

Minutes of the Blackbird Leys Parish Council meeting  
Held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005 at  
The Jack Argent Rooms, Community Centre  
Blackbird Leys, commencing at 7.30pm

Present at meeting:

Parish Councillors: C Martin, B Avery, C Hatton, R Harris, G Roper and B Lester (Chair) Also Present: H Shayler (Clerk), and for part of the meeting PSO L Jones and S O'Dell

1) Apologies for Absence were received from S Cole, R Humberstone, C Pill and the local Beat Police .

2) Co-option to fill Vacancies: No one present at this meeting

3) Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September – G Roper commented that the notes relating to the non-attendance of Blackbird Leys Parish Councillors to the Area Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> September had not been minuted although the letter had been acknowledged.

It was stated that in the 'also present' Kate Stratford was incorrectly spelt.

The minutes were then signed as a true record.

4) Police Matters:

It was reported that during the past month approximately 20 vehicles had been removed due to no tax or being un-road worthy. Control Plus had been more active with ticketing vehicles outside the BMW factory and anti-social behaviour in some of the tower blocks was being addressed with officers being given access to the buildings.

Concerns of older children cycling on the paths was increasing - the question was asked if cycling on the path was an offence - 'yes' was the response.

A short discussion was held regarding the parking of vehicles on the pathways -the PSO's produced a couple of stickers/flyers that are used to place on vehicles causing an obstruction. B Lester asked if the Parish Council would be allowed to issue these or were they only for police usage. The stickers had been produced in partnership with several organisations and B Lester offered to follow up from these details to see if the Parish Council could be issued some for distribution.

The Police Support Officers were thanked for attending the meeting - it was asked if a separate set of minutes and agenda could be sent to PC Martyn Wills at the Cowley Police Station for the attention of the PSO's.

5) Matters Arising

Portfolio reports:

a) Very little information had been passed to S Cole for the completion of a Blackbird Leys Parish Council Newsletter. To make a newsletter work everyone must have a level of commitment and on this occasion it was felt that this was not available. B Avery therefore proposed that the idea of producing a newsletter from the Parish Council be dropped, 2<sup>nd</sup> by R Harriss this was carried with an unanimous vote. B Lester thanked S Cole for the effort she had put into this project.

It was stated that the Leys News were having their AGM on 22nd November. The Parish Council would continue to submit articles to the Leys News - it was suggested that any such articles should be submitted to the Parish Council meeting before printing therefore allowing Parish Councillors to know what issues are being printed about.

b) It was noted that items circulated during October, with no meeting being held, had been received by Councillors. Planning and Financials matters are minuted in relevant section of these minutes

c) B Lester confirmed to G Roper that he and B Avery were still attending Area Committee meetings but had been unable to attend in September. It was commented that any Parish Councillor can attend the Area Committee and report accordingly if pre arranged - and anyone was welcome to attend.

d) A report on the Leys News had stated that the twinning suggested by the Parish Council was a waste of time and money, suggesting that by twinning due to 'rubbish' it was down-grading the estate. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would put together a flyer to circulate to the estate to gain an opinion for the twinning to go ahead or not and to also to also notify residents of how they

can take responsibility of keeping their own 'street' area tidy should they wish to. G Roper proposed that this be carried out in January 2006, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C Martin this was carried with an unanimous vote - the clerk was asked to gather prices for the cost of circulating such a leaflet.

e) The Leys fair - just short of £50.00 had been raised for rides on the Rodeo. The Councillors present at the Fair made the amount up to £50.00 and this was donated to SSNAP (Support for the Sick Newborn and their Parents) the charity that supports the special care baby unit at the JR Hospital. A certificate and £25.00 had been awarded G Price for the best submitted photography for the *Hotspot, grotspot* competition

f) C Martin reported that the Littlemore Brook had become blocked and the Northfield Brook had so much undergrowth surrounding it that it was difficult to get near to the Brook itself. The Environmental Agency had been contacted but there is still very little interest in clearing the brooks out as ownership of the land around it remains an issue. A comment was made that Blackbird Leys had been stated as being a flood plain - the clerk was asked to try and ascertain if this was correct or not.

g) C Hatton reported that fireworks had become a problem around Spindleberry Park with youths lighting them and then throwing them into residents gardens. The Police had been called by no visual response had been seen. The footpath between Knights Road and Spindleberry Road was now overgrown with bushes and was still being used by cyclists as a route because the bars put in place are of little or no use. It had been stated by previous Housing Estate Officers that lighting would be provided in this alleyway, but as yet nothing has appeared. B Lester would speak to Area committee to see how progress is on this.

G Roper commented that there is a difference between Rights of Way and Footpaths and it may be worth obtaining a local ordnance survey map to see which alleyways are actual rights of way. B Avery offered to obtain a map of the local area and look into this.

h) B Avery reported that in areas of the estate fly tipping was becoming a problem again, but generally the estate currently was better than it had been with many areas of rubbish removed which had not been replaced with new.

i) B Lester reported that there was a cleansing meeting had been held on 21<sup>st</sup> October with items on list circulated discussed

It was reported that despite the Blackbird Leys Parish Council being on the agenda of the last Area committee no seating had been provided around the main table. It was also commented that the planning items take up a large amount of time at the meetings which deters many from attending or means that due to time commitments officers leave the table before the meeting is finalised.

