

Annual Parish Meeting  
4th April 2006

Present:

Parish Councillors: B.Lester (Parish Council Chair) R Avery, S Cole, L Cole(also City Councillor) C Martin, Gordon Roper and C Hatton along with H Shayler (Parish Council Clerk), C Roberts (City Councillor), M Wilkinson (Oxford & County Newspapers), V Smith (County Councillor) A Smith MP, 4 local residents, Local Police Support Officers and Street Wardens.

Apologies for absence - None were received for this meeting

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 2005 were signed as a true record.
2. Report from the Blackbird Leys Parish Council: The Chair of the Parish Council, Mr Brian Lester put forward a report that was read and minuted.
3. Statement of the Parish Council Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2006. Treasurer S Cole reported all invoices and expenses listed with comments of the telephone bill increase due to the office now having its own line with internet access along with the computer expenses increase due to software required and updates in general. All other expenses stayed approximately the same. Cllr. Roberts commented that there was a large amount of money on deposit with the Parish Council- it was stated by the Treasurer that there were several schemes / grants in place for which money had been allocated but which had yet to be claimed. No further issues were raised on the accounts.

Before the local councillor reports were given, A Smith MP was welcomed to the meeting and gave a report: The Parish Council were thanked for the work they were doing. He commented that it was important for the estate to have representation in getting work done at a local level to secure a clean, safe, secure local environment working together with all political parties and the PSCOs (who have been welcomed on the estate) to make a community to be proud of.

4. Report from City Councillors  
Councillor C Roberts reported concerns on paying for parking which has been proposed for the estate. She also commented on garages being pulled down at Windrush Tower and the City Council trying to get a Tenants Association into each Tower.  
A concern that residents did not know when and where meetings of the Parish Council were to be held was raised give concern to estate organisations being able to request grants.  
Councillor L Cole reported he took part in the Pathway Workshop Fun Run last May to raise funds and hoped to be participating again this year with his wife. He is actively involved with the housing office assisting with anti-social behaviour issues that arise on the estate and was involved with ongoing campaigns with CanACT and the local Police. He had also been attending meetings relating to the Community Centre Bar. Also involved with the project of drying areas by Field Avenue maisonette being turned into a play area - all were very pleased with the outcome of the transformation.

5. Report from the County Councillors -Councillor V Smith put forward a report which was read and minuted.
6. Report from Local Police: It was reported that the last 6 months had been exciting times with Good results from NAT. the main priority being drugs. The PCSO's have been a good resource with many ASBO's and arrests coming from information passed to them from residents on the estate. The PCSO' had now had their bikes for approximately 1 year and they had proved to be very useful.  
The Parish Council were thanked for their assistance and support through the year.

7. Reports from Local Organisations: were read and minuted from:

Shepherds Hill Pre-School  
Agnes Smith Advice Centre  
The Church of the Holy Family.

Present at the meeting was Jenny O'Loughlin from the Pathway Workshop who thanked the Parish Council for their financial support during difficult periods. She reported that 75% of employees were from the estate and that many had disabilities and the Workshop gave them the opportunity to work. They had £13k of sales in March and the years sales were up 26%. They had launched an E bay site to sell compost bins and will be setting up a shop to sell across the county as they and good for making money. The situation of the barn is going forward slowly. Another Fun Run is to be held in May and 4 employees from BMW were arranging a sponsored to 'climb to Everest base camp' to raise funds for the Pathway. The Oxford Mail were thanked for reporting on these and other positive items.

Val Churchill responsible for 10 Tenants & Residents Associations reported that they are trying to get tenants and leaseholders to work together to form their own committees but finding it difficult to advertise to get people involved - hoping to start with small groups which will grow to enable groups to work together without exclusion being felt by anyone on the estate. She commented that the Oxford Credit Union recently launched was now fully open.

The Chair thanked also for attending the meeting with reports and for the reports that had been submitted by those unable to attend, it was good to see many people from different areas of the estate in one meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.25pm