

Tuesday 9th May

Present at Meeting:

Parish Councillors: B Avery, C Hatton, C Martin, G Roper and B Lester (Chair)

Also Present: S Cole, L Cole J Rooney-Shepherds Hill Pre-school and H Shayler (Clerk). For part of the meeting P Walters-Homestart and J Angus-Kassam Stadium

1. Apologies for Absence: were received from the PSCO Officers
2. Election of Chair: G Roper proposed B Lester to take another year as Chair, 2 nd by C Martin this was carried with a unanimous vote – B Lester accepted the position.
3. Election of Vice Chair: C Martin proposed B Avery to take another year as Vice Chair, 2 nd by C Hatton this was carried with a unanimous vote – B Avery accepted the position
4. Election of Treasurer: G Roper proposed S Cole to continue as Treasurer, 2 nd by C Martin this was carried with a unanimous vote – S Cole accepted the position
5. Co-option to fill vacancies – C Martin proposed L Cole to be co-opted to the Parish Council, 2 nd by B Avery this was carried with a unanimous vote

S Cole also stood for Co-option, the clerk commented that as S Cole had offered to carry out the clerk's job whilst on maternity it needed to be clarified that a Parish Councillor could be in a paid position as well or not – the clerk was asked to clarify the position for the next meeting.

6. Appointment of Portfolios: The following portfolios were allocated and accepted by each member of the Parish Council – the portfolios are for a member of the Parish Council to be come associated with a particular area of concern allowing a report to be built up with relevant city/county councillors holding information gathered by all members and local residents. It was also stated that information being gathered/topics being dealt with should be reported back to the clerk so they can be noted, circulated and, if necessary, placed onto the agenda for discussion

Cleansing: B Avery

NAT / Street Wardens: G Roper

Streams: C Martin

Spindleberry Park : C Hatton

7. Minutes of the meeting held on April 4th – The date on the minutes were changed accordingly and then signed as a true record

8. Police Matters

None were raised at this meeting

9. Matters Arising:

a) G Roper commented that he had been unable to attend the last NAT Meeting but would be attending one this week and would report back to the next Parish Council meeting. It was commented that the last Street Wardens meeting was held in November and it is hoped that these will be re-instated. G Roper would contact J Holmes to find out what the current position is.

b) C Hatton asked J Angus who was responsible for the landscaping at Spindleberry Park – J Angus stated he would ask someone to call and discuss.

c) C Martin commented that the Streams had been down graded by the Environment Agency – it was asked if some one from the agency could attend the next meeting to discuss why.

d) B Lester and B Avery commented that the clean up campaign had received a successful start with certificates handed out to the schools that took place – all the children who attended were very enthusiastic. Little media coverage, by the Oxford Mail did report on the event and it is hoped that the children will continue to be aware keeping the area cleaner. If anyone finds an area that needs to be ‘tidied’ then contact B Avery and he will arrange clearance.

6. Public Discussions

a) J Angus gave an update on the Fair that was currently setting up at the Kassam Stadium, concerns had been raised by some residents over the noise levels, it was confirmed that the Fair would be closed by 9pm each evening. The Parish Council were invited to a ‘preview’ of the Fair on Friday 4pm to meeting the organisers and go through any other concerns raised. A telephone number would be given at this meeting for which any complaints received and be reported. Anyone interested in attending the meeting on Friday should let J Angus know and all were welcome.

J Angus also gave an update on the Elton John concert. The licence, if granted, was due to be given in the next 10 days. It is being published where public transport will be running from with all ticket sales being sent information regarding where designated parking areas away from the stadium will be along with bus shuttle services. Approximately 14 thousand tickets have been sold at present with a capacity of 23 thousand available. G Roper asked if OUFC benefit in any way from the concert, it was stated that fees from various aspects of the event would be passed to the club. Noise assessments would be carried out before the concert to ensure levels were acceptable and the parking restrictions should be in place on the estate.

J Angus was thanked for attending the meeting and updating the Parish Council on the current positions of both events.

b) Pauline Walters was introduced from Home Start to give a brief talk on the way in which the Home Start charity helps local people. Although it is a national charity, local groups assist local families with children under 5 with many areas of everyday

life. The type of items that may be required are car seats to enable volunteers to take single parents with their child to carry out a simple task as the weekly shopping, for reference books to allow knowledge to be gained with assistance to children who may have behaviour problems or disabilities, simple safety equipment such as stair gates, high chairs etc. Any equipment given to families or books given to volunteers are recorded and returned when finished with.

Families are notified of the Home Start Charity by preschool social security referral forms.

P Walters was thanked for attending the meeting and giving information regarding the charity, she was informed that a letter would be sent informing her of the Parish Council decision regarding the grant application that had been received.

c) Jo Rooney was introduced from the Shepherds Hill Pre-school to give details supporting their recent grant application. J Rooney reported that the Shepherds Hill Pre-school were to be re-located to the Windale Primary School site – all items that were currently owed by the pre-school would be transferred to the new site. The idea behind the move is to help the children integrate easier when changing schools. The grant application is for outdoor play items – if approved then any items purchased will more with the pre-school to the new location.

L Cole asked if the Pre-school would remain independent from the Primary School – J Rooney replied that yes, it would be. J Rooney was thanked for attending the meeting.

