

Minutes of the Blackbird Leys Parish Council meeting
Held on Tuesday 3 February 2004 at the
The Shop Front, Blackbird Leys Road, commencing at 7.30pm

Present at meeting:

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

Also Present: H Shayler (Clerk), D Parry (Minister at Holy Family Church), M Sloan (Oxford Mail) and for part of the meeting R Humberstone, M Mumford (Local Housing Officer) and M Kelly (Blitz Computer Project)

Apologies for Absence - were received from Local Police

A letter of resignation was read out received from L Booker, due to current work commitments it has made it difficult to attend meetings on a regular basis. The clerk was asked to write and thank L Booker for her time on the Parish Council.

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

3) Minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2004

There were a few spelling issues raised including that of Mr Huckin — spelt as Mr Huckling in 4c

The minutes were then signed as a true record.

4) Matters Arising:

a) G Roper had met with T Ashley from the Kassam Stadium to have a 'walkabout' the Stadium area. It was commented that the grounds had been cleaned the previous day, but a mechanical cleaner was now going to be used monthly to assist with keeping the area tidy. It was also stated that the Bowlplex was nothing to do with the stadium and any concerns with the running of, or safety of, should be directed to the telephone number found a certificate inside the main doors.

b) S Cole is still waiting for a response from the school.

c) Leys Fair. S Cole had located someone who would provide karts, but our own insurance was required. The clerk informed the council that the current insurance would cover damage to property but not people, but the person supplying the karts should have their own public liability. S Cole stated that the karts that were being considered had no 'person' with them so we would need our own insurance. The clerk was asked to clarify and report at the next meeting.

d) C Martin commented that the local brooks had again become full of rubbish including bikes and tyres. It was stated that the Parish Council now know who the relevant owners of land (and therefore who has responsibility of) and B Lester and C Martin would write to the relevant owners to get the brooks cleared again.

e) B Lester and B Avery had met with the Rangers at Spindleberry Park — the area next to the pond has been cleared to allow a wetland area to be retained, the play area had been cleared away with shrubs being clipped back and tidied. The graffiti had not been removed but it was hoped that this would be gone in the next week. It was agreed at this meeting that B Lester and B Avery would take on the portfolio of Spindleberry Park as they have had several successful meetings with the Rangers. It was stated that any input from other Parish Councillors, as with any other subject relevant to the estate, would always be appreciated.

f) B Lester reported that the Web site was still running OK with many visitors to the site being recorded.

g) M Mumford reported that it was hoped that there would be lighting placed in Spindleberry Park and that the bushes in that area are to be cut back and maintained. It was also commented that the housing office are looking at various ways to improve the safety, and usage, of local alleyways possible solutions include the introduction of the 'elephant ears' type barriers at ends. The usage of garages is an on going issue still to be resolved.

5) Public Discussion

a) Parking issues around Moorbank are currently a concern. It was suggested that by pulling ideas together we could hopefully move the situation forward. It was commented that proposals for possible solutions should be put forward to area committee for discussion and support.

b) M Kelly gave a talk on how Blitz currently works on Blackbird Leys to the Parish Councillors. B Lester thanked Mr Kelly for a very informative talk that had shown how important this facility is on the estate and how much it is used and appreciated by residents currently. B Avery proposed a letter to the County Council and City Council Chief Executives in support of Blitz gaining further funding to allow it to continue all the good work that has been started, this was 2nd by C Hatton and carried by an unanimous vote.

6) Police matters — There were no police present at this meeting, and no issues were raised for discussion

7) Planning Applications

No objections were raised to:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
004/00004/CC4	Construction of pitched roof	Orchard Meadow Primary School — Wesley Close

No objection was raised to the following application, but again confirmation was requested as to what type of food was to be sold (take away or eat in) along with the anticipated opening hours:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
04100093/FUL	Single storey side extension for use as shop (Class A1) or food and drinking (Class A3) unit. Two additional parking spaces.	Land adjacent Spar Shop, Dunnock Way

The following application was objected to:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
04/00064/VAR	Use of cinema operating without requirement of traffic monitoring or restriction on start/finish time of films (Removal of conditions 3 and 4 of permission 99/834	Ozone Leisure Centre — Grenoble Road.

The objection was raised due to the not knowing if the local residents parking scheme was to be put in force or not. It was agreed that this parking scheme should be confirmed as permanent before restrictions were raised. It was stated that the Parish Council did not want to stop the cinema from trading, but felt that the residents need to be protected.

A short discussion was held on the application relating to the new Health Centre – B Lester had outlined a letter which was agreed at the meeting. It had been stated that the Parish Council were against the new centre, this is not true, concerns had been raised that were to do with access and build that were not seen as being totally acceptable without further confirmation.

8) Financial Matters

The following expenses were proposed by C Martin, 2nd by G Roper and agreed with a unanimous vote:

a) Clerk Salary - £258.90, (b) AOL -£15.99 (c) Telephone Answering - £35.25 d) Oxford City Council - £250.00, Office rent (e) Security badges £5.99

9) Correspondence

No discussion was held on the correspondence circulated.

Additional items of correspondence:

A report on local pollution had been received – B Avery took details to draft a response on its findings.

10) Any other Business

a) B Lester showed the ID Badge holders that had been purchased to hold photographs in for Parish Councillors to have a form of ID if talking to local people. The clerk was asked to forward any photographs held of members, any members who have not previously had a photograph taken were asked to arrange for a passport photo and pass to B Lester or bring to the next meeting.

b) G Roper gave a short report on another successful street wardens meeting that had recently been held. Rubbish being put out early is still a problem which is being tackled but a good open discussion meeting had been held. The next meeting is due to be 18 March

11) Date and Venue of next Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 2nd March at The Leys Linx, Blackbird Leys Road

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held during the normal Parish Council meeting time in April (Tuesday 6 April) and the Annual Parish Council meeting would be held at the first meeting in May (Tuesday 4 May).

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