

**Minutes of the Blackbird Leys Parish Council Meeting**  
**Held on Tuesday 25 March 2008 at the Jack Argent Rooms, Community Centre**  
**Blackbird Leys, commencing at 7pm**

**Present – Parish Councillors:** R Morlin, R Humberstone (arrived at 7.15pm), G Webb, S Fitzsimons, C Martin, C Hatton D Johnston, P Stannard, M Booker and G Roper (Chair)

**Public** – Ms S Smith, B Lester & Ms D Law

**Police** – WPC & 3 PCSO's for first 10 minutes

**In attendance** – Sue Lee (Acting Clerk)

**1. Apologies for absence** were received and accepted from Cllrs C Roberts & V Smith.

The Chair advised that Cllr Roberts's husband had passed away – condolences were given – Clerk to send a card from the Parish Council. **Action: Clerk**

**2. Minutes of the meeting from 26 February 2008:** The following amendments were made – R. Elliott was present at the last meeting representing the Adventure Playground not A Quammie 6 Planning Applications – 'appeased' was changed to 'appealed' It was proposed that the amended minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting by P Stannard and seconded by R Morlin with unanimous agreement.

**3 Matters arising:**

- S Fitzsimons offered her thanks for the prompt erection of the disabled access signs on Knights Rd.
- The Chair advised it was too early to comment on the plans for the Garden of Remembrance.
- Chair will ask Planning officer if he can attend the May meeting to discuss planning issues with the PC. **Action: Chair**

**4. Police/PCSO's/Street Wardens**

- WPC & 3 new PCSO's – Richard, Kate & Kate attended the meeting.
- The team for the area was now up to full strength of 6.
- The previous 2 PCSO's have moved on to become WPC's.
- Increased police presence was requested at several spots on the estate for possible drug dealing. The police are currently photographing all the graffiti on the estate and arranging with the City Council for its removal and trying to ascertain the graffiti artists responsible.
- They advised that several untaxed cars on the estate have been clamped by the DVLA.
- They were asked to check cars parking on Merlin Rd as it was felt the manner of parking was causing an obstruction – diagonally onto the road.

The Police left the meeting.

A discussion on the Community Police awards followed and there was unanimous agreement to recommend WPC Simone O'Donnell for her work beyond the call of duty and in training the team to reflect her values and commitment. Clerk to forward the form to TVP. **Action: Clerk**

**5. Public discussion**

- Mr Lester expressed concern re the proposal to build on the green belt in the new draft core strategy. He felt a Parish Poll would be helpful in finding out local feeling on development. He agreed that housing was needed but it was important it was placed in appropriate locations.
- P Stannard advised that the plans in the core strategy were up to 2026 and any development of Grenoble Rd would be in the future. He felt the local community should be

more concerned with the plans to redevelop the centre of Blackbird Leys as he felt this would have increased demands on the infrastructure and that the existing road network would be unable to cope with the increase in traffic. With the redevelopment of the college and the building of new properties there was concern re the effects on Cuddesdon Way. The local County & City Councillors were asked to keep a watch on all these local events and feed back information to the Parish Council.

- G Webb expressed concern re the development of the Grenoble Rd site due to proximity to pylons etc and suggested that more research should be carried out into their effect on health, etc before a housing development was placed beneath them.
- B Lester also raised concerns re the proposal to site 2 wind turbines on the estate and again suggested a parish poll to ascertain local feeling may be appropriate.
- D Johnston raised concerns re BMX bikers making holes in Spindleberry Woods which walkers may fall into – Chair to pass this information on to the park ranger for inspection.

**Action: Chair**

- D Law asked for the Parish Council's feelings on the demolition of the shopping centre – she was advised that the work was in Cowley and not in this parish.

**Website** – It was proposed by S Fitzsimons and seconded by D Johnston with unanimous agreement to:

- alter the news link to minutes of last meeting
- retain the current design of the pages
- pay £61 for the hosting package and setting up.

G Webb would advise the website group of these decisions.

**Action: G Webb**

## 6. Planning applications and decisions:

G Webb advised that that planning committee had not yet met as discussed at the last meeting and several planning application deadlines had been missed – Chair will discuss this at next SE Area Committee meeting and advise the Parish Council's views on these applications. It was agreed a weekly meeting would take place and a list of the applications and the committee's decisions would be circulated before each full meeting for information.

**Action: G Webb**

- 08/00285/FUL – 20 Merlin Rd – 2 storey side extension and single storey rear extension for use as 2 bed house, parking on frontage for 3 cars – **objections:** – over-development of the site, would put pressure on existing sewerage issues and would result in flooding once the wall was removed. Chair to advise City planning of concerns.

