

Minutes of the Blackbird Leys Annual Parish Meeting
Held on Tuesday 29 April 2008 in the Jack Argent Rooms, Community Centre
Blackbird Leys, commencing at 7pm

Present – Parish Councillors - R Morlin, G Webb, S Fitzsimons, C Martin, C Hatton, D Johnston, M Booker, G Roper (Chair), V Smith & C Roberts

Public – Ms S Smith, 2 representatives from Agnes Smith Advice, Jodie Clements – Dovecote After School Club.

Police – 2 PCSO's

In attendance – Sue Lee (Acting Clerk)

1 Apologies were received and accepted from R Humberstone & P Stannard

2 Minutes of the last Parish meeting – the minutes of this meeting were not available for circulation. They would be requested from the Clerk for the next meeting. **Action Clerk**

3 Report from the Chair of the Parish Council –The Chair presented his report – 'This will be a short report – last year the Parish Council saw the resignation of Brian Lester, Chair, Bob Avery, Vice Chairman and this left a large hole in the Council. Lee Pole took over as Chair but resigned after 5 months. I would like to thank Brian, Bob & Lee for the hard work done by all of them during their terms of office.

Thankfully residents came forward to become parish councillors - I know that this is new to some of them and am sure they will do a very good job for the benefit of the Blackbird Leys community. We have the guidance and knowledge of 2 past city councillors, 1 city councillor and a county councillor. We start the new year and look forward to working with Gerry as Vice Chair and all the parish councillors. I know we can go forward and get things done but remember nothing happens overnight. It all takes time – some things longer than others. On this note I would like to thank Cyril Martin for accompanying me on the many walkabouts. Also a thank you to Sue Lee for taking up the post of acting clerk who I am sure will do an excellent job - We wish Helen well with her forthcoming birth and again thank you all for your support.'

The Acting Clerk advised the meeting that the Clerk had had a baby girl – Carla and was asked to get her a card and flowers.

4 Financial Statement of Blackbird Leys Parish Council at 31.3.08

Financial report was tabled – Clerk to be requested to provide further information re the stated figures for insurance, audit, the amount of vat that will be refunded for 2007/8 and a breakdown of office rental figures for next meeting. Ms Smith requested a copy of the figures and bank reconciliation that would be used for the external audit statement for the next meeting.

Action : Clerk

5 Report from Blackbird Leys City Council representative – not present

6 Report from the Blackbird Leys County Council representative –

Ms Smith advised of issues she has dealt with on behalf of the parish in the last year –

- 20mph limits
- Cuddesdon Way crossing
- Banning plastic bags
- Schools educational attainment – with a working party to be set up to investigate
- Work with the transport portfolio holder re parking, gate closure at Windale Ave, parking restrictions on Sandy Lane, resurfacing work on Field Avenue & Pegasus Rd,
- Supported Peers academy
- Housing repairs

The Chair offered the Parish Council's thanks to County Cllr Ms Smith for all her work on behalf of the community.

7 Report from the Blackbird Leys Police – the police advised that they are working on the 3 priorities identified by the community – drugs, mini motos & antisocial behaviour. A new round of consultation is under way with the results being available in the next month to identify fresh targets. The level of crime in the parish has fallen over the past year.

The following questions were asked & PCSO's agreed to investigate or hand over to control–

- Reason for the high police presence on Thursday last week – a high visibility presence exercise – the Chair advised that he felt it was too highly visible with the use of horses etc.
- Car causing obstruction on the corner of Brake Hill & Jack Argent Close parking on pavement
- Inconsiderate parking on the corner of Merlin Rd
- Long Ground – resident parking car across footpath also an increase in presence of dealers in area and the hedge by the stadium footpath is being used by youngsters as a hiding place and they are making a nuisance of themselves.
- 2 boys on a motorbike at 5.30am in the park
- Hyacinth Way – kids smashing the fence, breaking car windows etc – contact details of residents affected were passed on and the police would contact. This fence is in need of repair and Ms Smith is currently investigating who is responsible for carrying out the work and will report back to PC **Action: Cllr Ms Smith**
- Nightingale Avenue/Dunnock Way – kids playing on mini motos with no helmets – also an issue in Coriander Way – police have cautioned young people here.
- TVP ringmaster reported : the use of power tools to break in to petrol tanks on cars, Distraction burglaries & if a fish seller approaches you contact the police.
- The alleyway behind the Spar and health centre is being used by dealers again and the meeting unanimously agreed to pursue having the alley closed – Cllr Smith to refer this to the next NAG meeting. **Action: Cllr Ms Smith**
- Airguns – issues tend to be seasonal – any problems please report to police Ms Morlin requested further information on when a gun licence was required and PCSO's will provide this.
- Aggressive begging reported at the shops.

