

Minutes of the Blackbird Leys Parish Council meeting

Held on Tuesday 1st July 2003 at the

The Shop Front, Blackbird Leys Road, commencing at 7.30pm

Present at meeting:

Parish Councillors: C Martin, B Lester, B Avery, C Hatton, L Cole, S Cole and C Minto

Also Present: H Shayler (Clerk) and 1 resident. For part of the meeting Sgt. S Redding and a beat officer

- 1) Apologies for Absence — were received from J Lacey and M Hart (cleansing)
- 2) Election of Parish Council Chair: B Avery proposed B Lester to take the position of Chair, it was commented that the time and commitment available to work on the estate was felt to be very important, B Lester was 2 by L Cole. No other proposals were made and the proposal for B Lester to take the office of Parish Council Chairman was accepted with a unanimous vote.

B Lester thanked C Minto for all he had done during the past year, the implementation of councillor portfolios had proved very successful in getting things done on the estate and it was hoped that C Minto would continue to support the Council.

- 3) Election of Parish Council Vice-Chair: C Martin proposed B Avery to take the position of Vice Chair, it was stated that he and B Lester worked well together on their portfolios and that would hopefully carry forward to the meetings, this proposal was 2 by L Cole. No other proposals were made and the proposal for B Avery to take the office of Parish Council Vice-Chairman was accepted with a unanimous vote.

C Hatton was thanked for time he had been vice-chair and it was hoped that he would continue to support the Parish Council in the future.

- 4) Election of Treasurer: C Minto had been 'stand in' treasurer and C Martin proposed that C Minto took the position permanently; this was 2" by L Cole and carried with a unanimous vote.

- 5) Election of Sub — Committees: It was agreed that the revision and clarification of any current required sub committees would be placed on next month's agenda.

The following portfolios were confirmed:

Web site / Cleansing - B Lester

Abandoned Vehicles / Cleansing- B Avery

Brooks & Streams - C Martin

Housing Assoc. / Health - L Cole

Police / Anti Social Behaviour- S Cole

Spindleberry Park / OUFC - C Hatton

Publicity / Media - C Minto

- 6) Co-option to fill Vacancies: B Lester introduced Mr Gordon Roper to the Parish Council. Mr Roper stated he had been on the Neighbourhood Council that had been in place before the Parish Council was formed. He had lived on the estate for approximately 40 years and always worked in the area. Would like to be involved with the Parish Council who are able to work for the estate as a whole. B Lester proposed G Roper for co-option, this was 2" by B Avery and carried with a unanimous vote. G Roper was welcomed to the Parish Council and he was asked

to consider any area of the estate he would like to 'tackle' and this would be discussed next month.

7) Minutes of the meeting held on June 2003

Item 3d should have stated that the disagreement was with the issue of the licence being issued to sell alcohol. There are several licences currently being requested and it is the concern of behaviour after events as much as during the events. Item 5 should have stated that PC B Kearney (not Kerry) was to be from the police in schools from 9-5, Monday to Friday with funding from the school - Northfield Schools officer was hoped to remain a permanent post. A few spelling adjustments were also made.

The minutes were signed as a true record.

8) Matters Arising:

a) B Lester reported from M Hart that the initial clean up targets were being met. The local Scouts and Cadets were working to keep areas tidy. The task of removing abusive language from walls in Ashmole Place and other areas was being tackled. B Lester was to be meeting up with Leys News in the next couple of days to request an article relating to the leaving of rubbish bags out on the streets. Tenants have in their agreements to keep areas tidy and it is in the interest of every homeowner to keep their area tidy. It was agreed that the weekend of 12th 14th July would be the Cleanup Weekend for the Parish Council. As the City Council do not enforce various Acts that are available to keep areas tidy it is very difficult to educate people. G Roper commented that he had reported a specific fly tipping situation and the City Council had some enforcement to remove and sort the situation. B Lester asked for any areas where rubbish had been dumped to be reported to him, he in turn would then report to the relevant council offices to have it removed. All notifications and requests were filed with the clerk for any future reference.

b) L Cole commented that a current nuisance neighbour situation had been resolved with Oxford Citizens Housing. Nothing much else happening at present.

c) C Hatton commented that trees had been taken down along Pegasus Road without any prior notice or looking for birds nests etc. The reason given was that due to disease the trees had become unsafe. A 'No bail games' sign had been mentioned by the Tenants Forum — it was stated that the erection of any such signs needs to be put to the Local Housing Office.

