

BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 22nd February 2022, at 7.00 pm
at Blackbird Leys Community Centre.

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Parish Councillors:** Peter Nowland (Vice Chairman), Julio Gonzalez, Anthony Church, Ewa Gluza, Olamide Oladejo, Imade Edosomwan, Maggie Lewis, Lorenzo De Gregori and Sasha East.

OTHER COUNCILLORS: **City Councillors:** Rae Humberstone.
County Councillor: Imade Edosomwan

OFFICERS PRESENT: **Clerk to the Council:** Emma Kearney

OTHERS PRESENT: **Oxford City Council Regeneration Manager:** Roo Humpherson.
Catalyst Senior Development Manager: Mona Barry.
Catalyst Community Investment Coordinator: Sam Stronach
Thames Valley Police Sergeant: Alex Penn
Members of the Public: Five
Mr. K Watson and Mrs. F Natana (Co-opted at this meeting).

FC00121/21 **Apologies**
The following apologies were received:
Parish Councillors: Robert Davies (Chairman).
City Council Councillors: Diko Walcott and Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini.

FC00122/21 **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
None

FC00123/21 **Minutes of the previous meeting**
It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote to accept the minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 25th January 2022.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Lewis.

FC00124/21 **Public Participation**
Knife Crime
Sergeant Alex Penn has recently returned to the estate and gave the following update about knife crime -

- There has been a 71% reduction in knife crime on the estate overall, however a recent incident has made the stats seem higher.
- A constant strategy is in place and uses knife and weapon sweeps, with horse patrols to tackle the issue.
- TVP would like to collaborate with community groups, and the team are focusing on engaging with the schools.
- Cllr Edosomwan commented that prevention needs to be the major focus, and hopefully the youth services will continue at a county level.
- A local youth worker commented that safe space has been closed, engagement between police and the young via local sessions has stopped due to the sessions being dropped, so how can young people feel safe?
 - Sgt Penn replied it would be good to speak to partners about what is available, Covid has impacted funding for a lot of projects and there has been a loss. It was further commented that there are two new police constables joining the team, and TVP are keen to work with existing projects.
- Cllr East commented that CDI had a great relationship with individual officers/police. Also, that different sergeant's approach

impacts the success of the relations between the young and the police.

Traffic

A resident attended to raise concerns regarding traffic issues and parking on the estate, and that the concerns raised were not being handled in an effective manner.

- Sgt Penn advised that departments do not have the resilience to deal with this at present, however there is a dedicated PCSO for traffic and their details would be passed on.

Linnet Close Project

Mrs. Taylor attended to provide the council with an update on the progress of the project.

- A wooden bench has been ordered from Raw as it is cheaper than a stainless steel one.
- A letter has been sent to the residents asking for ideas on what they would like, there has been consideration of a bug hotel for the children.
- The project is to make the community a better place, and if anyone has any ideas, please let Mrs. Taylor know, sadly playground equipment cannot be part of the project.
- The time scale for completion is estimated between 10-12 weeks
- The council noted the hard work by Mrs. Taylor and offered special thanks.

FC00125/21

Community Groups Report

CDI

Cllr East advised sessions are still running.

Friendley's

Cllr Nowland commented that there are now 15 members in attendance. There has been a major issue with obtaining a bank account now that the Credit Union has gone.

Cllr Edosomwan noted that it was a great job from Friendley's, and that they might benefit from additional advertising on the Parish Council and community Facebook groups.

FC00126/21

Regeneration Update

The Regeneration Manager advised

- The planning application is due to be received from Catalyst and it has been agreed in principle.
- The community centre is an integrate part of the planning and will have its own dedicated team. This team will be setting up community engagement over the next few weeks, their brief has been to engage with as many residents as possible. They will be along to a parish council meeting to introduce themselves.
- Groups using the community centre will be part of the 'decamp' process and the earliest this will take place is in August. The council has a dedicated team to assist with this process.