Many thanks were offered to the police for all their work in the Parish.

8 Reports received from local organisations –

The following organisations presented reports –

Agnes Smith advice centre – attached

Cllr Ms Smith will follow up the discussion re the PCT at the next Area Committee and also look into the possibility of there being a covenant on the former surgery stating that the building is for community use. **Action: Cllr Ms Smith**

Dovecote After School Club – thanked the PC for their £5000 grant – Jodie Clements, play leader, advised that the money had enabled the after school club to run 4 sessions a week with 18 children, to capacity, run a Saturday club from October to March 10-1pm, buy 2 game consoles and cover the running costs of the Easter play scheme – 69 children took part in activities.

Barn Youth Project – thanked the PC for their support

Pathway Project – report emailed to all

Leys News – thanks were offered for help with printing costs - issues with website need to be discussed – put on agenda for next Parish Council meeting. **Action Acting Clerk**

9 Any other business - none

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

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**Minutes of the Blackbird Leys Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 29 April 2008 in the Jack Argent Rooms, Community Centre
Blackbird Leys, commencing at 8pm**

Present – Parish Councillors - R Morlin, G Webb, S Fitzsimons, C Martin, C Hatton, D Johnston, M Booker, G Roper (Chair), V Smith & C Roberts

Public – Ms Smith, 2 representatives of the Agnes Smith Advice Centre.

In attendance – Sue Lee (Acting Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs R Humberstone & P Stannard.

2. Minutes of the meeting from 25 March 2008: The minutes were unanimously approved and signed after the following amendments had been made –

- 5 – D Johnston did not highlighted the issue of BMX bikers in Spindlebury Woods so his name was deleted
- 9i) S Fitzsimons had not offered to look in to why the bus stops and signs were not in the same places.

3 Police/PCSO's/Street Wardens no further business

4. Matters arising:

- Holes in Spindleberry Woods were difficult to find and are all off the track it was agreed that no further action was needed as if they were filled in they would soon be dug out again for BMX – the possibility of finding some land for a proper BMX track was discussed.
- Cllr Ms Smith advised that following a petition re planning application for 73 Kestrel Way the alley way to rear had been removed and local residents were now happy with the application.
- 29 Balfour Rd – planning application will go to the June Oxford City Council planning committee meeting
- Insurance policy – it was unanimously agreed that it was no longer necessary to insure the following – Buildings – Office OX4 - £10, Furniture & fittings in office – OX4 - £701, Computer equipment in office – OX4 - £1142. The Chair will make enquires as to the location of the computer equipment and furniture and also ascertain if there is still an external notice board and seat with plaque that needs insuring and report back to next meeting
Action Clerk & Chair
- Mr G Webb & Mrs C Roberts agreed to put up notices on behalf of the PC on the notice board together with a list of councillors – concern was expressed by a councillor re phone numbers being published so this will need further discussion. The Chair agreed to find out where the key to the notice board was.
Action Clerk & Chair

5. Public discussion

- Cllr Ms Smith agreed to look into the issue of garages being used for storage by Oxford City Council – in addition she would report that the garage at 47 had been left unlocked and children were accessing the contents and a cat had moved in. **Action Cllr Ms Smith**
- The acting clerk advised that she had been unable to trace any standing orders or financial regulations or terms of reference for the planning committee and she would forward the draft documents to all for consideration and discussion at next meeting. **Action Acting Clerk**

6. Planning applications and decisions:

- 08/00582/ADV – Fascia banding Oxford 40 warehouse – **No objections**
08/00752/FUL – 33 Partridge Walk – **No objections**

- Tesco's on the retail park have also submitted an application for a new glazed screen at the entrance – **No objections.**
- Retention of Consent & continued use of two modular buildings at Peers school Campus – Littlemore Parish.

