

## BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 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, Jenny Wells, Hassan Sabriye and Brian Lester.  
**NOTE:** Councillor Webb (Vice-chair) chaired the meeting
- OTHER COUNCILLORS:** **City Councillors:** Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini, Simon Ottino and Lubnar Arshad.  
**County Councillor:** Imade Edosomwan.
- OFFICERS PRESENT:** **Clerk to the Council:** Emma Kearney
- OTHERS PRESENT:** **Members of the Public:**
- APOLOGIES:** The following apologies were received:  
**Parish Councillors:** Anthony Church, Kathy Balsamo and Jeffrey Sackey.  
**City Councillors:** Linda Smith  
**Oxford City Council Leys Locality Manager:** Shabnam Sabir.  
**Oxford City Council Regeneration Manager:** Karoline Soisalo de Mendonca.  
**Peabody Development Manager:** Kristina Hall
- FC077/25 CO-OPTION**  
Rae Humberstone gave apologies.
- FC078/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**  
None
- FC079/25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**  
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to accept the minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 as a true record.
- FC080/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  
Members of the public raised points not pertaining to items on the agenda.
- FC081/25 REGENERATION UPDATE**  
An update was received.
- FC082/25 COUNCILLOR UPDATE**  
The councillors, officers and community groups present gave their update.
- FC083/25 COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATE**  
The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group recommendations were reviewed.  
**a) Online Engagement Tools**  
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve and implement the Google Form and Padlet Map online engagement tools for community engagement.  
**b) Stakeholder Engagement Process**  
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve the stakeholder engagement process including the draft email for the Clerk to send to stakeholders with the one-page explainer and opt-out option.
- FC084/25 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**  
The three proposals for Oxfordshire local government reorganisation were discussed:  
  1. Single Oxfordshire Unitary (proposed by Oxfordshire County Council)
  2. Two Unitary Councils (Oxford City, West Oxfordshire and Cherwell; and South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Berkshire "Ridgeway")

3. Three Unitary Councils (Greater Oxford; Northern Oxfordshire comprising Cherwell and West Oxfordshire; and Ridgeway comprising South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Berkshire).

The council noted the complexity of the proposals and the need for further information.

It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote to remain neutral on the local government reorganisation proposals.

#### **FC085/25 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The following planning applications were reviewed as it expired before the next planning committee meeting.

	<b>Application Reference</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>25/02640/CEU</b> Application to certify that the implementation of planning permission 13/00349/FUL is lawful development.	29A Balfour Road	Blackbird Leys	16.11.2025	No objection

#### **FC086/25 TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSULTATION**

The proposed upgrade to the existing mobile phone mast at Little Bury, Oxford (CS\_30230101) was reviewed. The proposal involves removing the existing 20m monopole and replacing it with a new 20m monopole to provide enhanced 4G and 5G coverage for Vodafone/Three.

It was **RESOLVED** to submit no objection to the proposed upgrade.

#### **FC087/25 PUBLIC FOOTPATH 281/8/10 (MALLAMS LEVEL CROSSING) - NETWORK RAIL CLOSURE PROPOSAL**

Network Rail's proposal to permanently close Public Footpath 281/8/10 and Mallams Level Crossing was considered.

The council **NOTED** that the footpath has been unused for at least 10 years and that increased train speeds pose safety risks.

It was **RESOLVED** to submit no objection to the proposed closure.

#### **FC088/25 EVENTS COMMITTEE**

The council discussed options for the next Events Committee meeting date, noting that the committee needs to meet before the November full council meeting to present an events schedule and budget.

It was **RESOLVED** to hold the next committee meeting on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November after the planning committee, and before the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting.

#### **FC089/25 REPRESENTATIVE EDUCATION**

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to appoint Cllr Taylor as the representative to liaise with Windale Primary School and arrange a visit with the Chair of Governors and Head Teacher.

#### **FC090/25 SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT - FACEBOOK PAGE**

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to grant Cllr Webb posting access to the parish council Facebook page to post approved council business in relation to events committee promotion and/or neighbourhood plan updates.

#### **FC091/25 STAFF TRAINING**

1. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote for Cllr Wadsworth and Cllr Lester to attend the Roles and Responsibilities training on Tuesday 2nd December at a cost of £115 + VAT per councillor.
2. It was **NOTED** mileage could be claimed for travel costs.

**FC092/25 GRANT REQUEST**

The grant request from Blackbirds FC to support a Halloween Party was not discussed as no application was received.

**FC093/25 FINANCIAL MATTERS****1. Income**

None

**2. Cashbook Payments**

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve and pay the invoices listed for October 2025.

Date	Payee	Description	Total
28/10/2025	HG3	Oct Mobile Phone Charge	£13.10
28/10/2025	Lloyds Bank	Oct Corporate Card Monthly Fee	£3.00
28/10/2025	Oxfordshire County Council	Oct Pension	£474.10
28/10/2025	Unity Trust	Bank Account Fee	£6.00
28/10/2025	Clerk	Oct Wages	£1,532.22
28/10/2025	Clerk	WFHA - Oct 2025	£24.00
28/10/2025	Clerk	Back Pay April - Oct	£289.70
28/10/2025	More Leisure	Sept and Oct Hall Hire	£265.00
21/10/2025	Clerk	Mileage - 21st Oct 2025	£11.70
30/10/2025	ICO	Shortfall	£5.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,623.82</b>

**FC094/25 TO PROPOSE ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

The clerk advised the council that all proposals need to be submitted to the clerk in writing at least 10 clear days before the meeting it is proposed for. (As per standing order 9B).

*\*Exclusion of the public and press\**

**FC095/25 STAFFING MATTERS****1. National Pay Increase**

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve the national pay increase of 56p per hour (£728 per annum).

**2. Back Pay**

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve the back pay of £424.67 (April-October).

**3. Clerk's Appraisal**

The clerk will arrange the date via email with the Staffing Committee as not all members were present.

**FC096/25 SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Councillor Webb

The meeting closed at 20:31