d) It was stated that some residents had commented about the proposed yellow lines and parking restrictions being implemented on days when events are to be held at the Kassam Stadium. A high proportion of residents spoken to do not want yellow lines outside their own homes. It was also stated that the suggested scheme was not covering the areas of Grenoble Road, Littlebury and Greenhill - it would be an easy option for people to park a short distance from the stadium causing the parking problems to move and not disappear. The clerk was asked to write and request details of any future parking restrictions, if none were proposed at present then it was suggested that the concerns raised are pointed out. Another concern raised was the junction of Gelder and Acacia - currently the island is further back into the road and not on the actual junction, therefore cars are cutting the corner quite badly making it a potential accident area. It was asked if the layout could be looked at for alterations.

e) C Martin reported that work had commenced on clearing the streams. C Martin offered to send a letter asking why areas of the stream had been so neglected over the past few years and been allowed to end up with so much rubbish dumped in them. A concern was raised with the issue of flooding in Falcon Close, and other areas, if the water is not allowed to freely run away.

0 The 'travellers area' along the Watlington Road had now been 'blocked' with landscaping to hopefully stop any further problems. Insp. G Robinson is in charge of dealing with instances that involved travellers and is hoping to have similar landscaping projects at the electric Sub station and Blackberry path gating to stop future travellers entering.

9) Police Matters

Sgt. Redding apologised for no member of the police being present at the last Parish Council meeting.

a) There was a discussion held relating to the story that had been printed in the local press relating to J Lacey's husband and the husband of a local police officer. Sgt. Redding was disappointed in the way in which the story had conflicted with the fact that the police were now back attending most Parish Council meetings and had improved the working relationship between themselves and many local people. L Cole commented that the letter from the Chief Superintendent appeared to be fairly negative in assisting with the situation. It was commented by the Parish Council that the press had blown statements out of all proportion and had never called for the removal of the police officer, but had requested non attendance of meetings to avoid possible friction and future problems. At the end of the discussion, although it was asked, if possible, for advance notice of which police officers would be in attendance of the Parish Council meetings, it was agreed that it was more important to keep an ongoing working relationship and have police in attendance than not and therefore should PC Leech be on shift and be asked to attend the meeting then the Parish Council would not have an issue with that.

It was also stated that the way in which the press had been able to elaborate the story was of much concern. It was proposed by C Minto that for any future issues, the Councillor contacted should refer to the office who would in turn contact others for comments and then actual agreed statement can be issued to the press on any one topic. At least two councillors should be contacted before any response if given in any circumstance. This was 2nd by C Hatton and carried with a unanimous vote.

b) Complaints had been received by the police relating to motorcycles being used in Spindleberry Park. Over the week end there had been 2 people caught and they have both been given warnings. The bikes could be impounded if the same offenders were caught again.

c) There is continued surveillance on drug usage and recently there have been 10 arrests, 3 of which were selling on the streets.

d) S Hucking- crime prevention is asking for barriers to be put in place at the access to Spindleberry and Gillian's Park preventing the access of bikes. Other areas are also being looked at which currently allow people being chased to easily escape on bikes.

10) Public Discussion all relevant matters had been discussed in other areas of the agenda.

11) Planning Matters and Decisions.

For the following application a notice of permission had been received:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
03/01030/FUL	Upgrade footpath linking Knights Road and Kassam Stadium including hard surfacing and scheme of lighting	

03/01 254/FUL	Single Storey rear conservatory extension	20 Moorbank, Oxford
03/00748/FUL	Single Storey front and rear extension	154 Sandy Lane Oxford (permission granted)

For the following application a notice of Refusal had been received:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
03/00742/FUL	Two storey side extension	2 Fry's Hill, Blackbird Leys.

12) Financial Matters

The following payments were proposed by C Hatton, 2nd by S Cole and agreed with a unanimous vote a) Clerk Salary £248.94 (b) Postage-£36.52 (c) AOL (B Lester) - £15.99 (d) Tel answering - £35.25. e) PC World - £97.83

A short discussion was held relating to the Parish Council taking a lease for one of the offices within the Community Centre. The price being offered was £1000. with own access and an office with sole usage and a locked door. In general the Parish Councillors were happy with this, the clerk was asked to circulate a copy of the lease (which should have been at the meeting, but had yet to arrive) and on the provision of no one raising concerns, then it was agreed the B Lester could sign and take on the office. It was also agreed that a new telephone line would be required in order to allow Internet connection in the near future.

13) Correspondence

No issues were raised from the information circulated.

14) Any other Business

Some of the Parish Councillors had met at the Barn during the past month. The clerk was to investigate possible options available to see if the Parish Council could raise the funds in order to finish the property and have it being used for office/meeting hall/parish hall. Hopefully a report with findings will be presented at the next meeting.

11) Date and Venue of next Parish Council Meeting -

It was agreed that there would be a meeting on 5 August as most Parish Councillors would be present. This would be held in the Shop Front commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no there being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.30pm