B Lester commented that John Angus (legal representative from the Kassam Stadium) had offered to attend Parish Council meetings re the Elton John concert that has been planned for next year.

j) G Roper gave a report on NAT - Neighbourhood Action Team - paper was circulated for reference to the Parish Councillors present. It was hoped that after the next meeting, to be held on 15th November, that the minutes would be circulated to the members for information.

k) The meeting which had been requested by Jo for an update on the Community Web Site on 20th October had been cancelled,

## 6) Public Discussion

a) B Avery commented that residents at Ashmole Place would like an area fenced off for the Children to play in on the 'green' area. B Lester commented that John Wade at City Parks should be contacted initially for ideas and possibilities.

b) G Roper had been informed that problems around the Bullnose pub were not necessarily from drinkers within the pub. People use the car park as a 'cut through' and maybe suggestions could be made in order to protect the car park i.e. a fencing.

## 7) Planning Applications

Circulated during October 2005.

No Objections were raised to the following applications:

Application Number: 05/01753/FUL'

Application Number: 05/01718/RES

Application Number: 05/01551/FUL

Application Number: 05/01834/VAR

Application Number: 05/01697 /FUL

Application Number: 05/01829/FUL

November meeting:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
05/01982/FUL	2.2m palisade fence	Units 3 & 4 Ashville Way, Oxford

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
05/02039/FUL	Retention of porch	6 Merlin Road, Oxford

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
05/01833/VAR	Variation of condition	Buildings B1 and/or B8 Chiltern Small Business Centre, 198 Garsington Road Application Number: 05/02135/ADV

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
Two illuminated fascia signs		Unit 3 Oxford Trade Centre, Harrow Road

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
Oxfordshire County Council	Erection of double garage and cycle shelter, laying out of car park and new footpath	Orchard Meadow School, Sawpit Road, Blackbird Leys.

The following application was objected to due to the reasons stated:

Concerns were raised over off street parking & dropped kerb, on bus route, properties being divided.

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
05/01698/FUL	Retention of house in use as 2 x 1 bed flats	189 Field Avenue, Oxford

Notification of Approval had been received for the following applications

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
05/01639/FUL	Demolish side extension. Erect two storey side extension and single storey rear	10 Merlin Road, Oxford

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
05/01707/FUL	Garage at side	2 Thistle Drive, Oxford

#### 8) Financial Matters

The following expenses were proposed by C Martin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by R Harris and carried with a unanimous vote a) Clerk Salary-£258.90 (b) AOL-£15.99 (c) Telephone Answering Service-£35.25 (d) Carphone Warehouse-£60.25 (e) Oxford City Council- office rent £250.00 (t) Get On Line - domain renewal £111.63 (g) HJC Services - photocopying £58.58 (h) Postage £17.96 (i) Grant to Oxford City Council for the completion of Balfour Road Shop frontage £1500.00

A short discussion was held regarding the purchase of a Photocopier for the office - the clerk had a price of £325.00 + VAT for a second hand reconditioned machine which would suit the needs of the office G Roper raised a concern over the fact it was a reconditioned machine and not new - the clerk assured the member that

the person providing the machine ran a successful business and the machine would come with three months warranty. B Avery proposed that this be purchased for the office, 2<sup>nd</sup> by G Roper it was carried with an unanimous vote. It was also agreed that the machine would not go on a 'click charge' maintenance, the supplier would service as necessary.

The following had been agreed and released during October: a) Clerk Salary-£258.90 (b) AOL-£15.99 (c) Telephone Answering Service-£35.25 (d) Carphone Warehouse-£55.00 (e) Community Assoc. Room Hire £37.00 (t) Sign Design - Banner for Leys Fair £85.78 (g) British Telecom, office phone £39.88 (h) BBLeys Neighbourhood Support Scheme Grant £1000.00

#### 9) Correspondence

No further items were discussed to those circulated

#### 10) Any other Business.

a) It was commented that notification of interests had not been submitted by all Parish Councillors - B Lester would call the Oxford City Council to see who was still to return this document. It was commented that if members had not sent in the form then a new one should be sent to them.

b) C Martin commented that the Dog muck bins had now all been upgraded and a thank you had been received from the resident that had written regarding this issue.

c) B Lester commented that the December meeting would be kept quite short, depending on issues that may arise for discussions, allowing for a drinks and nibbles afterwards. It was suggested that invitations be sent to people that had assisted the parish council during the past year. All names should be submitted to the clerk by 21<sup>st</sup> November to allow invitations to be sent. It was asked that a Memo be sent to all Parish Councillors to remind/notify them of this and at the same time ensure that any items that are required for a discussion are notified to the Clerk for inclusion on the next agenda.

#### 11) Date and Venue of next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2005 at Jack Argent Rooms in the Community Centre.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.40pm.