

4th February 2003

Present at meeting:

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

Also Present: H Shayler (Clerk), M Florey - Local Councillor, M Hart – Cleansing and R Parveen – Oxford Mail. For part of the meeting Sgt. S Redding

Apologies for Absence - were received from P Stannard - Local Councillor.

1) co-option to fill Vacancies: No one present at this meeting

2) Minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2003. The minutes were signed as a true record

6) Police Matters

The parking along Watlington Road and Garsington Road has been targeted in the past ten days and there had been approximately 35 tickets for illegal parking issued and Control Plus have been contacted by the Police to attend this area and enforce the parking issues. There are some issues in the area that make ticketing difficult, but it is hoped that by constantly being in the area the situation would improve. The Parish Council commended this action and hoped that it would have a satisfactory effect on the dangerous parking occurring in that area.

Windale Ave/Pegasus Rd alleyways – the clerk has spoken to B Gatehouse who, as local councillor, should take the issue forward for the parish. The police agree that this, and possibly other, alleyway could be closed to make safer the estate in certain areas. M Hart commented that in other areas of Oxford there had been 'gating' of alleyways to try and help in areas of concern, so far they have appeared to be successful – this maybe an option for Blackbird Leys. It has been raised at the Area committee with a strong lobby for the alleyway along Windale/Pegasus to be closed. The police now have a proactive group of 5 up and running and they should have their new push bikes soon. Crack down on vehicles with no road fund licence on display is about to begin with new laws being put in place for enforcement of the vehicle being removed within 24 hours.

Concerns were raised on the level of caravans parking on and around the estate, the issues are more with the mess made and left behind. Sgt. Harry Parsons would be able to explain the policy for dealing with such cases – cleansing of the areas afterwards falls to the City Council, B Lester offered to follow this through. Sgt Reading was thanked for attending the meeting and his support to the Parish Council and the local community.

Matters Arising:

a) It was commented by B Lester that no letter or flowers had been received by E Clements following her resignation from the Parish Council – the clerk apologised for this. B Lester offered to arrange the flowers to be delivered if the clerk was unable to do so in the next few days.

b) C Martin reported that Littlemore brook was still clear. A few problems still existed with the Northfield Brook. M Florey commented that she had spoken to the City Council and it was the responsibility of the land owner to clear the brook out – However, the City Council could clear and then charge the land owner for the works done.

c) B Lester had not moved forward much this month with the computer as the clerk was obtaining the software that was needed – the software requested at the last meeting was not sufficient to carry out the work required. The correct software was handed over to B Lester at this meeting.

The toilets are to be opened in Blackbird Leys Road during April 2003, the City Council cleansing department will be monitoring them and keeping them clean. It was commented that maybe the Parish Council would fund some of the cleansing costs to help keep them open.

B Lester commented that he now has a very good relationship with the cleansing department and most rubbish is removed within 48 hours of a telephone call. Unfortunately, as soon as the rubbish is removed more is being dumped. It was commented that the 'Environmental Protection' Act had not been adopted by the City Council, making it difficult to enforce people to keep rubbish under control. M Florey offered to speak to Fergus Lapage and raise the adoption of this policy at the next Local Area Committee meeting. It was asked that the promotion of 'NEAT' be placed on next months agenda.

C Hatton reported that the 'sludge' removed from the pond in Spindleberry Park was still there and the council had said that there would be no environmental issues with smell. It was commented that the contractors (believed to be Vale of White Horse Contractors) that had been in to do the work had damaged the footpaths and left the area in a bit of a mess. C Hatton offered to continue chasing for answers and would hopefully get the area tidied up.

It had been discussed last month that getting the Oxford Mail involved with the parish council could bring a 'clearer' picture of the estate and may help with public support on certain issues. Due to circumstances during the month there was a short discussion that prompted the response that if you do not want to speak with the press then you have a right to say no. It is hoped that most dialogue will go through C Minto as he is used to dealing with the press.

A discussion was held on antisocial behaviour that was occurring on the estate, currently all relevant authorities are involved and it is hoped the situation will resolve itself soon.

5) Public Discussion

M Hart from NEAT informed the Parish Council about this project. 2 man crews would be actively driving around areas to 'cleanse'. Oxford has been divided into 12 areas; each area has a two man crew. Blackbird Leys is an 'area' and will therefore have its own team. It is hoped that some one will be at each parish council meeting to receive information on any issues on the estate so that hopefully we can work together to continually improve the estate. One suggestion was the siting of a skip on a regular basis for residents to dispose of rubbish rather than dumping it.

It was also commented that the introduction of street wardens would be happening during the next month and therefore the combination of the two should help with many of the issues currently on the estate.

6) Planning Matters and Decisions. No objections were made to the following applications, it was stated that any comments made by the parish council appear to be dismissed by the City Council.

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
03/00131/FUL	Three storey building (Class B1 use) with undercroft (72 spaces) and surface parking (148 spaces)	Heatley Road, Oxford.
03/00012/FUL	Change of use from Storage and Distribution (B8) to Light Industrial (B1)	Unit 2 Ashville Way, FOR Conservation Resources

		(UK) Ltd
03/00110/FUL	Two storey side extension. Single storey rear extension	42 Kestrel Crescent.

8) Financial Matters

The following payments were proposed by B Avery, 2nd by L Cole and agreed with a unanimous vote a) Clerk Salary – £248.94 (b) Postage-£26.69 (c) AOL (B Lester) - £15.99 (d) Tel answering - £35.25. (e) British Telecom – final bill - £14.25

The software that had been agreed last month was not sufficient for the cause and the expense on different software to enable the moving forward of the web page was discussed. A Total of £578.99 was agreed.

A brief discussion was held on grants – it was agreed that this would be placed on next months agenda for a full discussion on how grants would be issued this year.

9) Correspondence

No issues were raised from the information circulated.

Any other Business

a) The clerk was asked to send out a letter regarding the positioning of yellow lines where the bus companies had responded with information with difficulties on their journeys due to parked vehicles. The general situation was not improving and still causing problems

b) It was commented that Longlands Nursing Home has had interior done up and they are now looking for funds to do up the gardens with seating etc. The clerk was asked to write and inform them that grants may be available and information, when available, would be forwarded to them.

c) There was a short discussion held relating to the way in which the Parish Council, along with members of the public were not taken seriously when any objective comments were being put forward at the Area Committees.

11) Date and Venue of next Parish Council Meeting - **Tuesday 4th March 2003- 7.30 pm** at The Shop Front, Blackbird Leys Road

It was agreed that the next Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Tuesday 1st April and the Annual General Meeting of the Blackbird Leys Parish Council would be held on May 6th. The clerk was asked to enquire about the current situation regarding Parish Elections, it is possible that it will be this year.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.45pm