Senior Development Manager advised

- Currently working on the tender to decide which contractor will be appointed, one of the key aspects is what they can provide in terms of the wider community.
- The first draft of questions will be sent to the parish council to review, as it is important they benefit the community.

Action: To be sent to the clerk to circulate

Sam Stronach advised

- Newly appointed to the role of Catalyst Community Investment Coordinator and is keen to engage with the community, please make contact via email on Sam.Stronach@chg.org.uk

Cllr Lewis asked how much (as a percentage) of the community centre will be lost?

The Regeneration Manager advised that the current square footage of the community centre was 1200 m² but there is currently lots of unused areas. In theory there is 720 m² of the community centre currently being used. There is no minimum known but the engagement will decide the final proposal.

It was further commented that the County Council is one of the partners, and they are responsible for the library, also that business enterprise is hoped for the scheme.

Cllr Church asked will there be a dedicated route for contractor vehicles?

The Senior Development Manager advised that once a contractor has been appointed it will be part of their remit to provide this information.

Cllr Church commented that it is frustrating the length of time this proposal is taking.

The Regeneration Manager advised August is the earliest the planning application can be expected, and the community centre will be on a separate application.

Cllr Edosomwan asked will the number of shops be the same?

As we need to invest in the community.

The Regeneration Manager advised there is no plan to have the same, there isn't as much space for retail.

Cllr Edosomwan further commented the community does not want a reduction in retail, can the design be reviewed so the community can grow.

Cllr Nowland commented that community groups were being asked to leave the Community centre, it was further commented that the community wants 'like for like' on everything.

The Regeneration Manager advised the comments were noted.

Cllr De Gregori commented that the community was already losing the park and parking.

Cllr Edosomwan noted that if the library is part of the project, it is likely to be in the community centre and this is not effective.

A resident noted that when the regeneration was first announced it was promised the community wouldn't lose anything.

The concern was raised that with the loss of community space where will the young go.

It was commented that the consultation being carried out through the pandemic had led to parts not being discussed.

FC00127/21

1. Co-option

- I. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to co-opt Florence Natana on to the parish council for Northfield Brook Ward.
This was proposed by Cllr Nowland and seconded by Cllr Gluza.
- II. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to co-opt Kieran Watson on to the parish council for Blackbird Leys Ward.

This was proposed by Cllr Nowland and seconded by Cllr Church.

2. Changes to the Planning committee and Grants Working Group.

- I. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to add Cllr Nowland and Cllr Watson to the planning committee.

- This was proposed by Cllr Nowland and seconded by Cllr Church.
- II. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to add Cllr Natana to the Grants Working Group.
- This was proposed by Cllr Gluza and seconded by Cllr Nowland.

FC00128/21

To receive reports

City Councillors

Cllr Humberstone

- Has been working on the issue of users trying to book the community centre.
- Has been door knocking.
- Looking into using the Bullnose as a community space, part pub part community centre.

Cllr Djafari-Marbini

- Monthly surgeries and weekly door knocking continues.
- Casework: hedges/trees encroaching on houses and fly tipping.
- Addressing issues around the estate following storm Eunice.
- Cost of living crisis - working with Agnes smith on adequate outreach.
- Speaking up on behalf of residents on the issue of LTNs both internally and openly.
- Support for residents following a recent knife crime incident.

County Councillor

Cllr Edosomwan

- Door knocking
- Residents near the Bullnose do not want it to reopen.
- Supporting those effected by storm Eunice
- Discussions around LTN's.

Parish Councillors

Cllr Gluza

- Has been working with the grants working group reviewing this year's grant awards.
- Would like to set-up a working group to work on the Leys Festivals and the Queen's Jubilee.

It was **RESOLVED** to form a Leys Festival/Queens Jubilee working group with the following member's:

1. Cllr Gluza
2. Cllr Nowland
3. Cllr Watson
4. Cllr Natana
5. Cllr Church

The group plans to meet at the Jack Argent Room of the community centre on Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 7 pm.

