

Happy New Year to one and all.

7th January 2003

The clerk read a letter from E Clements stating her resignation from the Parish Council. Eileen has served the community for many years. It was proposed by B Lester to send a bouquet of flowers as a 'thank you' for the many years that she had served on the parish council, this was 2nd by B Avery and carried with an unanimous vote.

Police Matters. It was commented by Sgt Redding that generally things were quiet on the estate at present although there is an on going concern for the level of drug usage and there have been some reported instances relating to youths throwing stones at buses – these reports are being dealt with.

A discussion was held relating to problems there were occurring on the estate due to misuse of alleyways on the estate. Many of the pathways are unlit and are used for criminal activities. A petition had been received by the Parish Council for the closure of the alleyways behind and between Pegasus Road and Windale Avenue due to the continued problems that were occurring including drug dealing and burglaries due to the area being very secluded. The petition held by the Parish Council had also be sent to the City Council and Local Councillors and it is understood that John Boyd – Environmental Services County Council – had started procedures to have lights installed in this alley to try and stop the congregation of youths, this in turn will hopefully reduce the level of crime being committed in that area. The clerk was asked to enquire as to the way forward for possible closure of alley ways – it was understood that the main problem will be that they are 'public rights of way' and therefore there is a long procedure to follow that will take time. Sgt Redding offered to provide a list of alleyways that they had produced previously when assessing the estate. He commented that many of the alleyways are used as 'escape routes' and cause problems for the police. The clerk was asked to contact John Mulloy – Crime Prevention officer – and ask his assistance on possible solutions if the alleyways can not be closed. The Parish Council members were asked to survey areas of the estate and bring to the next meeting any places that were felt to be 'trouble spots' due to lack of lighting, blind bends or just currently being misused. The Parish Council would try to arrange a meeting week commencing 20th January to discuss the matter further with the possible attendance of an Oxford Mail representative.

Concerns were raised again relating to the parking along Watlington Road by Bobby Fryer Close and outside the Café. The clerk was asked to write to Control Plus who would be responsible for ticketing any cars parked illegally. Sgt Redding was asked what could be done with vehicles that have no or very old tax discs on display – it was said that if the registration number is reported to the police control room, providing there is a registered owner, the owner should be contacted to rectify the issue quite promptly.

C Martin reported that Littlemore brook was now clear and appeared to be running with no obstructions. Concerns were voiced relating to the proposed vehicle wash that was to be installed when the Bus Company moved to Watlington Road. The clerk was asked to write to the environmental agency to see if they would be involved with the way any soak aways were in to be put in place to ensure that fuel, oil or other substances were not to be washed away to the brooks.

It was stated that there appeared to be some problems now starting with the Northfield Brook – it was commented that maybe the water had been diverted from one to the other? C Martin to see if this could be confirmed.

It was commented that last year the pond along Northfield brook had been cleared out and all the 'sludge' left in a pile long the edge. During the clearance the fish had been killed and the area does not look nice. C. Hatton offered to speak with Estates to try and get the sludge removed – it was commented that it did smell last year and once the weather warms up will probably start to smell again this year.

B Lester commented that all was going well with the computer, but unfortunately in order for him to update the web page an updated version of Microsoft was required on his machine. It was agreed that the amount due to upgrade the software would be added to financial matters later in the meeting. The clerk was asked to send a letter of thanks to Martin Thorne for all his effort and assistance with the getting the web page up and running.

The toilets in Blackbird Leys Road were being financially assessed at present to see if the cost of upkeep and maintenance could be costed into the current budgets. It has been confirmed they are OK to open on the provision that the cleaning costs can be met.

Liaison was still taking place with D Woodhouse relating to the siting of recycling units within the flat areas.

B Avery stated that the long awaited pedestrian crossing over Blackbird Leys Road is to be installed before the end of the current financial year – ie 05 April 2003.

The proposed ideas for the extension of the footpath along Windale Avenue allowing it to continue the other side of the bridge were discussed. B Avery is involved with this item and would keep the Parish Council updated with ideas and solutions. After having plans drawn with a suggested route for a new footpath, the council seem to have gone back to the idea of just following the 'human made' path where people currently walk – discussions will continue. The parish council were happy for this suggestion to be supported to allow people a walkway off the road.

O UFC – It was stated that at last the legal department of the City Council were now involved with getting Mr Kassam to finalise all that should have been done before the stadium was opened.

Planning Matters and Decisions.

The only application received was from the Oxfordshire County Council for the following:

Erection of a single classroom prefabricated building for a temporary period of five years
AT: Pegasus First School, Field Avenue.

There were no objections raised to this application.

The following notices of approval had been received:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
No.: 02/02025/FUL	Single Storey rear extension	7 Sawpit Road
No.: 02/01959/FUL	Single Storey rear Extension, rear dormer in connecting with loft conversion.	24 Columbine Gardens
No.: 02/01904/FUL	Single Storey rear extension	79 Pegasus Road
No.: 02/01601/FUL	Screened Plant Enclosure	Unit 8 Bobby Fryer Cl.
No.: 02/02027/FUL	Erection of single storey nursery buildings for 0-5 year olds associated car parking, play area and landscaping (amended Plan)	City Farm, Dunnocks Way.
No.: 02/01973/CT3	It was deemed that consent was required for the following: Installation of external shutters to shop front:	1 Furlong Close

Oxfordshire County Council – Erection of new fencing to North and West boundaries of Windale First School.

A short discussion was held relating to future payments that may be requested from the Parish Council – it was commented that the City Council were going to be cutting back on some of the grants that are issued to Blackbird Leys organisations so it is possible that the Parish Council will be approached to fill some of this gap. Due to this and the possible costs of projects that the Parish Council are hoping to take on, it was proposed by B Lester that we increased the precept to £20,000 this was 2nd by C Martin and carried with an unanimous vote. The clerk was asked to ensure the precept request was filed on time with the absence of R Curnock at the meeting.

It was commented that many of the issues above were items that could benefit with a meeting with a representative of the Oxford Mail. C Minto stated he would contact R Parveen at the Oxford Mail to arrange a meeting hopefully for the week commencing 20th January to go through the issues raised at this meeting

Members of the public present at the meeting were thanked for attending.

Date and Venue of next Parish Council Meeting -

Tuesday 4th February 2003 at The Shop Front, Blackbird Leys Road

The being no there being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.25pm
