

Minutes of the Blackbird Leys Parish Council meeting
Held on Tuesday 3rd May 2005 at the
Jack Argent Rooms Blackbird Leys Road, commencing at 7.30pm

Present at meeting:

Parish Councillors: B Avery, C Martin, C Pill, C Hatton, S Cole and B Lester (Chair) Also Present: H Shayler (Clerk), W Campbell (Resident)

1. Apologies for Absence - Parish Councillors G Roper due to holiday, R Humberstone due to local elections, Cllr L Cole due to Local elections and PC P Morris;
All current officers stood down from their current position

2. Election of Parish Council Chair - The clerk asked for proposals of position. B Avery proposed B Lester to continue as chair for the next year, this was 2nd by S Cole. No other members stood for Chair and B Lester was unanimously voted in for another year.

3. Election of Vice Chair - C Martin proposed that B Avery continued in this position for a further year, 2nd by C Pill this was carried with an unanimous vote. No other members stood for Vice Chair and Bob Avery accepted the position for another year

4. Election of Treasurer - C Martin proposed that S Cole remained as Treasurer for a further year, 2nd by B Avery this was carried with an unanimous vote. No other members stood for Treasurer and S Cole accepted the position for another year.

5. Co-option to fill vacancies - No one was present at this meeting for co-opting.

6. Minutes of the meeting held on April 5th - were signed as a true record of events

7. Portfolios - It was agreed that over the past few years this had worked well and with new members not present over the past year it was agreed that an 'allocation' of area keeps the Parish Council working as a team. The following allocation of areas were given:
B Lester and Bob Avery - Cleansing, to include all aspects within this area. Bi monthly meetings are held with the Oxford City Council where any issues can be raised for discussion.
C Hatton -Spindleberry Park. It was also commented that C Hatton could be the liaison between the Tenants & Residents Association and the Parish Council, however, the clerk commented (and was asked to look into) whether this would cause a conflict of interest as he has voting rights with both organisations.

S Cole - Northfield Brook and Leys Fair

C Pill - Highway/ Pathways in and around Balfour Road area

It was commented that if all Parish Councillors report to each other then together much more could be accomplished.

8. Police Matters - There was disappointment voiced that the police had been present at the Leys Residents Assoc. to discuss what they wanted for the estate when the Parish Council, being an elected body by the estate, should be approached for such items. It was commented that the Parish Council, maybe, should be more active in giving the Police reasons to attend meetings, and if like on this occasion they are not that the Parish Council write asking for updates or ask questions that allow them to realise that we are serious about looking after this estate as a whole and want to help the police in their work as well. It was therefore suggested that over the next month members become more vigilant therefore being more able to raise matters for discussion.

Concerns were raised over the levels of open drug dealing on the estate and that patrols of police on the estate appear to have gone down Concerns were also raised relating to drinking

on the estate – especially behind the Chinese along Blackbird Leys road and late at night in Spindleberry Park

9. Matters Arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 5th April:

- a) New Cycle track- concerns were raised over the safety of this cycle route and how it was being funded. It was commented that the money that should have been from Arlington was not being drawn on for the latest scheme and the area to which it was to run was seen to be very secluded and therefore likely to end up being used for all the wrong reasons.
- b) Web site - a final decision needs to be obtained with the running of the community web site. Jose was now not going to update web sites just run the main 'technical' requirements. The clerk was asked to finalize what the Parish Council could and could not do so that final decisions on the way forward could be made at the next meeting.
- c) Parish Council Newsletter. B Avery and B Lester passed items to S Cole for addition to the first newsletter. It was asked that if any others had information it was to be passed to S Cole in the next week, allowing it to be finalized and printed for the next meeting. The clerk was asked to find out costs for distribution of the newsletter to the estate.

10. Public Discussion:

W Campbell was present at this meeting to request support from the Parish Council. He has been trying to obtain written permission from the Local Housing Office to Paint the fencing and keep the grass cut around Evenlode Tower. B Avery proposed that the clerk was asked to write and enquire why Mr Campbell had received no response and residents who want to assist with keeping the local area tidy and clean should be encouraged not ignored, 2nd by C Hatton this was carried with an unanimous vote.

11. Planning Applications & Decisions:

Notification of Approval in part had been received for this Application

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
04/02505/FUL	Retention of 1x30 mtr, 2x12mtr, 2x10mtr and 3x8mtr high lighting masts	Cowley House, Watlington Road. Go Ahead Group Plc

The following application had been received and were discussed:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
05/00663/FUL	Erection of two storey industrial building (Class B2) Provision of 8 parking spaces.	Land adjacent to Unit 5 Ashville Way. DW Contractors

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

12. Financial Matters:

- The following payments were proposed by C Martin, 2nd by C Hatton and carried with an unanimous vote: Clerk Salary - £258.90, HJC Services for Photocopying £41.06, (b) AOL - £15.99, (c) Telephone Answering - £35.25, (f) Jack Argent Room Hire £10.00
- d/e) Problems were still being incurred with the DD being taken from the Alliance & Leicester Bank account. It was agreed that the clerk could obtain details to proceed with the changing of banks. It was discussed that Barclays was the most common amongst the account signatures and the clerk used Barclays and if already an account holder it makes the opening of an account much easier. It was also confirmed that for the type of account that the parish council would be requiring no charges, as now, would be made to the account.
 - f) A short discussion was held regarding the hire of the Jack Argent room for future meetings.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would accept the monthly charge and use this room from now on.

13. Correspondence:

d) It was commented that there had been a poor turn out of people at this last meeting with only three present. It seemed that each time the meeting moves to Blackbird Leys the response drops! G Roper should be at the next meeting to take any comments that you would like to be put forward.

e) Getting involved with Oxford's Future - it was agreed that those who wished to respond to this should do so as themselves and not as Parish Councillors

14. Any other Business

a) Fly tipping - copies of correspondence had been received by the Chair confirming that some residents had received notices to stop placing rubbish out on the streets before the collection day.

b) It was commented that Littleberry was suffering from rubbish dumping - B Avery offered to speak with R Humberstone to keep an eye on the area.

c) C Martin commented that the streams were blocked again, many items including cable drums had been dumped and it would appear that no monthly visit for inspections were being held. B Lester offered to follow this up to ensure who owns which piece of land where the streams are now blocked to try and put pressure on land owners to keep it clear.

d) C Pill commented that he had not heard anything regarding the pavement area outside the Balfour Road Shops - the clerk confirmed nothing had been recently received in the office and would follow up.

e) It was commented by C Hatton that the Tenants & Residents Association had asked for funding to support the closure of the alleyway off Knights Road. No formal request had been received and B Lester commented that there is funds available at Area committee / City Council for this type of work and Fergus Lapage should be approached for information.

f) It was commented that local residents in Ashmole Place were having difficulty parking in their own drive ways due to people visiting the local Bullnose Pub parking in the street when the car park is full. The clerk was asked to write and enquire if double yellow lines that currently stop on the corner of Ashmole Place could be extended to assist with this problem.

g) The clerk was also asked to write and enquire about the renovation times scale for the flat at the bottom of Ashmole Place which currently is in very poor condition.

h) B Lester commented that he had spoken to M Mumford regarding the concerns of security on the flats above the Blackbird Leys Road shops.

15. Date and venue of next meeting: Annual Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 7th June 2005 at the Jack Argent Rooms, Blackbird Leys Community Centre, Blackbird Leys Road commencing at 7.30pm.