It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the acting clerk would request that all future planning application are sent to Mr Webb for the Planning Committee's attention and he would provide a written report on all plans to be circulated with agenda. **Action: Acting Clerk**

7. Financial matters

The following expenditure was proposed for payment by G Roper with unanimous agreement –

HJC – Clerk's invoice	£258.90
HJC Services Ltd – telephone answering	£35.25
Vodafone – Clerk to do letter to Mr Lester, 29 Pegasus Rd asking him to cancel contract	£36.50
Room Hire	£10.00
African Caribbean Youth Project – Clerk to request invoices	£900.00

Bank account forms were passed to the Chair for the new signatories and the old signatories signatures and return to Clerk . **Action : Chair**

Parish Councillor expenses – Chairman's expenses of £9.39 were requested for January to April and unanimously approved – Clerk to arrange for cheque for next meeting. **Action Clerk**

Grant Applications

- Holy Family Church – proposed by Mrs Roberts with 2 against and 7 in favour the grant for £1000 was approved and would be offered to the Church. The many community facilities offered in the building were stressed. The meeting was also advised that the Church were looking to expand and may have space for the advice centre and a possible community café, nursery etc.
- Clockhouse Computer IT – grant to be requested in May 2008
- No response had been received from Mr & Mrs Marshall (Leys Unity) with regard to invoices for their grant of £4000 – it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should write to them by special delivery at both addresses advising that if no response is received within 14 days to the request for invoices for the grant monies that legal advise would be sought with regard to recovery of the money. **Action : Clerk**

8. Correspondence:

- OALC Training – Mr Webb wished to attend How to be a better Councillor and the planning training- Acting Clerk to book him places. **Action Acting Clerk**
- Oxford City Council – Blackbird Leys/Greater Leys Community Planning meeting – Wednesday 7 May 4-6pm – Mr Webb would attend – Acting Clerk to advise. **Action Acting Clerk**
- Lord Mayor's invitation – Acting Clerk to advise that Mr Roper & Mr Webb would attend. Will email Mr Webb the details **Action Acting Clerk**
- Involve Monitoring Project - it was agreed that a representative could attend the May or June meeting. **Action Acting Clerk**
- Planning – Acting Clerk to arrange for attendance at June or July meeting. **Action Acting Clerk**

Cllr Ms Smith & Mrs Roberts left the meeting at 9pm

9. Any other business

- Mr Martin advised of the poor condition of the footpath between Falcon Close & Knights Rd. This is used as a safe way for children attending Peers School. The ownership of this land is currently in question and the next meeting will be advised of any progress with regard to City or County Council responsibility. Any proposal re Parish Council assistance with paying for works would then be discussed.
- The Chair advised that he is still looking in the possibility of a Remembrance Garden and has suggested several sites to the City Council – he will report back to the next meeting.
- Recycling bins – the Chair will chase this up with the City Council
- Broken glass on the paths in Gillians Park was reported.
- Dog bins were required on Grenoble Rd
- Ambassador Avenue, Retail Park – litter all over the path

Chair to take these issues up with the City Council at their monthly meeting.

- Thanks were given for the new fencing around the Spar shop
- Acting Clerk to check how many meetings Mr & Mrs Marshall have missed re their positions as Parish Councillors on the Council and report back to next meeting -

Action Acting Clerk

The Acting Clerk advised that the next meeting was the Annual Parish Council meeting with the election of officers.. She also pointed out the importance of advising the Acting Clerk of any items for the agenda at least a week before the meeting as it was important that everyone was aware that no decisions could be make at meetings on any matters that were not on the agenda. In addition she stressed the need to declare any interests in any items on the agenda at the beginning of each meeting.

10. Date of next meeting: Tuesday May 27 2008 7pm – Annual Parish Council Meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed.....

Dated.....