

Minutes of the Blackbird Leys Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 07 March 2006 at
The Jack Argent Rooms, Community Centre
Blackbird Leys, commencing at 7:30pm.

Present at Meeting:

Parish Councillors: B Avery, C Hatton, C Martin, R Humberstone, R Harris, C Pill, G Roper, S Cole and B Lester (Chair)

Also Present: H Shayler (Clerk), PC B Wilkie, PCSO Jacqui Hams, Peter Dobson (Cleansing), Lucy Keale (Cleansing), member of BLAG and for part of the meeting PC Martin and J O'Loughlin (Pathways workshop)

1. Apologies for Absence: None were received for this meeting.

2. Co-option to fill Vacancies: B Avery proposed that Lee Cole be co-opted and it was seconded by C Hatton. There were no objections. The Chair welcomed L Cole back to the Parish Council.

4. Police Matters

Police informed the meeting of arrests being made regarding drugs. They also informed us of an ASBO served last week on a well known drug dealer - there is likelihood that they might have breached the conditions of their ASBO.

The Police are also starting an "on street cautioning" for possession of Class C drugs and on the spot interview goes on record. The next time they are stopped and searched they will be arrested.

PC Willkie told the meeting that the police are trying to get out and about as much as possible and it is improving the estate.

PCSO's now have the use of Police bikes.

B Avery complained of a youth riding around Sawpit Road, Ashmole Place, etc on a moped with no helmet.

4. Public Discussions

a) Due to a meeting regarding traffic of the Music concert being held later in March J Angus had contacted the clerk to inform the Parish Council that there was little or no information currently available and he would therefore not be attending this meeting but would be happy to attend April, May and June meetings if required.

b) P Dobson and L Keale from Oxford City Council Cleansing were introduced to the Parish Council and gave us a talk on the proposed recycling changes for Oxford and the introduction of wheelie bins.

G Roper aired his concerns regarding properties with no back entrance and the fact that the bins will not look good stored in front of kitchen windows. The wheelie bins will be filled up and then black sacks will be stacked by the side of the bins.

L Cole commented that he felt sure people would rather see wheelie bins in every garden, than black sacks. .

B Avery commented that there will be people who will complain, but we need to go forward with this scheme. The Parish Council should support it.

C Pill raised concerns regarding food waste in the summer months and the smell - P Dobson replied that if the food is wrapped properly then there will not be a problem, it is a case of educating the public on who to use the recycling as well as encouraging them to use it in the first place.

R Humberstone commented that once the scheme gets going everyone will realise the benefits. Both P Dobson and L Keale commented that they would be happy to return to a further meeting to provide and take updates on how things progress.

c) J O'Loughlin from Pathway Workshop was introduced to the Parish Council- she was present to answer any questions relating to the grant application that had been submitted relating to on going funding assistance required. It was confirmed that the Parish Council do not issue grant applications towards salaries - J O'Loughlin stated that there are many areas of funding- that are required in order for the Workshops to keep going. A short discussion was held regarding current requirements for the Oxford City Council to continue its funding - but it was confirmed that a 3 year business plan has now been raised and agreed for funding to proceed. It was commented that now that the City Council funds were in place and the workshop could move forward, the general financial position of the organisation should improve during the next 12 months.

The Chair thanked J O'Loughlin for attending the meeting and informed her that a final decision would be made later in the meeting and she would be informed of the outcome.

d) A member of the Blackbird Leys Community Centre Club who had initiated the sculpture 'Glow Tree' due to be erected outside the Community Centre was present and gave a short talk on the reasons behind the project. Generally it was agreed that being something different but very positive it should lift comments about the way in which the estate looks upon entering it from Barns Road area and was met with approval and it was hoped the scheme would be a success.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on February 7th 2006 were read. L Cole stated that the following changes needed to be made; (4) KNACKT should read CANAct and it is Inspector A Talbot not PC Talbot (10) sentence should read with 'during the meeting it was agreed' not 'during the meeting I was agree'

After these alterations, the minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising

a) B Lester made a statement to the Parish Council raising concerns of the local 'Image' of the Parish Council by comments that had been made to him from various local residents. He asked that if anyone on the Parish Council was aware of who was making these remarks or the issues being related to that they bring them to the Parish Council meetings for discussion so that items can be resolved. B Avery commented that some of the remarks that had been heard were a slur on his name and he was not happy at this situation - the Parish Council has achieved a lot during the past 4-5 years and at times that has meant 'treading on toes' to get things done, but the Parish Council is there to work for the estate and that is what it must be seen to be doing.

L Cole commented that the way in which Sawpit Lane had been discussed at the previous meeting was unfair to those who had put a lot of time and effort into trying to sort out the problems in that area and that the Parish Council must work together in order to achieve its' goals. He supported both B Lester and B Avery in all the work that they done for the Parish Council and likewise will, and does, support many other residents on the estate when asked, and if able, to get involved with local issues and concerns.

b) Brooklyn Twinning - B Avery commented that he had written to the New York Mayor and was awaiting a response.

7. Planning Applications & Decisions

No objections were raised to the following applications:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
06/00218/FUL	Erection of Stainless sculpture (Glow Tree)	Blackbird Leys Community Centre
APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
06/00235/FUL	Replacement Windows	Cherwell Housing Group
APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
06/00237/FUL	Replacement Windows	Cherwell Housing Group)

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
06/00344/CT3	Erection of freestanding toilet and cess pit	Allotment Gardens, Kestrel Cres

Objections with concerns of traffic were raised against the following application:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
06/00337/FUL	Demolition of existing structure on site. Erection of 1100sq.m of Class B2 (general Industrial use) and 1100sq.m of Class B8 (Warehouse and Distribution) on 2 floors in 7 units of accommodation. Provision of 39 car parking spaces, 14 cycle spaces and associated landscaping and external works	Land to the rear of the Bungalow, Watlington Road DW Contractors

8. Financial Matters:

The following expenses were proposed by C 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-£51.66 (e) Halsoft (domain Name) - £9.99 (f) Isis Office Stationery £98.77 (g) Pathway Workshop Grant application. After a short discussion B Avery proposed that the Parish Council pay the rates again this year for the Pathway group, this was 2nd by G Roper and carried with a unanimous vote.

Correspondence had been received from Barn Youth Project enquiring if they could alter the items that we had agreed to give a grant for. The reason being that a table tennis table has been donated to them and they would like to spend the money on other items. It was agreed by the parish council that as long as the items are listed and are for improvement to the project then the items initially requested could be changed without any problems. G Roper stated that he was hoping to attend one of the meetings to confirm security of items to clarify if the Parish Council would release further funding for the more expensive items that had been requested on their grant application. B Avery and S Cole also hoped to attend the meeting.

Community Safety Fund: The chair asked the clerk to confirm the allocated funds available in this fund was £10,000. It was stated that some money had been spent in the past year and so the balance had reduced - the question was discussed as to whether the fund should be 'topped up' back to the £10,000 each year? B Avery proposed that the amount of £10,000 should be available each year for Community Safety projects, this was 2nd by G Roper and carried with a unanimous vote.

9. Correspondence

a) The main forms for the Parish Council election have yet to arrive - but they have been requested to go straight to the chair at his home address, he will hand deliver them as soon as they arrive - if anyone has any questions or queries relating to these forms then they were asked to contact the clerk or the Legal department at Oxford City Council for clarification.

10. Any other Business

a) Falcon Close - C Pill commented that a disabled person had no dropped kerb access to their property in Falcon Close, and there were no dropped kerbs along Cuddesdon way opposite the Bullnose making it difficult for wheelchairs to cross the road in that area. B Lester offered to discuss these issues with S Hatton at City Works to see what could be done.

b) Balfour Road Parking - C Pill asked if there could be a restriction of time for vehicles parking outside the Balfour Road shops. Currently cars will park there all day with very little or no use of any of the shops. It was realised that any restriction would also apply to the shop keepers, but a suggested time limit of 30 or 60 minutes was put forward. B Lester offered to speak with F Lepage at the next Area Committee meeting to find out how such restrictions can be introduced.

c) For information - following recent discussion, it was hoped that 4 or 5 lights would soon be installed across Blackbirds Leys Park. Planning should be submitted soon

d) B Lester showed the design for Badges that were to be ordered for the clean up campaign hoping to be held 17-19 March. Local schools were to get involved. All were happy with the design and 100 badges were agreed to be ordered

e) Yellow Lines had been put down outside the shops along Blackbird Leys Road as a 'temporary' measure. It was suggested that now they are down they should stay down!

f) B Lester reported that South Oxfordshire District Council had refused the antenna for mobile phones which had been requested locally.

g) Leys Fair - it was asked who would be available and willing to assist with this event this year should the Parish Council take on a stand/commitment. Although an initial good response members were asked to check availability for the date- Saturday 9th September, and confirm next month

h) It was asked if a crossing would be put in place around Cuddesdon Corner - it was commented that funding for the current year would not allow it. The clerk was asked to check what information had been previously received relating to the implementation of crossings on the estate.

i) Members were informed of the Leys Residents Association AGM due to be held on March 14th 6.30 - 8pm at The Clockhouse

11. Date of Next Meeting: The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday April 4th, commencing at 7.30. This will be followed by a Parish Council meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.22pm