Action: Clerk to make arrangements and confirm

Cllr De Gregori

- Raised concerns regarding the LTN in Littlemore and the effect it is having on the residents. Commented that there has been a repeated request for this item to be added to the agenda.
The clerk advised that to ask for 'LTN' to be on the agenda is not specific enough for the council to decide on.
It was requested for the agenda item 'To petition Oxford City and County Council to remove the Littlemore LTN' to be added to next month's agenda. The chairman advised a similar item had been requested by Cllr De Gregori and this was added to a previous agenda. However, Cllr De Gregori had given apologies for that meeting.

- Raised concerns regarding the clerk's advice to fill councillor vacancies, in the hope to hold an election, to aid the general power of competency. The clerk commented they were unclear the point that was being made and asked for this to be sent in writing.

Action: Clerk to process agenda item request

Cllr Oladejo

- Working to help resolve the issue with a tree interfering with the resident's internet access.
- Distributing food parcels to those in need.

Cllr Edosomwan

- Hosted a programme for parents to guide their children by setting a good example.

Cllr Gonzalez

- The Clockhouse project is opening with more activities.

Cllr East

- No update

Cllr Church

- Cladding has fallen off the tower.
- Has displayed the agendas on the noticeboards.
- Will organise quotes for the noticeboard repairs and report back next month.

Cllr Lewis

- There have been repairs to the bridge.
- Car racing at the Kassam has been reported but it is on private land.
- Pollution in the stream is being addressed by working with partners.
- Oxford bus company repair and replace.
- Oxford Mutual Aid had a week's holiday.
- It was noted that the informal quarterly catch-up meeting had not yet taken place with the staffing committee.

Action: Staffing committee to liaise.

It was noted that sincere condolences were to be offered to Joey Beauchamp and his family at this sad time.

It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote for the meeting to be extended for 15 minutes. This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Nowland.

Cllr East left the meeting.

Cllr Nowland

- There has been a further incident of graffiti on the estate.
- Supports the work of the Frank Bruno Foundation.
- Noted the defibrillator number at the community centre number needs to be reinstated.

Action: Clerk to notify the community centre manager of the missing defibrillator number.

FC00129/21

Grants Awards 2022

1. Policy Change

It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote to

- Remove the scoring card and the pitch part from the grant process.
- Update the criteria so applicants only provide information for the money awarded by the parish council.

This was proposed by Cllr Lewis and seconded by Cllr Nowland.

Action: Clerk to update policy documents

2. Support with completing the application

It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote for Cllr Church to investigate creating a promotional video for our website on how to complete the grant application form. This was proposed by Cllr Nowland and seconded by Cllr Gluza.

Action: Cllr Church to investigate.

3. Grant award recommendations

The grants working group made the following recommendations –

I. Agnes Smith Advice Centre - Blackbird Leys Neighbourhood Support Scheme Ltd

To award the full amount of the requested £2,500 to assist with the running costs, namely electricity, broadband, telephone, postage, photocopying and printing.

The Parish Council awarded this funding using the power of Citizen Advice Bureau from the LGA 1972 Section 142.

It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote and proposed by Cllr Lewis and seconded by Cllr Nowland.

Action: Clerk to write a letter and issue terms and conditions.

II. Oxford Blackbirds Boys & Girls Football Club

A grant request for funding for more FA level one and two coaches, and to pay for marking out was regrettably unsuccessful. This was due to the previous grant not being satisfied and the lack of policies being submitted with this year's application.

It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote to not award this grant, this was proposed by Cllr Nowland and seconded by Cllr Gluza.

Action: Clerk to write a letter explaining the reasons why this grant was unsuccessful.

III. Boys/Young Men's Youth Group - Leys Community Initiative Development

To award the full amount of the requested £2,000 to the young men's group with the aim of offering them fun activities, friendship and support to create a safe, non-judgemental space.

