

BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 25th November 2025, at 7.00 pm held at the Leys Leisure Centre

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- MEMBERS PRESENT:** **Parish Councillors:** Imade Edosomwan (Chair), Natalie Webb (Vice-chair), David Newman, Dan Wadsworth, Melissa Latchman, Gill Taylor, and Brian Lester.
- OTHER COUNCILLORS:** **City Councillors:** Linda Smith
County Councillor: Imade Edosomwan.
- OFFICERS PRESENT:** **Clerk to the Council:** Emma Kearney
- OTHERS PRESENT:** **Members of the Public:** 4
Oxford City Council Leys Locality Manager: Shabnam Sabir.
Peabody Development Manager: Kristina Hall
- APOLOGIES:** The following apologies were received:
Parish Councillors: Anthony Church, Hassan Sabriye and Kathy Balsamo.
City Councillors: Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini, Simon Ottino and Lubnar Arshad.
Oxford City Council Regeneration Manager: Karoline Soisalo de Mendonca.
- FC097/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**
None
- FC098/25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to accept the minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 28th October 2025 as a true record.
- FC099/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
An update from Oxfordshire County Council Tree Service on Highway Trees Survey was provided.
- FC0100/25 REGENERATION UPDATE**
An update was received.
- FC0101/25 COUNCILLOR UPDATE**
Councillors present gave their reports.
- FC0102/25 COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATE**
The following update was received
- 1. Planning Committee**
The council **NOTED** that the Planning Committee met on 18th November 2025 to consider planning application CS/2024/701 for upgrading an existing telecommunications base station.
The committee raised no objection to this application.
 - 2. Events Committee**
The committee made the following recommendations.
 - i. Event schedule for 2025-26**
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve a community engagement consultation event on Saturday 31st January 2026, 10am-4pm at Blackbird Leys Bowls Club with a budget of £1,500.
 - ii. Event schedule and budget for 2026-27**
It was RESOLVED by unanimous vote to approve:
A quarterly events programme for 2026-27 consisting of four community engagement events, with a budget of £6,000 for the four events (£1,500 per event)
Total Events Committee budget of £6,550
(including £550 for meeting room hire for 11 meetings)

iii. **Regular meeting date and time**

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve regular monthly Events Committee meetings on the second Monday of each month at 7:30pm at The Leys Leisure Centre (except August) at a cost of £50 per meeting.

3. Neighbourhood Working Group

- The council received an update from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Chair. The Working Group met on 18th November 2025 and discussed community engagement stall proposals and Parish Online training arrangements.
- It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve the application from Dilshad Hamo to join the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

FC0103/25 PRIDE OF PLACE

This was deferred to the next agenda as more information was required.

FC0104/25 ELECTIONS FOR NALC'S LARGER COUNCILS

The council received information on the direct elections to NALC's Larger Councils Committee. Cllr Newman explained that he had put himself forward as a candidate to represent larger parish councils.

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to support Cllr Newman's candidacy for the NALC Larger Councils Committee.

FC0105/25 DESIGN OF A NEW PARISH COUNCIL LOGO

The council discussed whether a new parish council logo is needed to better represent the modern community and the council's current activities.

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to proceed with designing a new parish council logo with community consultation and clear communication about the change.

Cllr Webb to lead the design process.

FC0106/25 FACEBOOK PAGE

The council discussed issues with accessing the current parish council Facebook page. The Clerk explained that the old page cannot be recovered and recommended creating a new page with proper administrative controls to ensure the Clerk maintains primary access.

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to create a new parish council Facebook page and to close the old page, with the Clerk as the main administrator.

FC0107/25 CHRISTMAS PRESENT DONATION

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to donate the children's Christmas presents currently in storage to Flo's located at Florence Park

FC0108/25 FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Draft Budget

The budget was discussed, and it was deferred to the next agenda.

2. Income

None

3. Internal Financial Controller

Cllr Edosomwan confirmed review of invoices against the November and December 2025 cashbook as correct.

4. Cashbook Payments

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to pay the following payments.

Date	Payee	Description	Amount
25/11/2025	Lloyds Bank	Nov Corporate Card Monthly Fee	£3.00
25/11/2025	Oxfordshire County Council	Nov Pension	£474.10
25/11/2025	Unity Trust	Bank Account Fee	£6.00

25/11/2025	Clerk	Nov Wages	£1,532.22
25/11/2025	Clerk	WFHA - Nov 2025	£24.00
25/11/2025	Clerk	Mileage - 18th Nov 2025	£11.70
25/11/2025	Lloyds Bank	Dec Corporate Card Monthly Fee	£3.00
25/11/2025	Oxfordshire County Council	Dec Pension	£474.10
25/11/2025	Unity Trust	Bank Account Fee	£6.00
25/11/2025	Clerk	Dec Wages	£1,532.22
25/11/2025	Clerk	WFHA - Dec 2025	£24.00
25/11/2025	Clerk	Mileage - 8th Dec 2025	£11.70
25/11/2025	Clerk	Mileage - 16th Dec 2025	£11.70
25/11/2025	OALC	R&R Training	£276.00
25/11/2025	More Leisure Comm. Trust	Hall Hire Nov	£132.50
25/11/2025	More Leisure Comm. Trust	Invoice remainder	£20.00
		Total	£4,542.24

5. Signatory

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to appoint Cllr Wadsworth as an additional signatory to the council's bank accounts.

FC0109/25 ITEMS PROPOSED FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

1. Pride of Place

Exclusion of the public and press

FC0110/25 STAFFING MATTERS

The Clerk reported on increased workload from Neighbourhood Plan activities.

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to appoint an independent consultant to review the Clerk's working hours to take effect from January 2026 at a cost of £120 (plus VAT).

The Clerk and Cllr Newman will develop a resource plan for Neighbourhood Plan support

FC0111/25 SIGNED: _____

Councillor Edosomwan

The meeting closed at 20.53