

Minutes of the Blackbird Leys Parish Council meeting
Held on Tuesday 6 September 2005 at
The Jack Argent Rooms, Community Centre
Blackbird Leys, commencing at 7.30pm

Present at meeting:

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

Also Present: H Shayler (Clerk), T Kirby (Street Warden) and for part of the meeting Kate Stratford.

1) Apologies for Absence were received from and the Local Police, G Roper (letter of apology received and minuted) R Harris, C Pill and R Humberstone

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

3) Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd August - item 6b had New York Bronx altered to New York Brooklyn and in the same section advance was changed to actual and the amount of £92.50 was inserted. The minutes were then signed as a true record.

4) Police Matters:

Although no police were present, it was agreed that the report and update from the Street Wardens should be within this item. G Roper had submitted a report from the Street Wardens Advisory Group, this was read and submitted to the clerk to be minuted. T Kirby commented that since the PSO had a quicker response by the police, for the Street Wardens this means that with a good line of communication situations can be addressed quicker and that must be good for the estate. It is hoped that the Street Wardens are going to gain more 'powers' but at present it is not known what these are likely to be. B Avery commented that he had received a good feed back from residents with regard to the work carried out by the Street Wardens and generally the programme seemed to be moving forward well. T Kirby was thanked for attending the meeting and keeping the Parish Council updated.

6) Public Discussion

a) K Stratford gave a short report on the 'Blooming Gardens' competition that had been held over the summer months on Blackbird Leys Estate. All winners were to receive their prizes at the Leys Fair. The Parish Council were thanked for the sponsorship of the Gold medal cups - it was very much appreciated. It has been proposed that this competition would be run again next year and it is hoped that the competition (with other events also being run) will encourage residents to look after the local environment.

b) A letter from Tony Sutherland had been circulated relating to concerns about the 'dog muck bins' on the estate. B Avery commented that a letter had been sent to the City Parks Department from which confirmation had been received to say that the bins on the estate would be upgraded. The clerk was asked to write to John Wade to find out what the current situation was with regard to installing the new bins.

5) Matters arising/ Portfolio reports

a) After a short discussion, B Avery proposed that the Parish Council should move forward to look at 'Twinning' the estate with the New York Brooklyn area, 2nd by S Cole and agreed by all present, the clerk was asked to forward all information currently collected to B Avery who would look into the options further.

b) Leys Fair - S Cole reported that the Rodeo crew required a generator and this would be an additional cost of £35.00 to hire. She confirmed that the banner was all in hand. It had been hoped that the Parish Council Newsletter could be produced as a first edition for the Leys Fair but very few articles of interest had been received. With the low numbers of Parish Councillors present at the meeting it was difficult to ascertain who would be available to assist on the day - but it was hoped that it would be an enjoyable day.

c) C Martin commented that the Littlemore Brook still requires clearing. The relevant land owner of each section are not keeping up their responsibilities.

d) C Hatton reported that recent problems reported to the police have had a much quicker than usual response unfortunately 'gangs' meeting in the park are still causing late night noise and dropping rubbish. Due to the

parcs department having difficulty monitoring all exits to the park, motorcycles are still using the area and getting away before anyone is able to catch them. It was commented that the alleyway from Spindleberry to Knights Road was in need of lighting and requires the bushes to be cut back. Mr Mumford at the local housing office had said in the past that this had received the OK to go ahead.

It was stated that the Street Wardens are currently carrying out surveys on the various alleyways on the estate give a 'red, amber, green' to the priority of the work needed

e) B Avery commented that following the article in the Newspaper, but areas that are 'enclosed' have already got new rubbish in them.

f) B Lester stated that the next cleansing meeting was to be held on 20th October, 9.30am in the office - items already on the agenda include Heavy load of buses, dog muck and refuse collection. If anyone requires other topics/issues to be discussed, please let B Lester know.

7) Planning Applications

No objections were raised to the following applications:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
05/01604/FUL	Demolition of garage and outbuildings. Erection of single and two storey extensions to form 1 x3 bed house and 1 x 1 bed house. Provision of 3 Car parking spaces to frontage	AT: 12 Merlin Road

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
05/01707 /FUL	Garage at side	2 Thistle Drive

No objection with the following comments were submitted for

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
05/01524/FUL	Externally illuminated freestanding totem sign to Garsington Road	Oxford Trade Centre, Harrow Road

It was commented that there should be time restrictions on the lighting of this totem - it is only needed when the centre is open - it was suggested that after 8pm and before 7.30am the lighting should be switched off.

d) The following application was objected to due to the reasons stated:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
05/01639/FUL	Demolish side extension. Erect two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.	10 Merlin Road

Concerns were raised over the lack of parking with the proposed extension of the property. It was also stated that if parking was increased, then an official request should be submitted for the kerb to be dropped.

Notification has been received regarding an appeal by Hartwells of Oxford relating to application 04/01052/FUL. The hearing is to be held on 14th February 2006 at the Town Hall.

A notice to refuse application 05/00963/FUL had been received - original proposal was to demolish single storey extension and erect a two-storey extension for use as a 1 bed house with parking space. At 32 Kestrel Crescent.

Notification of Approval had been received for the following applications:

i) Application Number: 05/01198/FUL Proposal: Single Storey Rear Extension. AT: 24 Falcon Close, Oxford

ii) Application Number 05/01338/FUL Proposal: Conversion of Carport to Garage AT: 5 Hornbeam Drive

8) Financial Matters

The following expenses were proposed by S Martin, 2nd by C Hatton and carried with a unanimous vote a) Clerk Salary-£258.90 (b) AOL-£15.99 (c) Telephone Answering Service-£35.25 (d) carphone Warehouse-£55.12 (e) BDO - two years accounts-£350.15 (t) BBLeys Community Assoc.-Room Hire £10.00 (g) K Stratford-trophies sponsorship -£100.00 (h) Hire of Generator-£35.00 (i) refreshments for The 'walkabout' with local councillors to be held on 7th September £12.15

9) Correspondence

i) Disabled Persons Parking - plans had been received to show a new parking bay around the Holy Family Church. The Parish council would like to see the additional parking space being put in the 'other' parking bay by the main entrance of the church and not in the other end of the bay which already has disabled persons parking.

10) Any other Business.

a) Photos were requested for the 'Grot Spot/Hot Spot' competition being held by the Parish Council at the Leys Fair to be handed in or sent to B Lester - as per the memo sent around to members between meetings

b) A letter handed to B Lester stating concerns about prostitutes working on the Leys Estate. B Lester was due to meet with the Police later this week during which he would raise this issue.

c) A proposed letter has handed for the OK in support of the Pathway Workshop - the OK was given for the letter to be sent.

d) A meeting had been requested by Jo for an update on the Community Web Site. The proposed date of 20th October 7.30pm in the Blitz centre was accepted and agreed.

11) Date and Venue of next Parish Council Meeting

As previously agreed there would be no meeting in October, but any relevant papers would be circulated to members for comment and relevant responses to be dealt with. .

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 1st November 2005 at Jack Argent Rooms in the Community Centre.

There being no other business the meeting as closed at 9.45pm.