

## March 2003

Minutes of the Blackbird Leys Parish Council meeting

Present at meeting:

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

Also Present: H Shayler (Clerk) R Parveen - Oxford Mail. P Stannard - Local Councillor and 2 residents and for part of the meeting Local Police

Apologies for Absence - were received from L Booker, Sgt. S Redding, M Florey - Local Councillor, M Hart - Cleansing

Before the meeting commenced, the Clerk informed that Parish Council that R Curnock had forwarded his resignation from the Parish Council

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

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2003 The minutes were signed as a true record

Matters Arising:

C Martin reported that Littlemore brook was general OK - there was a small level of pollution reported on 22 February, this was sorted and cleared in around an hour. However it was mentioned that B Staig was being slow in the tidging of brook banks from the allotments. It was commented that it would appear that water from the Littlemore Brook is currently being diverted to the Northfield Brook. Due to this if there was to be a storm or large downfall of rain it is very possible that Field Avenue would flood. C Martin has spoken with Dave Reeves at the City Council to try and get the Northfield Brook cleared to try and stop the possibility of flooding. With the increase of building then the demand on the brooks is going to be higher and it was felt that there was a need for them to be dug - C Martin to try and arrange a meeting between Vale of White Horse Contractors and D Reeves from City Council.

B Avery reported that the pedestrian crossing was commissioned last week - new projects for the next crossing being thought about - it was suggested that Parish Councillors bring to the next meeting any areas that they feel would benefit from a crossing allowing a letter of recommended sites be put forward to the City Council.

B Lester reported that the cleaning issues on the estate were ongoing, in the past month 5 cars have been removed and 8 loads of rubbish were removed. The flowers sent to B Clements had been received. The Web page is now up and running. A short discussion took place on the dumping of rubbish and dog fouling. It was commented that the City Council had yet to adapt the Environmental Act. This Act would allow better enforcement of such issues. It was asked that this item be notified to the Area Committee for discussion and reasons why the Act had not been adapted.

A letter received was read out stating that at the meeting of the Area Committee to be held on March 17<sup>th</sup> the parish council would have their own section for raising of any issues.

The toilets in Blackbird Leys Road are due to re-open in April

The recycling bins at the flats have been moved due to them being sited in the wrong place.

L Cole reported that the only travellers around at present were out of the Blackbird Leys Parish area - a letter has been sent to the liaison officer for information relating to how do deal with any future situations, so far no response.

C Hatton reported that he was having difficulty getting a response from B Staig relating to landscaping etc. around the Kassam Stadium. A copy of the letter was sent to M Headicar and a response is awaited.

**Planning Applications:**

The following applications had been circulated before the meeting and no objections had been received:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
03/00221/FUL	2.4m weld mesh fence around play area	The Dovecote, Nightingale Avenue
03/00396/FUL	Erection of six 2 bed houses. Parking area adjacent to Jane Seaman Court	Oxford Citizens Housing Association
03/00410/FUL	Retention of conservatory	40 Firs Meadow
Oxford County Council	application for a two classroom, single storey extension,	Mabel Pritchard Special School at Peers School Sandy Lane.

The following applications were raised at the meeting with no objections:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
03/00244/OUT	Outline application to erect a building for use as a primary health care resource centre, including a private nursery, with parking for 39 cars (all matters reserved for future approval)	Oxford City Primary Care Trust City Farm, Dunnocks Way
03/00049/FUL	Erection of 2.5m brick wall	28 Pegasus Road

The following applications were discussed with the residents present and an objection was put forward based on the following:

- (i) Concerns over damage to adjoining garage and how guttering etc. will be put in place to take any rain fall away from their property.
- (ii) Over development of the area
- (iii) Owner of property being a taxi business - concerns over work on vehicles currently done in garage being done at the front of the property generating vulnerability of the vehicles as well as possible pollution to the area not having facilities to contain oil and other vehicle fluids.
- (iv) No Party boundary has been received by either of the direct neighbours who will be affected by this build.
- (v) Concerns over future multi-occupancy usage.

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
03/00228/FUL	Demolish existing garage. Erection of two storey side and rear extensions. Parking for 3 cars on frontage	24 Merlin Road

The following applications were discussed and an objection raised due to concerns over the fact this house is to become multi occupancy. The estate has many issues with parking and traffic congestion - to allow one house to become two would only add to these problems

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
03/00223/FUL	Conversion of existing house to two separate residential units	8 Knights Road
03/00186/FUL	Single and two storey side/rear extension	8 Moorbank

Objection raised: Owner not present in property and concerns over increasing the size to then convert to flats and have a further multi occupancy issue that the Parish Council are against. Question was again raised as to a party wall agreement being in place with both neighbours.

#### Public Discussion

Cleansing Date - promotion of NEAT - it was agreed that as M Hart was not present at this meeting this item should be deferred until the next meeting. Jim Hewitt was present and brought up the issue of an area for 'remembrance'. The church is proposing this and would like the Parish Council suggestions on where and what such an area should be. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the item should be thought about and put onto the next agenda.

#### Police Matters

The following was reported: The Drugs programme is ongoing, a joint operation with DVLA on non display of Road Fund Licences is due in Oxford in the next month. A few concerns were raised and discussed relating to the behaviour of youths.

It was asked that as the Street Wardens were now 'out and about' would it be possible for them to attend a Parish Council meeting?

The issue of blocking off passageway between Knights Road and Spindleberry Close was discussed. J Lacey offered to approach the residents for their opinion.

#### Financial Matters

The following payments were proposed by C Hatton, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C Martin and agreed with a unanimous vote a) Clerk Salary -£248.94 (b) Postage-£16.14 (c) AOL (B Lester) - £15.99 (d) Tel answering - £35.25. e) Zurich Insurance £481.39

It was stated that the Parish Council needed to appoint a new Treasurer now that R Curnock had resigned. C Minto offered to take the position for now to allow a name to be given if needed. This was agreed by all present

#### Correspondence

No issues were raised from the information circulated.

#### Any other Business

No other issues were raised

Date and Venue of next Parish Council Meeting -

The 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 (this will now be postponed until June)

The being no there being no other business the meeting was closed at 10.05pm