

BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 24th April 2023, at 7.00 pm held a Blackbird Leys Community Centre

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Parish Councillors: Imade Edosomwan (Chairman), Peter Nowland (Vice - Chairman), Anthony Church, Ewa Gluza, Maggie Lewis, Gill Taylor and David Newman.
- OTHER COUNCILLORS:** City Councillors: Rae Humberstone.
County Councillor: Imade Edosomwan.
- OFFICERS PRESENT:** Clerk to the Council: Emma Kearney
- OTHERS PRESENT:** **Oxford City Council Communities & Neighbourhoods:** None
Peabody Project Director: Alex Neate
Consultant: Neil Homer
Community Groups: Friendleys, The Leys Neighbourhood Watch and Oxford Polish Association.
Members of the Public: 7 members.
- APOLOGIES:** The following apologies were received:
Parish Councillors: Olamide Odelajo
City Council Councillors: Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini.
Oxford City Council Regeneration Manager: Karoline Soisalo de Mendonca
Peabody Community Investment Coordinator: Sam Stronach
- FC001/23** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**
None
- FC002/23** **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to accept the minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28th March 2023.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Nowland.
- FC003/23** **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
Members of the public raised questions regarding the regeneration project. It was **NOTED** the parish council will include the key points in the response to the City Council's planning application and a letter will be sent to Peabody and the Regeneration Team with other points that were not included in the response.
It was further **NOTED** the parish council's response and letter will be posted on the parish council's website.
- FC004/23** **COMMUNITY GROUP REPORTS**
The community groups present gave their reports.
- FC005/23** **REGENERATION PROJECT**
An update from Peabody was received.
- FC006/23** **PLANNING CONSULTANT UPDATE**
There were discussions regarding the draft response to the Regeneration planning application, and additional points were included.
- FC007/23** **COUNTY, CITY and PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS**
The councillors present gave their reports, and a report was read out for the city councillor that sent apologies but provided an update.
- FC008/23** **COMMITTEES and WORKING GROUPS UPDATE**
1. Planning Committee
An update was received.

2. Events Committee

It was **NOTED** the Leys Fete was taking place on 1st May, and councillors were asked to volunteer at the event.

3. Strategic Aims Working Group

An update was received.

It was **NOTED** the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 16th May at 7 pm in the Community Centre.

FC009/23

CHAIRMANS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to hold the Annual Meeting of the Electors (the Chairmans Meeting) on 30th May at 6pm 2023.

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

FC010/23

NOMINATION

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to nominate Cllr Church on to the Executive Committee of the Oxford Association of Local Councils for the period of 2023-2027.

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

FC011/23

It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

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

FC012/23

FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Income

The following income was noted.

21/04/2023	Precept	1st installment	£27,194.50
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2. Internal Financial Controller

Cllr Edosomwan confirmed the review of the invoices against the April cashbook were correct.

3. Purchases

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to purchase the items listed on the April 2023 cashbook.

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

April 2023 Cashbook

Date	Payee	Description	Total
03/04/2023	Three Mobile	Mobile Contract	£22.64
11/04/2023	Unity Trust	Bank Account Fee	£3.00
25/04/2023	Oxfordshire Association of Local Council	Membership 2023-24	£2,175.88
25/04/2023	Oxford City Council	Hall Hire - March 2023	£43.20
25/04/2023	Zurich	Insurance Policy	£764.96
25/04/2023	John Dillon	Noticeboard reimbursement	£657.67
25/04/2023	Blackbird Leys Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (ASAC)	70% Grant Award	£1,750.00
25/04/2023	Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground	70% Grant Award	£1,750.00
25/04/2023	O'Neil Homer	Consultancy Fees	£3,600.00
25/04/2023	Keilee Sharkey	Mini Disco/ Pilates	£100.00

25/04/2023	Oxford Meadow School	Green Space Hire	£250.00
25/04/2023	Amazon	Dividers and ink	£15.77
25/04/2023	Andrew Spencer	DJ with PA system	£250.00
25/04/2023	Norbert Pietrasze	Photographer	£100.00
25/04/2023	Ian Pearman	Straw Bales	£175.00
25/04/2023	SYRIAN	TBA	£500.00
25/04/2023	Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground	Hall Hire	£200.00
25/04/2023	HMRC	Employee Contributions	PRIVATE
25/04/2023	Clerks	Salary April	PRIVATE
25/04/2023	Oxford County Council	Pension	PRIVATE
26/04/2023	Oxford County Council	Pension Anomaly	PRIVATE
		Total	£15,942.01

4. Cashbook

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to make the payments for the items listed on the April 2023 cashbook.