The grant will support the cost of

- project materials e.g., sports and gaming equipment and musical instruments, using the power of Entertainment and Arts LGA 1972 Section 145.
- Room hire fees, using the power of Community Centres LGA (misc. Provisions) LGA 1972 Section 144.
- Volunteer training using the power of Recreation from the LGA 1976 Section 19.

It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote and proposed by Cllr Nowland and seconded by Cllr Lewis.

Action: Clerk to write a letter and issue terms and conditions

IV. Oxford Community Action

To award the full amount of the requested £2,500 to support delivering weekly food parcels to over 500 households from BAME communities across Oxford who are experiencing food poverty.

The Parish Council awarded this funding using the LGA 1972 Section 137. It was noted that the council were yet to receive a copy of the accounts, and the award would be paid once this had been satisfied.

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote and proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Edosomwan.

Action: Clerk to write a letter and issue terms and conditions

V. Oxford Play Association

To award the full amount of the requested £2,000 towards a playday event for the local community at Frys Hill Park. To assist with the costs of the facilities management and the hire of a range of activities for all ages and abilities. The parish council awarded this using the power of Recreation from the LGA 1976 Section 19.

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote and proposed by Cllr Edosomwan and seconded by Cllr Church.

Action: Clerk to write a letter and issue terms and conditions.

It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote for the meeting to be extended for a final 15 minutes. This was proposed by Cllr Nowland and seconded by Cllr Lewis.

VI. Raw Potential – Raw Workshop

A grant request for funding a specialist programme that offers training placements to learn basic woodwork was regrettably unsuccessful. It was noted it is not clear how the community are engaged with and how this project is a direct benefit to the estate.

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to not award this grant, this was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Nowland.

Action: Clerk to write a letter explaining the reasons why this grant was unsuccessful.

VII. Thrive Friday Football and Basketball - Oxford Community Churches

To award the partial amount of £2,000 to support a Friday football and basketball group for 11 to 18-year-olds, nurturing them as young leaders and mentoring them through the Thrive programme.

The grant will support the cost of

- Hall hire using the power of Community Centres LGA (misc. Provisions) LGA 1972 Section 144.
- Basketball coach hire using the power of Recreation from the LGA 1976 Section 19.

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote and proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Lewis.

Action: Clerk to write a letter and issue terms and conditions

FC00130/21 Financial Matters

7. Internal Financial Controller

The internal financial controller confirmed the invoices against the February cashbook were correct.

8. Cashbook

The following cashbook payments were reviewed

| Payment Date | Payee | Description | Amount |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 25/02/2022 | S Shippen | Clerk cover | £130.95 |
| 25/02/2022 | Clerk via expenses | Mobile phone credit | £20.00 |
| 25/02/2022 | Amazon | Stationery | £97.12 |
| 25/02/2022 | Amazon | Postage | £16.50 |
| 25/01/2022 | Clerk | Salary | Conf |
| 25/01/2022 | Chairman | Allowance | Conf |
| 25/01/2022 | HMRC | Contributions | Conf |
| 25/01/2022 | Oxford County Council | Clerks pension | Conf |
| | | Total | £2,450.77 |

It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote to accept the cashbook payments for February 2022.

This was proposed by Cllr Nowland and seconded by Cllr Church.

9. Bank signatories

1. It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote to add Cllr Nowland as a bank signatory. This was proposed by Cllr Nowland and seconded by Cllr Church.

2. It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote to add Cllr Church as a bank signatory. This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Nowland.

Action: Clerk to organise

FC00131/21 Items for the next agenda

The following item was proposed

- To petition Oxford City and County Council to remove the Littlemore LTN.

FC00132/21 Date of the next meetings

Full Parish Council – Tuesday 29th March 2022

Planning Committee – Tuesday 8th March 2022

FC00133/21 *The meeting ended at 21.30*

SIGNED: _____ **Cllr Nowland (Chairman)**