

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
Held on Tuesday 1st April 2003
At the Leys Linx Offices, Blackbird Leys Road.

Present:

C Hatton, C Martin, B Avery, B Lester, L Cole, L Booker, J Lacey, C Minto (Parish Council Chair),

Three local Beat Officers, R Parveen (Oxford Mail representative), H Shayler (Parish Clerk), M Florey (City Councillor), B Willis (Leys News representative).

Apologies for absence were received from Sgt. Redding, P Stannard and S Craft.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2002 were signed as a true record.

2. Report from the Blackbird Leys Parish Council: The Chair to the Parish Council Mr Cohn Minto put forward the following report:

The Parish Council this year have seen new faces join and with the introduction of portfolios for each Council member much is being successfully completed. A meeting was held at the Kassam Stadium with Mr Kassam available for part of the time. Unfortunately many of our questions at that time were unanswered, but it is hoped that things will improve with completion of more works and the awaited traffic scheme — an issue still causing concerns for many on the estate. The Web page is now up and running, thanks to B Lester for that. The page is regularly updated with information and I have not doubt it will prove to be very useful. Tipping and dumping of rubbish is still a problem around the estate and in local streams, but within the portfolio structure City Councillors are starting to take note of the Parish Council and the situation is starting to improve.

The police have been involved with many issues on the estate and, despite many changes within their time structures, are now attending most Parish Council allowing information to be passed on and hopefully this liaison will continue in the future.

Some grants were issued during the year to support groups on the estate. And finally a thank you to all those on the Parish Council who have worked hard at raising its profile and continually liaising with the City and County Council which will intern improve the estate that we live on.

3. Statement of the Parish Council accounts for the year ending 31 March 2003. With no treasurer present from the Parish Council the clerk circulated copies of the Income and Expenditure account for the period 01.04.02—31.03.03. Not many changes from last year, the introduction of the telephone answering service has increased the costs for Administration but this has proved to be a valuable service. Still the parish Council are looking for offices.

No questions were raised on the accounts. The clerk was asked to write and thank R Curnock for his work during the past year as treasurer to the parish council.

4/5. Reports from City / County Councillors.

A report was received from Councillors and both are attached for submission with the minutes. There was also a discussion held relating to the problems still occurring from the new Stadium and the 106 agreement. It was reported that the County council were still awaiting a Government response relating to the residents parking scheme and much was being done to ensure other aspects of the agreement were being met.

It was commented that the public toilets in Knights Road should re-open in the next financial year and a new children's playground would be opened next week.

6. Report from Local Police

The police thanked the estate as a whole for the partnership that has developed during the past months allowing information to be gathered which has led to warrants. Crime in general is down 3%. A new proactive team are now up and running in the area, they are targeting specific areas and there is a lot of good work currently going on which is leading to warrants regularly issued successfully. The estate now has 5 beat officers plus a Sergeant.

There are still problems were travellers in the area but a new 'travellers manager' has been appointed to coordinate in the area — Inps. Jeff Robinson who can be contacted on 01993814079. A good liaison is now in place between the street wardens and the police with is again assisting with many issues on the estate. There are still problem areas, but with information being passed around, it is hoped that these will be tackled in the near future.

Both C Hatton and J Lacey thanked the police for quick responses on recent calls that had been made.

7. Leys Fair Report: B Willis reported on a successful fair last year with a day that was enjoyed by all. It was estimated that 4000 people attended the event with 30 stalls present. This years event will be held on 14 September. J Lacey offered to represent the Parish Council at meetings and it was hoped that the Parish Council would attend this year's event.

8. Leys News s Report

Al Cane reported that the Leys News was going well and would appreciate more input from the Parish Council. He reported that he will be stepping down as Editor and although currently his successor is unknown but is confident that the paper will continue its current high standard. A concern was raised by C Minto relating to the fact that an article had recently been published that made some serious accusations about the Parish Council — the Parish Council had not had the opportunity to put a response in or prove the statement to be a slanderous statement. There was a short discussion held on this. It was agreed that an apology would be printed in the next paper giving the Parish Council the opportunity to respond.

9. Any other Business

a) B Willis reported that the Summer Project had again been a great success with approximately 100 children attending. The Parish Council were thanked for their support on this project.

b) Concerns over the conduct of Area Committee meetings were raised — this is currently being looked at. The meetings are new and as time progresses things should improve.

The Chair thanked all those in attendance for coming to the meeting and wished everyone good luck in their relevant work on the estate during the next 12 months.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

Councillors' reports

30 March 2003

Councillors report to Blackbird Leys Parish Meeting April 2003

During the year the Labour County and City councillors have continued to represent all the residents of Blackbird and Greater Leys and to work with many of the schools, voluntary groups, and businesses on the estates. With the tight budgets of the city and county we have not been able to do all we wanted, but by working with the Parish Council, Government departments, Housing associations, Police, N.H.S. and many groups on the estate including Leys Residents Association, and Tenants Forum, progress has been made on litter clearing, crime and drug dealing, road and footpath repairs, pedestrian crossings, abandoned

cars, antisocial behaviour, new health centre, and improving the community centre.

The councillors have also worked countywide on better bus services, care for the elderly, and schools, and citywide on affordable housing, help for disabled people, and in keeping city tax rises down to 4 % while getting the books to balance.

As individual councillors we have helped in the running of all sorts of groups on the estates, including the adventure playground, Leys News, the community centre, tenants and residents groups, and by being school governors.

In the next year we expect the need for voluntary help to increase as the councils will not have the staff or money to do everything themselves.

M.Florey

B.Gatehouse

V.Smith

P.Stannard

PARISH COUNCIL A.G.M

Unlike many other political parties, the IWCA does not feel it necessary to attend every available formal function; we feel that our hard work both on the ground and our bi-monthly issues of the Leys In dependent speaks walls of sound. We are still running our travel club, which has gathered a good group of regular travellers, and we continue to give our support to the children c cinema, which had over 30 children in attendance at the last showing.

Since our election victory we have continued to focus on main topics of a local nature, two examples being the local drugs issues & the campaign to keep bridleway 75 open, which has gathered much local, and even local Labour councillors support. In fact all of our effort has been rewarded with much support both locally and further a field.

As well as our newsletter, updates of our current affairs can be found on line at www.bliwca@fsnet.co.uk