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

FC013/23

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- Date to move to the Bowls Club

FC014/23

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

1. Leys Fete – Monday 1st May 2023 (Bank Holiday) from 11am – 4pm.
2. Extraordinary Meeting – Tuesday 2nd May 2023 tt 7 pm.
3. Planning Committee – Tuesday 9th May 2023 tt 7 pm.
4. Annual Meeting of the Electors (Chairmans Meeting) 30th May tt 6 pm.
5. Full Parish Council – Tuesday 30th May 2023 tt 7pm.

The meeting ended at 21.15.

SIGNED: _____ **Cllr Imade Edosomwan** (*Chairman*)

BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd May 2023, at 7.00 pm held a Blackbird Leys Community Centre

MEMBERS PRESENT: Parish Councillors: Imade Edosomwan (Chairman), Peter Nowland (Vice - Chairman), Ewa Gluza, Maggie Lewis Gill Taylor and David Newman.

OTHER COUNCILLORS: City Councillors: None
County Councillor: Imade Edosomwan.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Clerk to the Council: Emma Kearney

OTHERS PRESENT: **Members of the Public:** 6 members.

APOLOGIES: The following apologies were received:
Parish Councillors: Anthony Church

FC015/23 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**
None

FC016/23 **PARISH COUNCILS' RESPONSE TO THE REGENERATION PLANNING APPLICATION.**

The draft application was reviewed.

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to submit the response drafted by the consultant. *(See pages 5-11).*

This proposed by Cllr Edosomwan and seconded by Cllr Newman.

It was **NOTED** to included 2 additional points to the questions making a total of 26 questions to be sent to the regeneration team and Peabody. *(See pages 12-13).*

It was further **NOTED** the clerk would contact the Oxford City Council planning committee and request to be notified when the application was on the meeting agenda.

The meeting ended at 21.15.

SIGNED: _____ **Cllr Imade Edosomwan (Chairman)**

**BLACKBIRD LEYS DISTRICT CENTRE & KNIGHTS ROAD
PLANNING APPLICATION 23/00405/OUTFUL**

REPRESENTATION FROM BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL

*Prepared on behalf of the Parish Council by Neil Homer MBA B.Sc.(Hons) Dip TP UD MRTPI,
Director of ONeill Homer Ltd.*

MAY 2023

1. Introduction

1.1 Blackbird Leys Parish Council (BLPC) welcomes the opportunity to make representations on the planning application (23/00405/OUTFUL) submitted by Catalyst Housing Ltd (CHL) to Oxford City Council (OCC) for the redevelopment of the District Centre and the development at Knights Road.

1.2 Its representation is set out in two main parts: firstly, the process chosen to obtain planning permission and secondly, an analysis of the key principles raised by the proposal. Although not addressed in this representation, BLPC has also identified a series of detailed matters of concern that it will raise with OCC in a series of questions to be sent alongside it.

2. Process

2.1 BLPC is concerned by the nature of the ‘hybrid’ planning application, which is only in outline for the provision of a new community centre and public open space. There is no explanation in the application of why this option has been chosen or of the benefits of leaving the future use and character of the centre and space to the ‘reserved matters’ stage. It is only stated that it will provide for further engagement with the local community in designing those matters applications. BLPC considers this is contrary to the requirement of Local Plan policy SP4 which states that, “planning permission will not be granted for development that prejudices the comprehensive development of the whole site”.

2.2 The land on which the existing community centre sits is pivotal to the delivery of the District Centre proposals. But the community centre itself – now and in the future – is pivotal to the success and identity of Blackbird Leys as a sustainable community. Just the perception that the facilities can be demolished and their future re-provision is left to a later date is of great concern to local residents.

2.3 The approach was not made clear in the previous engagement activities. It crucially assumes that those matters can be satisfactorily resolved within the parameters set by the proposals contained within those other parts of the District Centre that are subject to the full application, notably the location of ‘Block A’ and the realigned Blackbird Leys Road.