**Action: Chair.**

- 08/00220/FUL – Oxrad House, 10 Watlington Road – Change of use from office to office and 2 bed flat on first floor – **no objections.**
- 08/00313/CT4 – 23 Sandy Lane – Demolish existing extension and erect single storey side extension – local feeling was that this work was creating a further new dwelling – the application is to allow a kidney dialysis patient to live more independently – the Parish Council had **no objections**
- 08/00408/FUL – Garage block rear 73 Kestrel Crescent – Demolition of existing garages and erection of 2 3 bed houses with integral garages – **objections:** over-development of site and increased parking and traffic problems. Chair to advise City planning of issues. **Action: Chair**
- 08/00148/FUL – 29 Balfour Rd – Two storey side extension to form dwelling and creation of 4 parking spaces on frontage – this application has been called in.
- 08/00506/FUL – The Bullnose, Watlington Rd – proposed lean-to canopy – **no objections** but the legality of smoking so close to the building was questioned.

## 7. Financial matters

The following expenditure totalling £915.02 was proposed by P Stannard, seconded by G Webb with unanimous agreement –

HJC – Clerk’s invoice	£258.90	
HJC Services Ltd – telephone answering	£35.25	
Vodafone	£36.50	Agreed to pay providing this was the last payment – <b>Action: Clerk</b>
Room Hire	£10.00	
Zurich Municipal Insurance	£559.37	S Fitzsimons will inspect the policy and advise on cover at next meeting – <b>Action: S Fitzsimons</b>
Oxford Green Belt Network – subscription	£15.00	

Bank account forms were signed to add new signatories, and cheques from the last meeting were countersigned by G Webb.

#### Grant Applications

- a) Leys fair – proposed by G Webb & seconded by R Humberstone that this **application for grant aid of £1000 be approved.**
- b) Kiddies Club – a grant had already been paid to this organisation in October 2007 – invite to May meeting and ask them to bring more information regarding what the grant is required for. **Action: Clerk**

Grant applications were discussed in more detail and it was agreed that further tightening up of grant aid was required. It was agreed to invite Mr & Mrs Marshall (Leys Unity) to attend the next meeting to advise on the progress of works with their grant of £4000 – if they were unable to attend an extraordinary meeting would be called for 2 weeks after the meeting to look at this grant payment. **Action: Clerk to advise Leys Unity.**

Receipts for works were required to back up all grant aid.

- Clockhouse Computers will submit a grant aid application at the May meeting.

#### 8. Correspondence:

- Grant application to be sent to Holy Family Church & Cllr Humberstone **Action: Clerk**
- Draft Report on Childcare Market Assessment – S Fitzsimons was disappointed that no provision was included in the report for Greater Leys – the deadline has passed so no comment can be made.
- Consultation of Oxford Core Strategy – Clerk to complete questionnaire to advise the concerns as expressed in public participation re the development of the centre of Blackbird Leys and concerns re developing on the green belt.
- Adoption of Supplementary Planning Document on the Balance of Dwellings by Oxford City Council was discussed and no action was required.
- Extra items of correspondence – Clerks & Councillors Direct, St George’s Day, etc were taken by G Webb for information.

#### 9. Any other business

- a) Agnes Smith Advice centre – details of the possible move of this well used facility had been circulated. It was agreed that if they required more money from the Parish Council they would have to apply for a further grant, which would be considered in the usual way. **Action: Clerk to advise.**
- b) Landscaping Hyacinth Walk/Frys Hill – D Johnston advised of works required on the white picket fence – V Smith has inspected and he will liaise with her re the best way forward and advise next meeting.
- c) Attendance of area co-ordinator – it was unanimously agreed that a meeting with Fergus Lapage would be put on hold for the present. **Action: Clerk to advise.**

- d) Concerns re flooding were discussed as works are being carried out in S Oxon, which will result in water moving faster along the brook into the parish. **Chair** is meeting to discuss this and will feed information back to Parish Council.
- e) 1 Blay Close – broken pavement slabs & concrete on kerb – **Chair** to advise Council
- f) Thanks were offered to Chair for arranging for a post to be erected in the park to prevent vehicular access.
- g) Issues with regard to recycling in the flats at Blay Close were discussed – **Chair** to follow up with City Council.
- h) Issues with dogs in Blay Close flats – **Chair** will investigate further.
- i) Bus shelters have been erected but not at bus stops – S Fitzsimons will follow this up with bus company. **Action: Ms S Fitzsimons**
- j) Blackbird Leys preschool is closing – what is happening to their equipment?

**10. Date of next meeting:** Tuesday April 29 2008 7pm – Annual Parish Meeting followed by Annual Parish Council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed.....

Dated.....