

BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 28th January 2025, at 7pm held at the Leys Leisure Centre.

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- MEMBERS PRESENT:** **Parish Councillors:** Imade Edosomwan (Chair), Peter Nowland, Gill Taylor, David Newman, Maggie Lewis, Hassan Sabriye, Jenny Wells and Natalie Webb.
- OTHER COUNCILLORS:** **City Councillor:**, Linda Smith, Lubar Arshad, Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini and Simon Ottino.
County Councillor: Imade Edosomwan.
- OFFICERS PRESENT:** **Clerk to the Council:** Emma Kearney
- OTHERS PRESENT:** **Oxford City Council Communities & Neighbourhoods:** Amber Giles
Oxford City Council Regeneration Manager: Karoline Soisalo de Mendonca.
Peabody Development Manager: Kristina Hall.
Safe Leys: Deborah McIlveen.
Members of the Public: 5
- APOLOGIES:** The following apologies were received:
Parish Councillor: Anthony Church (Vice) and Kathy Balsamo
- FC0104/24** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**
- i. Agenda Item 7.1**
Cllr Edosomwan and Cllr Nowland declared an 'Other Registrable Interest' as a trustee of Agnes Smith, they remained in the meeting but did not speak or vote.
- ii. Agenda Item 7.3**
Cllr Edosomwan and Cllr Nowland declared an 'Other Registrable Interest' as a trustee of Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground (BLAP), they remained in the meeting but did not speak or vote.
- FC0105/24** **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to accept the minutes for the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 26th November 2024 as a true record.
This was proposed by Cllr Nowland and seconded by Cllr Edosomwan.
- FC0106/24** **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
Residents attended to raise the following points -
- Two residents attended to address the council and expressed an interest in becoming a parish councillor, these co-options will be added to the February agenda.
 - A resident attended to raise awareness of the re-launch of Safe Leys.
 - Oxford City Council Communities & Neighbourhoods provided an update on health inequality projects and introduced the 'Leys Engine' community information website initiative.
- FC0107/24** **REGENERATION UPDATE**
An update was received outlining these key points
- Block A resubmission planned for mid-April 2025, incorporating new fire safety standard BS9991.
 - Block D and Block C progressing with concrete pour on 8th floor starting next week.
 - Frame completion expected by end of February.
 - Knights Road development progressing with first-fix installations.
 - Public right of way from Knights Road to Kassam to close from 10th February, with temporary footpath diversion via Orion Academy.
 - Blackbird Leys Road by shops to close - signage in place.

- Planning application submitted for temporary marketing suite/information centre near Holy Family Church.
- Outline application for community centre and public realm under review.
- Clarification provided that the community centre would be completed before Block A occupation.
- Residents raised concerns about construction vehicle speeds on Knights Road, particularly near Orion Academy. Additional safety measures and signage for school children were discussed.

FC0108/24 COUNTY, CITY AND PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

The councillors present gave their reports.

City Councillors Overview

- Grass cutting budget increased to minimum three cuts per year
- New funding secured for recreation facilities in Blackbird Leys (£25,000 for consultation, £150,000 for implementation)
- Two new blue defibrillator kits installed at Blackbird Leys shops and leisure centre
- New textile recycling collection service launching
- 140 new cycle parking spaces being created across Oxford
- Updates on Templars Square development plans
- Casework regarding housing repairs and maintenance issues

County Councillor Overview

- Ongoing work to reinstate previous bus route
- Door-knocking and resident engagement activities
- Multiple casework items being addressed

Parish Councillors Overview

- Attendance at Parish Council committee meetings and working groups
- Updates on assigned Parish Council portfolios

FC0109/24 SMALL GRANTS

To consider awarding

1. Agnes Smith Centre

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to award £500 toward intruder and fire alarm system cost. This was awarded under Local Government Act 1972 S.142.

This was proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Sabriye.

2. Oxfordshire Play Association (OPA)

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to award £500 to Oxfordshire Play Association toward facilities management costs (including first aid, event insurance, toilet hire and land hire fees) for the Playday event at Frys Hill Park on July 19th, 2025. This was awarded under Local Government Act 1972 S.19.

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

3. Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground (BLAP)

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to award £500 toward insurance costs for their after-school club program. This was awarded under Local Government Act 1972 S.19.

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

FC0110/24 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

1. WORKING GROUP UPDATE

An update was received.

2. WORKING GROUP QUORATE

It was **RESOLVED** to amend Section 5.9 of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Terms of Reference to reduce the quorum from 5 to 3 parish councillors. This was proposed by Cllr Newman and seconded by Cllr Edosomwan.

3. WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to appoint Deborah McIlveen to the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

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

FC0111/24 LOCALITY GRANT AWARD 2024

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to return £8,588.80 to the unspent portion of the Locality grant and reapplying when the new grant programme opens in July 2025.

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

FC0112/24 PARISH COUNCILLOR MATTERS

1. ASSIGN TO A WARD

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to assign Cllr Webb to the Blackbird Leys Ward.

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

2. WEBSITE REPRESENTATIVE

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to appoint Cllr Newman as Website Representative, as per the Representative Protocol to investigate and report back on requirements for a new council website.

3. WEBSITE WORKING GROUP

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to appoint

- i. Cllr Newman
- ii. Cllr Lewis
- iii. Cllr Edosomwan

FC0113/24 FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Income

None

2. Internal Financial Controller

It was **NOTED** the invoices against the January 2025 cashbook were correct.

3. Cashbook Purchases and Payments

- i. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to agree to purchase the items listed on the January 2025 cashbook.

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

- ii. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to authorise the payments for the items listed on the January 2025 cashbook

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

- iii. **January 2025 Cashbook**

Date	Payee	Description	Total
02/01/2025	HG3	Jan Mobile Phone Charge	£12.54
10/01/2025	Unity Trust	Jan Corporate Card Monthly Fee	£3.00
10/01/2025	Oxfordshire County Council	Jan Pension	£474.10
25/01/2025	Clerk	Dec Wages	£1,532.22
25/01/2025	Strawberry Majorettes	Small Grant Award	£500.00
25/01/2025	Oxford Play Association	Small Grant Award	£500.00
25/01/2025	Agnes Smith	Small Grant Award	£500.00
25/01/2025	BLAP	Small Grant Award	£500.00
25/01/2025	Clerk	Jan Wages	£1,532.22
25/01/2025	Clerk	Working from Home all Jan	£24.00
25/01/2025	Clerk	Mileage to meeting 21.01.2025	£11.70
25/01/2025	I Edosomwan	Mileage to meeting 09.01.2025	£6.75
23/10/2025	HMRC	Employee Contributions	£1,702.77

28/01/2025	rCOH Ltd	Repre. on the CC Planning Application	£390.00
28/01/2025	More Leisure	Hall Hire	£375.00
28/01/2025	More Leisure	Hall Hire	£125.00
28/01/2025	OALC	Training - Leading Your Council	£72.00
			£8,261.30

FC0114/24 TO PROPOSE ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- i. To approve letter to Hill/Peabody regarding construction traffic safety concerns, specifically addressing vehicle speeds on Knights Road near Orion Academy and requesting additional safety measures including appropriate signage for school children.

FC0115/24 SIGNED: _____
Councillor Edosomwan: - Chair

The meeting closed at 20.59