

Minutes of the Blackbird Leys Parish Council meeting
Held on Tuesday 6 January 2004 at the
The Shop Front, Blackbird Leys Road, commencing at 7.30pm

Present at meeting:

Parish Councillors: C Martin, B Avery, S Cole, G Roper, L Cole and B Lester (Chair) Also Present: H Shayler (Clerk) and R Humberstone. For part of the meeting PC Morris and PC Hobson

1) Apologies for Absence — No apologies were received. Concerns over level of attendance were raised.

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

3) Minutes of the meeting held on 02 December 2003

It was stated that the wording shown in 2 had implied that R Humberstone had not been co-opted due to his political view. It was clarified that there had been a discussion at the last meeting on several points and a political opinion of an individual makes no difference if applying for co-option to the Parish Council.

The minutes were signed as a true record

4) Matters Arising:

a) Pedestrian Crossings — it was stated that there was the opportunity for possible extra pedestrian crossings on the estate and the Parish Council could put forward suggestions for where they should be situated. After a short discussion it was proposed by C Martin that a letter should be sent to the City Council with the suggestion of Cuddesdon Way — outside the Family Centre where the road currently narrows for traffic calming, across Blackbird Leys Road from the area of the Blackbird Leys Public House to Knights Road, at the junction of Blackbird Leys Road/Pegasus Road, Windale Avenue/Pegasus Road and Field Avenue / Pegasus Road these suggestions were 2nd by G Roper and agreed with a unanimous vote. It was stated that the new estate currently was not in need of any pedestrian crossings as most of the roads are narrow and currently no problems have been reported for not being able to cross safely.

b) S Cole confirmed that no response had been received back from Peers School reference

the children's arrival and departure at the school.

c) It was reported that rubbish amongst the undergrowth and graffiti had been removed

from Spindleberry Park. B Lester and B Avery had met with the rangers to discuss security issues. A report from Mr Hucking is awaited which will hopefully instigate the trimming of trees and possible extra lighting. It is also hoped that there will be a 'clear up' scheme launched for a summer project.

d) There was a short discussion regarding the usage of garages on the estate. A report had been received from Cllr V Smith giving financial information and details regarding the usage of the garages.

e) B Lester commented that the Web site was now OK and being updated regularly again.

f) It was commented that at the Area Committee it had been said that the footbridge in Windale Avenue would be completed by the end of March. The Blackbird Leys Parish Council had received acknowledgement for their work being done on the estate during the last area committee

6) Police Matters:

PC Morris gave apologies for Sgt Reading not being present at this meeting.

PC K Hobson was introduced as the new beat officer to replace PC Petti who had now moved to Reading.

There had been another successful 'plate scanning' operation along the Watlington Road which resulted in some arrests with the recovery of vehicles used in crime.

The new crime number was given 0845 8 505 505 this is for all non emergency police calls.

5) Public Discussion

- a) The Leys fair was discussed. S Cole suggested the possibility of having either karts or quad bikes at the fair as something different to attract attention to the Parish Council. It was commented that we could possibly involve Trax as a way of highlighting the work they do as well. G Roper proposed that this should be looked into and if possible be put in place for the next fair this was 2nd by C Martin and carried with an unanimous vote. The clerk was asked to clarify if the Parish Council insurance would cover such an event.
- b) G Roper filed a report from the advisory group meeting held with the street wardens.
- c) A discussion was held relating to the level of rubbish that is appearing at the Kassam Stadium. G Roper offered to speak with Tony Ashley the stadium manager about this to see what could be done. It was commented that the basketball / hockey area was unlit which was leading the children to play in the Stadium car park that did have very good lighting – is it possible for the ‘play area’ to have lighting installed? – it was stated that B Lester was awaiting an update on the 106 agreements current position and it was agreed that B Lester would, if necessary, approach the Leisure/Recreation department to see if lighting of the ‘play’ area was an option or something that had already been approved.
- d) There is a current ‘drive’ for the removal of rubbish bags from the streets of Blackbird Leys. It is being stressed that any bags should only go out the night before collection day. The Street Wardens are aware of the current strategy and if any one is reported to the Housing Office for putting rubbish out to early a letter will be issued to the relevant tenant.

7) Planning Matters and Decisions. *

No objections were made to the following applications;

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
03/02469/CT4	1 .2m high fence adjacent cycle way/ footpath	Frys Hill Park, Frys Hill.

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
03/02390/FUL	Single Storey side extension for use as shop (Class A1) Two additional parking spaces	Land adjacent to Spar shop, Dunnock Way.

(a comment was raised that the service road to the area appears to ‘shrink’ due to the extension, would this make the exit/entrance difficult for lorries making deliveries.)

The following application had been received and was objected to due to the level of light intrusion being given out from the various light fittings. B Avery has put in a request that this application be discussed at the next area committee:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
03/02368/ADV	Retrospective advertisement consent for 2 x externally illuminated post mounted signs including halo illuminated lettering, 2 x wall mounted signs with halo illuminated lettering,, 1 x non-illuminated wall mounted advert display case, 1 x externally illuminated wall mounted sign, 2 x banners.	The Bullnose Morris Public House, Watlington Road

The following notices of approval had been received:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
03/0935/FUL	Two single storey extensions	Burger King, 5 Oxford Retail Park

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
03/02066/FUL	Two storey front and single storey side extension	12 Tern Walk, Blackbird Leys

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
03/01 762/FUL	Single storey rear conservatory extension	4 Sandy Lane, Blackbird Leys

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
03/02022/FUL	Conversion of loft space to provide additional bedrooms with rooflights to front and two dormer extensions to rear elevation	53 Green Hill

A report was filed from the Oxford City Council informing the Parish Council of an informal hearing to be held on June 2 2004 with regard to the planning appeal for a Bungalow in Sandy Lane (03/01686/FUL)

8) Financial Matters

The following payments were proposed by B Avery, 2nd by G Roper and agreed with a unanimous vote a) Clerks salary - £258.90 (b) AOL (B Lester) - £15.99 (c) Tel answering - £35.25 (d) British Telecom£33.64 (e) Ink Cartridges £19.86 (f)BBL Neighbourhood Scheme grant £1000.00 (g) Leys News Grant £500.00 (h) Postage £59.52

L Cole issued copies of the current financial position of the Parish Council — it was asked if some of the money that has accumulated be used for a 'Community Safety Fund' and ring fenced accordingly. The clerk was asked to find out about the allowance of a specific fund.

A letter was circulated from the Leys Community Music Recording Studio requesting assistance with funding for the recording studio. After a short discussion G Roper proposed a cheque for £1000. as a grant towards this project, this was 2nd by C Martin and carried with an unanimous vote.

A letter had also been received from the Dovecote voluntary Parent committee requesting support for the alteration of the leisure centre to alternative leisure sports — after a discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council could not see the value of loosing a council run facility allowing access to all. The clerk was asked to respond accordingly as it was felt that what we have should support what we have and not look for the private sector to take the main facilities and change what is on the estate.

9) Correspondence

No issues were raised from the information circulated.

10) Any other Business

It was stated that Blitz would like to speak to the Parish Council at the next meeting — the clerk was asked to put this on the agenda.

11) Date and Venue of next Parish Council Meeting -

The next Parish Council meeting will be on 3 February 2004 at the Leys Linx commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.35pm