

BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 28th July 2026, at 7.00 pm at the Leys Leisure Centre.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Parish Councillors: Natalie Webb (Chair), David Newman (Vice-Chair), Imade Edosomwan, Hassan Sabriye, Barrie Finch, Morgan Wilkinson, Melissa Latchman, Brian Lester, Michael Osborne, Millie Henson and Steve James.

OFFICERS PRESENT: **Clerk to the Council:** Emma Kearney.
 Peabody Development Manager: Kris Hall.
 City Councillors: Trish Elphinstone and Simon Ottino.

OTHERS PRESENT: **Members of the Public:** 4

APOLOGIES: The following apologies were received:
 Parish Councillors: Gillian Taylor, Maria Fancaria and Kathy Balsamo.
 City Councillors: Linda Smith and Lubna Arshad.
 Oxford City Council Regeneration Manager: Karoline Soisalo de Mendonca.

FC39/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION
None.

FC40/26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to accept the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 30th June 2026 as a true record.

FC41/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Members of the public made representations on matters pertaining to the agenda.

FC42/26 REGENERATION UPDATE
A verbal update was received from Peabody.

FC43/26 COUNTY, CITY AND PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS
Councillors present gave their reports.

FC44/26 CORRESPONDENCE OUT

- 1. Gym Alarm Noise – Accessibility Concern**
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to write to the Leys Leisure Centre regarding reports that alarm noise at the gym is causing distress to residents with sensory sensitivities.
- 2. Card Increase**
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve the letter, signed per the banking mandate, requesting Unity Trust Bank increase the cardholder limit to £1,500 to cover the cost of future group mailboxes.

FC45/26 CONSULTATIONS

- 1. Local Government Reorganisation**
The outcome of the Government's decision on Local Government Reorganisation in Oxfordshire and West Berkshire was **NOTED**.

2. **Blackbird Leys Footpath No. 2 (part) - Proposed Diversion Under the Highways Act 1980 s.119**

The Council considered Oxfordshire County Council's consultation on the proposed diversion of part of Footpath No. 2 at Knights Road.

It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote to respond to Oxfordshire County Council raising the following points:

- Whether the footpath is also intended to be used as a cycle track.
- The Council's request for clarification on why the existing route cannot be retained.
- That the current temporary route is considered adequate for both walking and cycling, and the Council's preference that it be retained in its current form.
- If retaining the existing route is not possible, a request for the reasons why.

3. **Disabled Persons' Parking Places**

The Council considered Oxfordshire County Council's consultation on proposed Disabled Persons' Parking Places on Blackbird Leys Road.

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote that there were no objections.

4. **General Review of Speed Limits — Rural A and B Class Road Network**

The Council considered Oxfordshire County Council's consultation on proposed speed limit changes, including extending the 40mph limit on the B480 near Grenoble Road/Kings Copse.

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote that there were no objections.

FC46/26

PARISH COUNCIL STALL AT COMMUNITY EVENTS

1. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to agree the Council's attendance at the Oxford Afrobeats Festival 2026, subject to a satisfactory Attendance Request Form and Risk Assessment submitted to the Clerk by 30th July.
2. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve the purchase of a gazebo and a table with two chairs, from the Community Engagement reserve, at a cost of approximately £250.

FC47/26

PLANNING MATTERS

The following planning application was considered.

Application Reference and Details	Address	Ward	Deadline	Outcome
26/01637/FUL - Demolition of existing side and rear structures. Erection of a single storey side and rear extension.	31 Brake Hill, Oxford, Oxfordshire	Blackbird Leys	31.08.2026	No objection

FC48/26

REGISTER OF INTEREST FORM

It was **NOTED** that councillors were reminded to check the information held is up to date.

FC49/26

FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. **Finance Report**

The report was **RECEIVED**.

It was **NOTED** that income of £79.60 was received, being the Clerk's repayment of the wages overpayment for April and May 2026, and that HMRC had given advance notice of an Employers' PAYE direct debit, the amount of which was not yet confirmed.

2. Internal Financial Auditor

Cllr Edosomwan confirmed that the cashbook payments for July and August are true and accurate records.

3. Cashbook Payments

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve and pay the cashbook payments for July and August 2026, totalling £4,101.37, as follows:

Date	Payee	Description	Total
01/07/2026	H3G	July Mobile Phone Charge	£14.00
10/07/2026	Oxfordshire County Council	July Pension	£489.03
25/07/2026	Clerk	July Wages	£1,508.88
July 2026	Clerk	Working from Home Allowance – July 2026	£24.00
August 2026	Clerk	Working from Home Allowance – August 2026	£24.00
09/07/2026	Lloyds Bank	Corporate Card Monthly Fee	£3.00
31/07/2026	Unity Trust	Bank Account Fee	£7.00
28/07/2026	SLCC	Membership 2026-27 – Emma Kearney	£172.04
28/07/2026	OALC	Roles and Responsibilities Training – Cllr Barrie Finch	£150.00
28/07/2026	Leisure Solutions Community Trust	Hall Hire – July 2026 (2 sessions)	£140.46
28/07/2026	Clerk	Reimbursement – Google Workspace Business Email (retrospectively approved at FC35/26)	£1,128.96
11/07/2026	Cllr David Newman	Reimbursement – gazebo hire, Leys Festival	£20.00
12/07/2026	Theresa Goss (WTG Consultants Ltd)	Internal Audit 2025/26 (£325.00) and late submission fee (£75.00)	£400.00
13/07/2026	Cllr David Newman	Reimbursement – taxi to return gazebo	£20.00
		Total	£4,101.37

4. Councillor Training (Training budget line — £2,000 allocated 2026-27)

i. Group Training

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve group training for all councillors on the OALC Roles and Responsibilities course, at a cost of £660.00 (£550 + VAT), to be held on Tuesday 20 October 2026, from the Training budget.

ii. Portfolio Training

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve Cllr Henson's attendance at two NALC online training courses at a cost of £35 per course (£70.00 total), from the Training budget:

1. Managing the Message: Making Social Media Work for You - 26th August 2026
2. The Climate Comeback: Growing Climate Action Locally - 30 September 2026

5. Stationery order

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve the Clerk's request for stationery, up to £75 + VAT.

FC50/26

ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA

None.

The meeting closed at 20.45.

FC51/26

SIGNED: _____
Cllr Webb — Chair