2.4 And yet, the decision to apply only for outline permission has resulted in a serious deficiency throughout the documentation – most especially the Planning Statement (PS) – in addressing the future community centre provision and in justifying this assumption. Even the attempt of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) to describe the evolution of

the design proposals for that land fall short of explaining why the facility moved from one that appeared to be of a similar scale and location to the existing facility in 2019 to one that is re-positioned at the back of the site and is only two thirds of its existing total floorspace.

2.5 The outline application does not explain what provisions it would expect to be made to secure the delivery of the community centre, as it has done in committing to the re-provision of the retail units in Block A prior to the redevelopment of the existing shops opposite. Nor is there any proposal that explains how the re-provision of community centre space will be phased and handled to minimise the disruption of existing users and providers (including how access to the adjoining BLAP nursery will be secured during construction works); nor of the expected governance, management and operational model for the new facility; and nor of the possibility that has been mooted by officers before of relocating the library and health centre to the new facility, which is of great concern given its now smaller size. Again, it would seem that the expectation is that all of those matters can be resolved at a later stage, and will not be prejudiced by the full application, on which BLPC is offered little confidence in the application documentation.

2.6 For these reasons, BLPC urges Catalyst Housing Ltd and OCC to amend the application to a comprehensive full application (with no matters reserved) so that the future of the community centre and open space can be properly addressed at the same time. This will bring the proposal in line with policy SP4 and need not undermine the core objectives of the District Centre proposals, which it broadly supports. BLPC understands the challenges inherent in this type of complex, phased, redevelopment scheme but is concerned that the process may have discarded plausible alternatives too early with no chance of rowing back once the full application has been approved. It does not consider that an amended application need take that long to agree with the local community.

3. Key Principles

3.1 BLPC's concerns fall into five categories:

- The location and function of the community centre and open space ('village green')
- The re-provision of retail and commercial units
- Parking provision
- Biodiversity offsetting
- The bigger picture of change in and around Blackbird Leys over the next 10-15 years

Community Centre

3.2 BLPC reluctantly accepts that for the District Centre scheme to work per the requirements of Local Plan policy SP4 then the existing community centre must be redeveloped. The application (§5.3 of the PS) notes that, *"it was agreed (during the Stage 1 consultations) that a joined up, holistic approach to the provision of future community facilities is needed taking into account the community infrastructure that already exists."*

3.3 However, it is concerned that from early on in the design process the brief to the masterplan team allowed for a significant (one third) reduction in the size of the existing facility. The application (the PS and SCI) alleges that the facility is too big and poorly configured, to the extent that any smaller new building must be capable of being seen as an

improvement – Table 2 of the PS states that, *“this is because the centre will be more flexible and efficient: all spaces will be better used, so less space will be needed.”* BLPC struggles to understand this rationale and has found no evidence presented to explain how such an improvement would be achieved.

3.4 Local Plan policies G5 (indoor sports) facilities and V7 (community facilities) both expect proposals leading to a loss of those facilities to justify how the ‘new and improved’ replacement facilities would be achieved. The PS fails to establish what is the baseline of uses and operations at the Centre (both as it stands, but also importantly with some historical perspective). It also fails acknowledge that policy G5 is engaged at all and although references policy V7 (in its Table 7 and Appendix 4) it contains no analysis of the issue. Even for an outline application, this is a significant omission.

3.5 BLPC considers that the demand by users of the existing centre has been suppressed in recent years – hence the need for the application to set out the baseline data – but that with effective governance, management and modest investment that amount of floorspace could be well occupied by a wide variety of community uses. It also fails to see how a smaller facility will be able to serve a community on its doorstep that will be at least 600 people larger in population than at present.

3.6 BLPC is also concerned that the location of the new centre is poor. A key advantage of the existing centre is that it is prominent and accessible at the heart of the District Centre. The application fails to explain in the evolution of the design through 2020 – 2021 why its location shifted backwards. The rear of the site is not as visible or as accessible and the smaller building will be lost behind Block A and the new church development to its south.

3.7 BLPC therefore considers that the Block A/community centre/public space (and ‘village green’ – see below) land should be reconsidered as part of the comprehensive, full application it urges above. BLPC will support the redevelopment of the existing facility provided that it is at least the same total floorspace (we think 1,700 sq.m. though different numbers are quoted in the application documents) and is placed in a more prominent location. BLPC will only support a proposal for a significantly smaller facility if the applicant can clearly demonstrate that it can be justified (per Local Plan policy).

Village Green

3.8 Much is made in the application about the proposed amount of public open space at the new District Centre exceeding the policy requirements and how important the new ‘village green’ and public space between Block A and the community centre are to creating a vibrant and revitalised Centre.

3.9 BLPC is concerned that the success of the public realm will be determined more by its quality and functional relationship with the surrounding uses than its size. It seems that the land that is currently occupied by the community centre and green traffic island could have been used more efficiently to allow for a community centre building of the same size as it is now. And again there is little detail on how the space will be used and managed to avoid the fate of many such spaces that fall foul of public sector funding limitations and standard property management practices.

3.10 BLPC also notes that the application proposes a 'dead' ground floor frontage to the village green by replacing the existing retail units with the apartments in Block B. This seems to be a missed opportunity to create an active frontage around each main side of the new public space.

3.11 As with the community centre, BLPC considers that the 'village green' land should be reconsidered as part of the comprehensive, full application it urges above. It supports the principle of its provision and of its general location but remains to be convinced that it is of the optimum size and that it cannot be better related to its surrounding uses. Further, it requires a clear plan for how the space will be governed and managed that cannot be left to the reserved matter stage.

Retail and Commercial Units

3.12 BLPC considers that with the significant increase in the immediate population, and with new homes planned elsewhere in Blackbird Leys, it could be argued there is likely to be the demand for additional retail and commercial uses. It notes that the adopted Local Plan policies V1 (ensuring the vitality of centres) and V4 and a number of policies in the emerging Local Plan 2040 place great emphasis on the role of District Centres like Blackbird Leys in creating sustainable and healthy communities and reducing car dependence for some retail generated trips. BLPC strongly supports those policies and agrees that the re-provision of the existing shops and services is, alongside the new community centre and village green, essential to any regeneration initiative.

3.13 Instead, it finds that the application caps the total new floorspace at 1,300 sq.m. and proposes 1,228 sq.m. (per the application form) but it states that the current floorspace of the shops totals 1,876 sq.m., resulting in a loss of a third. BLPC notes that the supporting text to Local Plan policy V4 (district centre shopping frontages) says that:

"There are significant benefits to be secured from providing facilities more locally for communities; this can help to reduce the need to travel and the need to access the city centre ... by developing and expanding the offer at district centres, the critical mass for developing public transport and cycling links directly to ... the district centres can be created."

3.14 It also notes that the policy then sets out the desired mix of 'town centre uses' on the ground floor of units at Blackbird Leys District Centre, comprising retail (at least 40%, formerly defined as A1 in the Use Class Order), other commercial (formerly defined as A2-A5 uses) and other uses suited to a town (district) centre location provided they are no more than 15% of the total floorspace. It allows for proposals that will not comply with this mix where exceptional circumstances can be *"demonstrated that changes in the retail circumstances of the ... district centres means that there is no longer demand for the existing levels of A1 or other A class units, and if sufficiently robust evidence is provided to clearly demonstrate that the uses proposed would not adversely impact the function, vitality and viability of the shopping frontage as a whole."*

3.15 BLPC would therefore have expected the PS to acknowledge the proposed significant decrease in floorspace and to explain and evidence its rationale in accordance with policy V4, but it does not. It does commit to providing the new floorspace in Block A prior to the

redevelopment of the shops, which BLPC agrees is essential, but it does not justify the loss of floorspace and this must be corrected, given this a full application with no means of providing for additional floorspace once built out.

3.16 The PS proposes that the new units being flexible in their use but does not acknowledge that the proposals need to comply with the policy V4 mix. It does not explain why this mix may no longer be appropriate. Nor does it acknowledge that in planning for new retail and commercial units the mix can be specified using the Class E definitions of Part A of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2020, with that mix established through a planning condition.

3.17 The PS notes (in its Table 1 on p11) that a response to the Stage 2 consultation was that the scheme should, *“provide a mix of uses including new homes, shops, public green space, offices, live/work accommodation, community and wellbeing facilities, business start-up space, and more social spaces in the area, such as a café or restaurant.”* The applicant’s response was that, *“the type and scale of the retail uses will be decided in the next stage of detailed consultation and design with OCC.”* If this has been undertaken then the application does not explain how.

3.18 In the same vein, the application fails to properly explain why the requirement of policy SP4 for the provision of ‘start up employment units’ and ‘live/work’ units has not been followed. Those provisions were made by OCC after consultations during the making of the Local Plan made clear that such uses would play an important part in bolstering the economic importance of the District Centre as a source of local jobs and enterprise.

3.19 BLPC urges the applicant and OCC to revisit the economic and social proposals for the re-provision of retail and commercial uses in the District Centre. They appear to underestimate the demand for local convenience goods and services from a larger local population, such services being less affected by internet shopping and more valued by the community since Covid.

Parking Provision

3.20 The application proposes to reduce the current number of 38 car parking spaces serving the community centre and shops to a total of 13 spaces. More generally, the PS (§6.18) notes that across the District Centre area there will be a loss of 99 spaces, leaving 44 spaces and three car club spaces in total. Elsewhere (at Knights Road and Block D) one space per home will be provided.

3.21 BLPC accepts that OCC has sought to reduce car dependency and encourage walking, cycling and public transport use for many years. This is reflected in Local Plan policy M3 (motor vehicle parking) which requires a maximum of one parking space per home in areas outside a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ). The CPZ in Blackbird Leys is located to the west of Blackbird Leys Road and applies only on Sunday mornings and at Kassam Stadium event times. It is therefore not the type of CPZ that applies across most other parts of the city, i.e. either 24-7 or weekdays. And it does not apply at all to the land in the application area to the east of Blackbird Leys Road, i.e. in relation to Block A.

3.22 BLPC therefore considers that application is incorrect in applying policy M3 to Block A (it being outside the CPZ) and to Blocks B and C (given the very occasional status of the CPZ here) and has failed to justify why car free schemes for over 200 homes are appropriate. The submitted Transport Assessment (TA) simply notes (in its §7.6.5) that the approach has been agreed with County Highways and offers no further analysis or mitigation for how cars that are owned by occupants should be put in place. Nor does it justify why only three car club spaces are necessary to support this scale of development.

3.23 BLPC is very concerned that such a scale of under-provision will lead to high levels of on street parking over a large area as it is simply not practical for the vast majority of households to be car free in this peripheral location, no matter how good and affordable are local public transport services and effective the Travel Plan arrangements. And the TA has built in this under-provision in its analysis of the traffic effects on the local area (in its §8.4.1 and Table 8.4), assuming that there will be no car trips generated by 200 homes, thereby significantly under-estimating the traffic effects of cars that will inevitably be used by future occupants. Furthermore, it is concerned that the community centre and shops have far too few convenient spaces allocated to them, which is very likely to hinder the practical operation of the centre and will dissuade 'drop-in' customers. No evidence has been provided in the application to acknowledge these risks to their viability let alone set out mitigation measures.

3.24 BLPC cannot accept that this interpretation of how to apply policy M3 in the real world in Blackbird Leys. The consequences of this approach for years to come will be to the detriment of the local community, not just residents, businesses and customers of the District Centre, but of a wider area as the knock-on effects spread. It therefore urges the application and OCC to revisit the proposals for managing car parking at the District Centre.

Knights Road

3.25 BLPC is concerned about the potential for harmful effects of the Knights Road proposal on the adjoining Spindleberry Nature Park. It notes in the Ecological Appraisal (EA) submitted with the documents that without effective mitigation the construction and occupancy of the scheme both have that potential (see its §5.5 - §5.7, p18). It therefore proposes that mitigation measures should be taken to avoid recreational disturbance (§6.3, p21) and others to address other effects. **It is therefore vital that a mitigation strategy is agreed and delivered via the S106 agreement and/or by a planning condition, with the local community consulted by OCC on that strategy before its agreement.**

3.26 The EA rules out the suitability of Northfield Brook to the south of the scheme as a habitat for kingfishers. However, members of the public have seen kingfishers in that area over the years. **BLPC therefore requests that the applicant refreshes the EA during the consideration of the application to verify if the habitat may be suited to kingfishers, and if so, to ensure that any further mitigation measures are included in the strategy.**

3.27 BLPC notes that the applicant accepts (in §9.121 of the PS) that the Knights Road proposal will lead to a 27% loss of habitat using the Biodiversity Net Gain metric. The PS goes on to state that the applicant's preference is to deliver the necessary offsetting of this loss with a scheme based in Oxford. **BLPC accepts that such a loss would be inevitable with**

this scheme but recommends that the proposal delivers the offsetting in the Blackbird Leys/Greater Leys, and only if this is shown not to be feasible then delivered elsewhere within South Oxford area, or failing that, the Oxford area.

The Bigger Picture

3.28 BLPC is concerned that the application contains no analysis of the effects of delivering 300 new homes, and an increased population of 600 – 700 people, on the capacity of local social infrastructure – schools, GP services, the community centre. Nor does it show how the proposals will better connectivity with local facilities – the Kassam, the proposed new Cowley Branch Line station for example – as part of achieving a genuine, walkable community.

3.29 It has noted the advice of the most recent Oxford Infrastructure Delivery Plan of February 2022. This reports that there is spare capacity in primary school places in Oxford overall, but does not include information at a more local level. And it reports that there are significant, existing capacity constraints on GP services in South Oxford that will be exacerbated by the housing proposals of the Local Plan. It contains no proposals for how this should be addressed with providers in the Blackbird Leys area but indicates that planning for an increase in demand in this part of the city may be co-ordinated with the strategic development proposals at Grenoble Road and Northfield.

3.30 BLPC urges the applicant to redress this failing in the application – notably the PS – by explaining how the cumulative effects of these proposals with those elsewhere in Blackbird Leys and its surroundings at Littlemore and South Oxfordshire on local social infrastructure will be addressed.

3.31 In considering this matter, it highlighted to BLPC the absence of any coherent, specific planning strategy for Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys, either in the adopted Local Plan or the emerging Local Plan 2040. Those Plans see the community as part of the wider South Oxford for spatial planning purposes. But this does not recognise the constraints of geography of this community south of the Oxford ring road and its strong local identity. Rather, the Local Plan site proposals resemble a collection of individual schemes that just happen to be in the same local area – the District Centre, Knights Road, the Sandy Lane Stadium and recreation ground. Nor does BLPC believe that OCC has properly understood and planned for the effects of many thousands of new homes around the edge of the area over the next 10-15 years – it matters not to local communities if those homes are in a different planning authority area.

3.32 Although not a matter for the determination of this application, BLPC will use it as a prompt to discuss with OCC how this spatial planning deficit may be corrected.

4. Summary

4.1 BLPC supports OCC's ambitions to regenerate the District Centre and accepts that the development of the open space at Knights Road forms part of the viability of the proposals. The principle of these schemes has been established in the adopted Local Plan.

4.2 But it is concerned that after three years of engagement ending last year, the proposals submitted shortly afterwards appear rushed and incomplete. With such essential elements of community life – the community centre, shops, open spaces, Spindleberry Park – facing significant change, BLPC cannot understand how their future appears so uncertain. Even the application process itself has been rushed, with BLPC having very little time as the democratic, representative body of the Blackbird Leys community to review and comment on such an important proposal.

4.3 However, rather than submit a straightforward objection to the proposals, BLPC wishes to encourage the applicant and OCC to engage with it in the coming weeks to work together to resolve its concerns. It is in everyone's interests for there to be a successful outcome.

Questions regarding the Regeneration Planning Application 23/00405/OUTFUL

1. There are serious concerns with how the entrance to BLAP will function during the demolition of the old swimming pool, and the demolition and construction of the new community centre, as BLAP will be without its normal entrance.
A new safe entrance with lighting, important for winter months, and security gate and two-way communications between new gate and reception desk to BLAP should be provided.
2. Also, whether the entrance be via Cuddesdon Way or Moorbank, attention needs to be given to the safety of both children and parents picking children up. There were 39 children at BLAP yesterday most of whom are picked up by parents. During winter either entrance will be dark and there is no pathway up from Cuddesdon Way.
3. The old swimming pool is one of the boundaries of BLAP, if demolished a new safe fence will be provided?
4. There are community groups that still require placing for when the community centre is demolished.
5. The parish council would like to be notified of the Oxford City Council planning meeting were this application is on the agenda, so it can represent the community.
6. A Construction Management Plan (M2) should be included in the application, is there one?
7. The water reports claim that swales will clean up pollution from residential run off before it reaches Northfield Brook. We know that doesn't work for Lye Valley.
What assurance is there that it will work here?
8. Residents like the parks, open spaces, and wildlife, in Spindleberry and Sandford Brake.
How about creating wildlife corridors to connect the other end of Northfield Brook to natural areas outside Oxford, crossing Grenoble Road in two places, and planting woodlands to the south of Northfield Brook into the parks?
9. Is there any study of alternatives to building on the Knights Road recreation space, such as planting trees to make Spindleberry Nature Park bigger?
10. The biodiversity reports have redactions. Is it because any building will adversely affect bats?
11. Can a parish council get to see unredacted documents? E.g. the paragraphs about bats that are blacked out.
12. Treescape - It looks like some will be cut down, some planted and changes to continue over 25 years. What is the impact on wildlife of mature tree loss, and how does this accord with policies to increase tree cover across Oxfordshire?

13. Green roofs are not included in this scheme, why?
14. Can the blocks of flats have underground parking?
15. Solar panels are not fitted on the new houses, so it will cost more to install at a later date, why is this not included?
16. Residents are concerned 'Block D' is situated too close to the high-rise residents, is this within planning regulations?
17. Why are the heat pumps not being used to provide base load heating in the central area?
18. Why are some U values higher in the Knights Roadhouses than in the central area flats?
19. Pedestrian and cycle path connections from the Knights Road site seem to be limited to two (Kassam Stadium and the beginning of the path to Falcon Crescent).
20. What about connections to the Science Park for when the Cowley Branch Line station is built there (e.g. to the north of Northfield Brook)? Or shortcuts to the bus stop
There isn't any mention of improving the rest of the path across the railway line to Spring Lane. Connections outside the immediate area of the plans are important.
21. Some documents mention a footbridge to Frys Hill Park. Others do not. Will there be a direct and quick way to reach the leisure facilities there from the Knights Road site, rather than having to go through the Kassam car park?
22. How will the cycle paths in the central area be connected to wider cycling networks in Oxford?
23. Will there be continuous separated paths to join to the paths crossing the railway and ring road?
24. Will there be a cycle route to connect to Littlemore and the Science Park?
25. In the early stages of the regeneration consultation. I went to a whole day event in The Barn shortly after I moved here. We did walking tours with the consultation facilitators and a tree expert, then sat down on tables drawing on maps where buildings should go. At that stage the new community centre was to be built on the current site. A year later they proposed moving the shops and houses to where the community centre is, then building a new community centre where the shops are now. The early consultations were carried out by a company of consultation facilitators. Where are the documents from that part of the process? How and when did the design get changed so much?
26. Residents are concerned that the parish council had to appoint a consultant to understand the planning application.

BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

The Annual Meeting of the Electorate

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 30th May 2023, at 6.00 pm held a Blackbird Leys
Community Centre

The joint chairs of the parish council Cllr Church and Cllr Edosomwan greeted residents and talked about the achievements of the parish council.

Cllr Gluza showed a video of the events held by the parish council.

BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Annual Meeting

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 30th May 2023, at 7.00 pm held a Blackbird Leys Community Centre

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Parish Councillors:** Imade Edosomwan (Chair), Peter Nowland (Vice Chair), Anthony Church, Ewa Gluza, Maggie Lewis, Gill Taylor, and David Newman.

OTHER COUNCILLORS: **City Councillors:** Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini.
County Councillor: Imade Edosomwan.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: **Oxford City Council Communities & Neighbourhoods:** None.
Oxford City Council Regeneration Manager: Karoline Soisalo de Mendonca.
Peabody Regeneration Project Director: Alex Neate.
Members of the Public: 12.

FC017/23 Election of the Chair

1. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote for Cllr Church to be elected as the chair of the council from May 2023 to October 2023, and Cllr Edosomwan to be elected as the chair of the council from November 2023 to April 2024.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Edosomwan.
It was **NOTED** that both Chairs signed an Acceptance of Office form.
2. It was **NOTED** the chairs had already attended the chair training.
3. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote that the date of the 'Annual Meeting of the Parish' would be Tuesday 28th May 2024 at 6pm.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Nowland

FC018/23 Apologies

The following apologies were received:
City Councillors: Rae Humberstone.

FC019/23 Election of the Vice-Chair

1. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote for Cllr Nowland to be elected as vice-chairman.
This was proposed by Cllr Nowland and seconded by Cllr Edosomwan.
2. It was **NOTED** that Councillor Nowland had already attended the chair training.

