residents requesting the re-instatement of the wall and not the erection of a fence the demolition had been delayed.

It was confirmed that Street Wardens have the power to issue fines for dog fouling or litter dropping – there is a procedure to follow, but they will issue to persistent offenders. Growing concerns over group of youths who gather at bottom of Nightingale Avenue, local residents now feeling intimidated by them on a regular basis – Street Wardens and PSCO's have been informed and it is hoped the situation will improve.

7. Matters Arising:

- Website – It was confirmed that G Webb would have a meeting with A Parvlin from the Leys News to obtain passwords etc to enable him to update and work on the Parish Council page of the community website. The clerk was asked to forward copies of previous minutes allowing them to be placed on the site for information.
- The question was asked if the Parish Council would be registering a team to complete the OxClean weekend - G Roper asked if any one was interested in doing this - the Street Wardens offered to set up a team and invited any Parish Council member to join them on the day.

8. Public discussion:

- It was reported that the shops along Balfour Road are wanting the installation of CCTV outside the shops. G Roper offered to take this to the NAG Meeting, and discuss with Crime Stoppers, due to be held in March. It was said that the Parish Council would support such a scheme – it was suggested that the shop owners put something towards the overall cost scheme. V Smith commented that the search for finance should be done in stages to see where it could be obtained from and asked that G Roper report back to the next meeting.
- Sandy Lane parking – still causing local residents a big problem. The clerk was asked to write to County Council to see if the yellow lines could be extended or staggered to try and stop one long line of parked vehicles.

9. Planning Applications and Decisions

G Webb confirmed that the application for double extension in Woodruff Close had been called in. There were no other applications to report on.

10. Financial Matters:

The following expenditure items were proposed for payment by G Webb, 2nd by S Fitsimons and carried with unanimous agreement:

HJC – Clerk’s February Salary	£259.80
HJC Services Ltd – telephone answering	£ 34.50
Room Hire	£ 10.00
Release of Grant for Pathway Workshop	£3,500.00
HJC Services Ltd – Photocopying	£ 6.00
General Postage	£ 24.48
Leys news – Situations Vacant Advert	£ 60.00
Total	£3,894.78

- Barn Youth Group Grant Application – S Fitsimons left the room for the decision on this application after answering questions that were raised by the Parish Council. After a short discussion during which it was agreed that it was not clear who the ‘healthy eating tuck shop’ was going to work and at present would not be supported. However, if a working document on how the scheme was to be implemented as put forward with a new application form it would be considered on its own merits in the future. D Johnson proposed that the amount of £500.00 be awarded towards the costs of a table tennis table and equipment this was 2nd by M Booker and carried with an unanimous vote.

- Clockhouse IT Grant Application - G Webb left the room for the decision on this application after answering questions that were raised by the Parish Council following the report given by J Hayes.

V Smith commented that this project had been treated badly when equipment had been removed from the clock house in the past and it needed the boost in order to get going and provide a valuable IT resource for the elderly. V Smith proposed the amount of £2250.00 to be awarded but paid in instalments – part of the application was for stationery and the requirements may change as the project progresses. The stages were not necessary to be of a fixed amount but approximately an initial payment of £1000.00 followed by two payments of £625.00. 2nd by C Hatton this was carried by an unanimous vote.

It was stated that both applications needed to produce receipted invoices before payment could be made or produce an order for which the Parish Council could make payment direct to the supplier.

The clerk raised the issue of the grant awarded to the Neighbourhood Support Scheme – this is for the 2009-2010 year and so proof of expenditure will not be available until 3 months into their next year meaning the money would not be released until July 2009. It was commented that in all previous years

receipts had been produced without fail and full accounts were passed to the parish council each year, it was therefore agreed that the funds could be released at the next meeting.

11. Confidential Matters – minuted separately

12. Correspondence:

No general correspondence had been received to circulate.

13. Any other business

- It was asked that the Leys Fair be placed on the next agenda for discussion
- It was confirmed that vehicles parked on marked bays did not require to have a residents parking ticket on display.
- It was stated that both the welcome to Blackbird Leys sign and Blay Close area had been cleaned and cleared –thank you
- The ‘dog poo’ bins were missing from the park – post still there but bin removed – G Roper would try to resolve.
- It was stated that the new road surface in Windale Avenue was very good – job well done!

13. Date of next meeting: Tuesday March 31st 2009 commencing at 7pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....