

**Minutes of the Blackbird Leys Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 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, C Roberts, R Morlin and S Fitzsimons.

**Public** – Ms Smith and for part of the meeting Street Wardens and PCSOs. Representatives from Leys News Ltd, Blackbird Leys Neighbourhood Scheme, Pathways Workshop and OXCLEAN.

**In attendance** – Helen Shayler (Clerk)

**1. Apologies for absence** were received and accepted from D Johnston, V Smith and R Humberstone

**6. Police, PSCO's and Street Wardens** The Parish Council were informed that Sgt Davies was leaving the team to take up a new post in Witney, their replacement will be Sgt R Axe. Martina introduced herself as the new member of the PSCO team.

It was stated that statements regarding Windale Avenue passageway had been sent to CANACT The police were working with the RSPCA on the estate investigating incidents of dogs savaging cats on the estate – there was a short discussion regarding the dangerous dogs act.

C Martin raised the issue of parking along Sandy Lane – G Roper stated that this had been discussed at the latest NAG meeting and there was not a lot that could be done apart from the introduction of yellow lines and then someone would have to monitor the situation. It was commented that maybe some of the road could have double yellow lines put in place to stop the one long line of traffic allowing vehicles to 'pull over' for on coming vehicles. It is not known if the parked vehicles are from the BMW site or industrial units between the estate and retail park and the fact they are parked legally there is not much that can be done about them at present.

The Street Wardens put out the notice that on 28 January outside the Community Centre between 12 & 6 there was to be a 'Bike Safe Day' during which you would be able to have a security code etched onto your bike.

There is some money currently available from the government on incentives to reduce knife and gang cultures – this is being used to run a Trax go cart training between 27<sup>th</sup> Feb and 27<sup>th</sup> March. The Street Wardens and PCSO's were thanked for attending the meeting.

**8. Public discussion:** L Storrar was introduced to the Parish Council as the representative from OXCLEAN. A short talk was given outlining the scheme this year due to be held 6/7 March. City Works will provide gloves, bags etc and will arrange collection of the rubbish collected. Each 'group' needs to arrange people and starting times etc. Some printed leaflets were left for those interested to take away or pass onto other organisations that may wish to get involved. Information was passed to A Pavelin from Leys News to be included in the next edition.

**7. Matters Arising:**

- Website. The basic structure of the web site was discussed. A Pavelin from the Leys News confirmed that not much was happening with the Parish Council site due to lack of input. No minutes were currently being passed through (as agreed last year) and so very little else was available. It was confirmed that the domain BlackbirdLeys.com was the correct one to be retained and A Pavelin would check when this was due to come up for renewal. A short discussion was held and it was agreed that at present it would remain as it is with the suggestion of the web page upkeep being part of the new clerk position. In the meantime A Pavlin would met with G Webb to discuss options and possible hand over of passwords etc.

**Action: G Webb**

**10. Financial Matters:**

Fran Bennett was introduced to the Parish Council as the representative from the Blackbird Leys Neighbourhood Centre. A short talk was given surrounding the current position of the centre and the appreciation of previous years support that the Parish Council had given. Although currently looking for a permanent building due to issues regarding the renewal of the port a cabin added to the expected increase of people suffering with debt management the year ahead is looking very hard for everyone.

F Bennett was thanked for attending the meeting and then left the meeting.

Jenny O'Loughlin was introduced to the Parish Council as the representative from the Pathways Workshop. A short report was given stating the vast improvement of the current financial position of the company with new contracts being received along with which is following good business.

Thanked for previous years of support the Pathway Workshop was looking to improve the equipment in the workshop to allow a new project to be completed much more efficiently. J O'Loughlin was thanked for attending the meeting and then left the meeting.

A discussion was held between members regarding both of these grant applications and the following decisions were made:

G Webb proposed the full £5000.00 requested grant be awarded to the Blackbird Leys Neighbourhood Scheme as payment towards the running costs of the scheme, this was 2<sup>nd</sup> by R Morlin and carried with an unanimous vote

C Roberts proposed the full £3500.00 requested grant be awarded to the Pathway Workshop for the purchase of the required saw, this was 2<sup>nd</sup> by P Stannard and carried with a majority vote with one vote against the proposal.

The following expenditure items were proposed for payment by P Stannard, 2<sup>nd</sup> by G Webb and carried with unanimous agreement:

HJC – Clerk's invoice for December & January	£517.80
HJC Services Ltd – telephone answering x 2	£ 76.13
Room Hire	£ 10.00
G Roper Expenses – 3 months	£ 14.84
HJC Services Ltd – Photocopying to Nov 2008	£ 19.38
General Postage	£ 35.96
Total	£874.11

A discussion was held regarding the 2009/2010 precept and budget – after presenting the financial information available G Roper proposed that the precept remain at the current level of £30,000. 2<sup>nd</sup> by P Standard this was carried as a unanimous vote.

2. **Parish Council Vacancies** – No applications had been received at this point – vacancy still open.
3. **Update of register of interests** – All information currently updated
4. **Declarations of interest** – none
5. **Minutes of the meeting held on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2008** : the minutes were unanimously approved. It was agreed to accept them as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.

#### 9. **Planning**

A request by G Webb to pull in the proposed extension to 43 Kestrel Way had received no response from R Humberstone and so it was unknown if this had happened or not.

Application 08/02530/Ful had been received regarding the transfer of use of land from recreational to private / commercial usage. It would appear that recreational land was being sold to allow the building of a nursery.

It was requested that a letter should be sent raising this as a concern and asking if this is an on going criteria that the City Council are now allowing.

**Action: Clerk**

11. **Confidential Matters** – minuted separately

**12. Correspondence:**

In addition to the items circulated the following newsletters had been received available should anyone wish to read them: Home 2 School , Spring 2009 and Trust of Oxfordshire’s Environment

**13. Any other business**

- It was stated that some of the lights across Blackbird Leys Park were again not working. G Roper offered to report this to relevant City Department

**Action: G Roper**

- Thursday at 3pm in the Leisure Centre there was due to be a meeting with S Hatton – anyone wishing to attend from the parish council were welcome to.

It was commented again that Blay Close was in need of a clean – this would be taken to the meeting

- Can someone arrange the removal of graffiti from the ‘welcome to Blackbird Leys’ sign

**13. Date of next meeting:** Tuesday February 24<sup>th</sup> 2009 commencing at 7pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....