

Minutes of the Blackbird Leys Parish Council
Tuesday 11th January 2005
Blackbird Leys Road, commencing at 7.30pm

Present at meeting:

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

Also Present: H Shayler (Clerk), L Cole (City Councillor) and for part of the meeting PC Davies and PC Morris, M Mumford (Local Housing officer) & Bonita Bridges (Outreach Renewal Worker)

1) Apologies for Absence were received from Street Wardens.

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

4) Police Matters: Several issues were discussed with the police regarding issues on the estate. There were thanked for attending the meeting and providing answers to items raised

6) Public Discussion: B Bridges was introduced to the Parish Council. She informed the Parish Council of free courses currently being run for residents of Blackbird Leys with the aim to develop skills and knowledge to help residents lead and sustain action for community improvements. Information was handed out which included contact details for anyone interested in finding out more. Martyn Mumford was introduced to the Parish Council and discussions were held relating to the following issues: Clearing/lighting of alleyways and passage ways on the estate to assist with the combat of rubbish dumping, drug dealing and general safety of residents. Many issues were discussed relating to items that have been raised by the Parish Council several times in the past. All alleyways are being assessed as high, medium or low risk areas to allow future programmed planning for possible works to be carried out.

An issue was raised relating to a local shop lease - it was stated that due to the legal nature of this the Parish Council would not be able to get involved. G Pill declared an interest in the issue and it was asked that when attending any forthcoming meetings regarding this issue he would not be able to give any comments on behalf of the Parish Council.

Garages behind the shops on Blackbird Leys Road are to be metal boarded then the area cleared. After a previous clearance of the rubbish in the area the garages had not be successfully boarded which had lead to further rubbish and damage in the area.

A few individual properties with outstanding issues were raised, including the removal of graffiti from Council properties.

3) Minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2004: There were several errors in the minutes that were circulated to the members. A revised copy of the minutes were submitted to the meeting for approval. B Avery commented that he had not proposed R Harris for co-option, other members around the table could not recall the correct co-option proposal. Although it was agreed that all was done correctly at the time, it was also agreed that a new proposal should be taken - C Martin proposed to confirm the co-option, this was 2nd by R Humberstone and carried with a unanimous vote. The clerk was asked to clarify at the next meeting what had happened at the previous meeting.

The new proposed minutes were then signed as a true record.

5) Matters arising from 7th December meeting:

- a) No further details had been received regarding the painting of yellow lines
- b) Community Web Page - the clerk informed the Parish Council that there are several issues that need to be discussed before going ahead with a commitment. The main issue being that if a Parish Council are seen to be the 'main' body to be dealing with the site, then other fund raising may be difficult to obtain. It was agreed that the clerk should speak further with the OALC (Oxford Association
- c) B. Lester attended the open day at Kingfisher Green and reported that it was a successful event
- d) It was asked if a member of the Parish Council would be available to become this years representative at the Leys Fair - to attend meetings and arrange an 'event' on the day.
- e) S Cole hoped to bring in a 'mock-up' of the proposed Parish Council newsletter to the next meeting.

7) **Planning Applications**

No Objections were raised to the following application:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
04/0237 5/FUL	Change of use from 4 flats to 2 x 4 bed houses	1 to 4 Thrift Place

8) **Financial Matters**

The following expenses were proposed by G Roper, 2nd by R Humberstone and agreed with an unanimous vote: a) Clerk Salary - £258.90 (b) AOL - £15.99 (c) Telephone answering - £35.25:, (d) Ox City Council- Office Rent £250.00 (e) British Telecom - Office phone £47.61 (f) Postage £26.60 (g) 'Thank you' Donation to Scouts - £50.00 .

B Lester informed the Parish Council that a quote had been received to install electrical points to the office and change the light fittings at a cost of £80.00 B Avery proposed that this quote be accepted and the work instructed, 2nd by R Humberstone this was carried with an unanimous vote

The budget for 2005/6 was circulated and a short discussion was held regarding the 2005/6 precept. It was proposed by B Avery that the current precept of £20,000. remain for a further year, C Hatton 2nd this and it was agreed with an unanimous vote.

The clerk commented that there had been problems with the Account currently held by the Parish Council regarding the changing of signatories and general conduct of the account. It was proposed by B Avery that the clerk should look around to see what other options would be open, this was 2nd by G Roper and carried with an unanimous vote.

B Lester circulated information regarding the installation of lights in Cuddesdon Park. It was suggested that the area committee be approached to support the programme and ensure that the on going maintenance of the lights could be carried out by the City Council. B Lester would follow this up. The clerk reported difficulty in finding a suitable mobile phone for the chair - C Pill offered to provide information regarding his wife's contract which was £15.00 per month, after receiving this the clerk would continue to source a new phone.

9) **Correspondence**

In addition to the correspondence circulated

- a) The OALC are holding a course for Clerks and Councillors and it was agreed that the Clerk and Chair should attend this meeting
- b) A copy of the Leys news was available
- c) Casualty Report and Road Safety Plan 2004/5 was available
- d)

10) **Any other Business**

- a) A concern was raised regarding the parking on grass verges around the local college. B Lester offered to write asking for the situation could be rectified.
- b) A meeting is to be held on 24th February 7.30pm relating to Regeneration Arc - a group deciding on what is best for the estate. B Lester would like to see representation from the Parish Council for valuable input. Further details would be given at the next meeting
- c) G Roper reported that the last Wardens meeting had been cancelled, with no notice given to him, and a date for the next meeting was yet to be arranged.
- d) G Roper put forward his apologies for not being able to attend the next meeting due to being away.

14) **Date and Venue of next Parish Council Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 1st February 2005 at The Leys Linx, Blackbird Leys Road

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 09.15pm.

1. ""