7. Planning Applications & Decisions

No objections were raised to the following applications:

a) Application No.: 06/00765/FUL

Proposal: First floor extension (Variation to permission 05/01753/FUL)

AT: 30 Linnett Close

b) Application No.: 06/00739/ADV

Proposal: Retention of externally illuminated signs to east elevations

AT: Unit 3, Oxford Trade Centre, Harrow Road

c) Proposed Vodafone installation on Highways land to the South of Garsington Road. Oxford

As this location was away from direct residential properties, the Parish Council had no objection to the placement of it.

The following notice of approvals were given:

a) Application No.: 06/00036/FUL

Proposal: Change of use from Class B8 (Storage & Distribution) to builders' merchants. Alterations to external storage, servicing and parking areas to provide 49 car parking spaces including 2 for disabled use. Alterations to elevations to existing building including new entrance (Amended plans)

AT: Oxford 40 Warehouse, 1 Bobby Fryer Close.

b) Application No.: 06/00302/FUL

Proposal: Conversion of car port to Garage

AT: Carport 3, Hornbeam Drive.

c) Application No.: 06/00084/CT4

Proposal: Erection of Community Notice Board

AT: Blackbird Leys Local Housing Office, Cuddesdon Way.

d) Application No.: 06/00260/FUL

Proposal: Retention of shop front with fascia sign box and variation to conditions 2 of planning permission 98/01452/NF, to allow for the sale of hot food to be consumed off the premises, and 3 of planning permission 95/00771/NF to allow the premises to operate between 07.00-23.00 hrs

AT: 110 Blackbird Leys Road

e) Application No.: 06/00092/ADV

Proposal: 2 Internally illuminated fascia signs

AT: Dunnock Way Medical Centre.

f) Application No.: 06/00035/FUL

Proposal: Change of use from house to 2 flats. Parking for 2 cars on frontage.

AT: 189 Field Avenue.

8. Financial Matters:

The following expenses were proposed by C Hatton, 2nd by C Martin and carried with a unanimous vote: a) Clerk Salary-£258.90 (b) AOL-£15.99 (c) Telephone Answering Service-£35.25 (d) Carphone Warehouse-£54.00 (e) Postage/Photocopying £99.11 (f) Isis Office Stationery £26.16, (g) Haisoft Ltd, domain name, £49.90 (h) BBLeys Community Assoc. £20.00 (i) British Telecom £38.70 (j) Oxford City Council, office rent, £250.00 (k) SMJ – Grant release

Moorbank Pre-school £330.00 (1)BBLeys Neighbourhood Support Scheme – Grant release, £2000.00.

Grant applications:

A) Shepherds Hill Preschool – C Hatton proposed the full grant of £399.99 to be awarded, 2nd by B Avery this was carried with a unanimous vote.

B) Thames Valley Police PSCO Bike application – was discussed. It was agreed that bikes would remain the property of the Parish Council with the upkeep being undertaken by Thames Valley Police. G Roper proposed up to the amount of £1000. should be awarded 2nd by C Hatton this was agreed unanimously.

C) Home Start – L Cole proposed that the full grant of £1000. be made available for the organisation to draw on as requirements arose, 2nd by B Avery this was carried with an unanimous vote.

D) Dovecote voluntary Parent Committee – after a short discussion, B Avery proposed £1500.00 to be awarded on this grant, 2nd by G Roper this was carried with an unanimous vote.

E) The Leys CDI – following discussions relating this to the previous application B Avery proposed £1500.00 to be awarded on this grant, 2nd by G Roper this was carried with an unanimous vote.

The Parish Council were informed that a refund of VAT had been received for the amount of £347.74 and the first half of the precept had been received in the amount of £10,000.00

The accounts for the year ending March 2006 which had been submitted to the Annual Parish Meeting were circulated and agreed by the Parish Council for submission to the Auditors.

9. Correspondence

c) BMW – Strong objections were raised to the closure of Bridleway 75 and Roman Way. This is still a well used pathway and it keeps pedestrians away from the main road – a much safer option.

g) A letter from the Agnes Smith Centre had been received informing the Parish Council that they were deciding not to take a full Audit of their accounts in order to reduce costs. It was clear the accounts would still be checked over as there are charity regulations that still need to be adhered to. The Parish Council accepted that costs should be kept sensible and saw no problems with the change in policy.

10. Any other Business

A letter of resignation had been received from C Pill.

It was stated by the clerk that if any future issues were raised between Parish Councillors then the matter must be brought to a meeting in order for second hand comments and gossip was faced head on with all having the opportunity to respond allowing situations not to get out of hand.

b) A complaint had been received via the City Council with regard to the welcome to Blackbird Leys Signs which had been erected. The clerk was asked to find out the position of this complaint so that the Parish Council could respond accordingly.

c) B Lester asked for permission to purchase software which would enable the printing of certificates & flyers easily by the Parish Council – this was agreed and the cost would be placed on next months agenda.

d) L Cole, as City Councillor, had been interviewed by 5 news regarding anti-social behaviour with UK having the worst reputation in Europe. It was not negative towards Blackbird Leys

11. Date next meeting: The next meeting will be on June 6th at the Jack Argent Rooms commencing at 7.30pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm