

Minutes of the Blackbird Leys Parish Council meeting
Held on Tuesday 2nd March 2004 at the
The Shop Front, Blackbird Leys Road, commencing at 7.30pm

Present at meeting:

Parish Councillors: C. Hatton, C Martin, L Cole, S Cole, B Avery and B Lester
(Chair)

Also Present: H Shayler (Clerk), R Humberstone and for part of the meeting Insp.
C Agger, PC K Hobson and PC D Grint

1) Apologies for Absence - were received from G Roper. The clerk was asked to clarify the number of meetings that J Lacey had now not attended. If it was the maximum 6 months then a letter was requested informing her that she would be disqualified as a member.

2) Co-option to fill Vacancies: R Humberstone stated that he would still like to be considered for the Parish Council and stood for co-option. C Hatton proposed that R Humberstone be co-opted, C Martin 2 and it was carried with a unanimous vote. The chair welcomed R Humberstone to the Parish Council.

6) Police Matters

The police informed the Parish Council that there are current discussions to try and arrange an office at the leisure centre to give more access to the street wardens and themselves.

After being a auto-crime 'hot spot' levels of crime are now starting to drop. A lot of local work is still being carried out on drug abuse. Some improvement has been made in areas, but much local awareness is being obtained to assist with this issue. The more feed back that can be obtained from the community the more the police can react.

It was commented that much litter was being dropped by local pupils the police stated that this issue should be directed to the Head Teacher. It is hoped that either police or Street Wardens will be available to try and monitor the 'gathering' by pupils in areas on their way to school to try and keep everyone safe.

3) Minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2004

There were a few minor spelling errors pointed out — the minutes were then signed as a true record.

4) Matters Arising:

a) C Martin reported that seven letters had been sent to various land owners responsible for the clearing of sections of the local streams. The local waterways have again become full — in areas — of rubbish and concerns of flooding are being raised.

b) B Avery reported that in Spindleberry Park many trees and hedges have been trimmed and tidied up, still some more to be done. Graffiti has been removed and much of the building rubbish has gone. The area has improved, but there is still work to be done.

c) S Cole asked for more ideas for the Leys Fair as it would seem that go-karts or quads is going to be very difficult to arrange due to space and supervision.

d) B Avery had raised issues on Air Pollution report taken last month all papers were passed to the clerk for filling.

5) Public Discussion

a) A concern had been raised regarding the poor television reception now in some areas of the estate since the Bowplex had been opened. It was stated that the problem is more likely to be the Aluminium steel being used at the new bus depot which is known to cause problems. The telecommunications companies will only

respond with any form of upgrade or improvement if 100% of the local residents are affected.

b) B Lester stated that a letter should be sent to the County Council to increase the posts that have been erected along Blackbird Leys Road. Currently there is sufficient room for vehicles to park between the posts and so obstructions are still arising. B Avery proposed this letter and 2 by R Humberstone it was carried with an unanimous vote — B Lester offered to do the letter and follow up any response.

7) Planning Applications

No objections were raised on the following planning applications:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
04/00080/FUL	Demolish outbuilding. Erection of single storey rear extension	3 Marjoram Close, Oxford

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
04/00161/PDT	29in tall lattice mast with antennae and associated equipment for railway radio operation.	Railtrack land to the west of Watlington Road, Cowley.

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
04/00215/VAR	Variation of condition 1 on permission 99/01351/VF to allow submission of reserved matters application until 30.11.2012.	Oxford Business Park, Garsington Road, Oxford

It was agreed that any Planning Applications for the next month would be sent out to all Parish Councillors for their comments to be returned to the clerk as to avoid lengthy discussions at the Annual Parish Meeting next month. However, if any application received needed discussion it could be discussed at the meeting under any other business.

8) Financial Matters

The following expenses were proposed by B Avery, 2 by C Hatton and agreed with a unanimous vote:

a) Clerk Salary - £258.90, (b) AOL -£15.99 (e) Telephone Answering - £35.25 (d) Blitz— computer work -£120.00 (e) Photocopying -£47.18 (1) Postage -£30.94

The issue of opening another bank account to 'ring fence' money for community safety projects was discussed. The clerk was asked to find out the legality of such an account.

It was agreed that as the next meeting was to be the Annual Parish Meeting, any cheques that were required next month could be signed if three Parish Councillors were in agreement of the expenditure.

9) Correspondence

No discussion was held on the correspondence circulated.

Additional items of correspondence:

B Avery took the Oxfordshire County Council Highways Management Policy Manual for reading.

10) Any other Business

a) B Lester informed the Parish Council that a tour of BMW had been arranged on March 25 between 9.30 and 11.30— any one interested and able to attend please contact B Lester and he would then pass on additional meeting time/place when known.

b) It was commented that the road humps on the estate done very little towards the calming of traffic — it was suggested that this issue was taken to the area committee for possible suggestions of improvement / removal.

c) It was suggested that the Parish Council consider producing their own newsletter/leaflet to let the residents of the estate know what is being done and can be done for the estate as a whole with no barriers of tenancy or private. The Parish Councillors were asked to think on this and bring ideas to the next meeting.

11) Date and Venue of next Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 4 May at The Leys Linx, Blackbird Leys Road

This will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting with the voting of new officers for the coming year. There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.30pm