FC020/23 Declarations of Interest and Applications for Dispensation

None

FC021/23 Minutes of the previous meeting

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to accept the minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th April 2023, and the Extraordinary Meeting of the council held on 2nd May 2023.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Nowland.

FC022/23 Public Participation

1. Residents attended to express concerns with a community Facebook group linked to Neighbourhood Watch posting residents criminal convictions.
They expressed the distress and upset it causes to the wider family and friends.
2. A resident attended to raise concerns regarding the grass cutting around the estate and how it was hazardous in some areas.
3. A resident attended to raise concerns regarding the regeneration planning application namely -
 - Knights Road has badgers living near-by, but there is no evidence of an adequate survey being carried out.

- The overwhelming amount of paperwork submitted by the regeneration team and the minimum deadline given for it to be reviewed.
- The lack of a statement of community engagement, which makes it hard to understand how the success of the regeneration project could be measured.
- As only 3.8% of the community attended the consultations, could this low attendance show they were meaningful.

FC023/23 Regeneration Update

1. Peabody

- The Local Planning Authority conduct the consultations so representation should be made directly to them.
- Recent changes to the planning application were due to new fire regulations, hence the additional 200+ documents being submitted.
For example, Block 'A' now requires an additional staircase so has been changed from a 2 bed to a 1 bed flat.

2. Parish Council

It was **NOTED** that a Liaison Team was formed to represent the parish council regarding the regeneration planning application.
The members consist of the planning consultant, clerk, chair, planning chair and the environmental and climate change representative.
The Liaison Team will attend meetings with Oxford City Council and Peabody to represent the community's view regarding the planning application.

FC024/23 Bowls Club

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote for the parish council to move to the Bowls Club for the next full council meeting on 27th June 2023, and hold all meetings thereafter.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Taylor.

FC025/23 Planning Committee

1. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to continue with the planning committee.
This was proposed by Cllr Edosomwan and seconded by Cllr Church.
2. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to continue with the current delegated powers/terms of reference as adopted at the meeting held on Tuesday 30th June 2020 (Min Ref: FC0041/20).
3. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote for the quorum to remain at 3 councillors.
This was proposed by Cllr Edosomwan and seconded by Cllr Newman.
4. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to hold the planning committee meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm, at the Bowls Club.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Edosomwan.
5. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to appoint the following councillors to the planning committee.
 1. Cllr Edosomwan
 2. Cllr Church
 3. Cllr Lewis
 4. Cllr Taylor

This was proposed by Cllr Edosomwan and seconded by Cllr Lewis.
6. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to elect Cllr Church as the Planning Committee Chairman.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Edosomwan.
7. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to elect Cllr Edosomwan as the Planning Committee Vice Chairman
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Edosomwan.
8. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to elect Cllr Taylor as the Planning Committee minute-taker.

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

FC025/23

Staffing Committee

1. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to continue with the staffing committee.
This was proposed by Cllr Nowland and seconded by Cllr Church.
2. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to continue with the terms of reference for the committee as adopted at the meeting held on Tuesday 28th September 2021 (Min Ref: FC0073/21).
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Gluza.
3. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to elect Cllr Gluza as the Staffing Committee Chairman
This was proposed by Cllr Gluza and seconded by Cllr Church.
4. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to appoint Cllr Newman and Cllr Nowland to serve on the Staffing Committee.
This was proposed by Cllr Edosomwan and seconded by Cllr Church.
5. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to appoint Cllr Church as the alternative member to the Staffing Committee.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Gluza.
6. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to hold the clerk's annual appraisal in the first in October 2023.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Gluza.
7. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote for Cllr Newman and Cllr Church to attend the next appraisal training course by the O.A.L.C.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Gluza.

Action: Clerk to arrange

FC026/23

Strategic Aims Working Group

1. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to continue with the Strategic Aims Working Group.
This was proposed by Cllr Newman and seconded by Cllr Lewis.
2. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to appoint the following members to the Strategic Aims Working Group.
 - 1) Cllr Newman
 - 2) Cllr Edosomwan
 - 3) Cllr Lewis
 - 4) Cllr Gluza
3. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote for Strategic Aims Working Group meetings to be held on first Tuesday of the month.
This was proposed by Cllr Gluza and seconded by Cllr Lewis.

FC027/23

Events Committee

1. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to continue with the Events Committee.
This was proposed by Cllr Gluza and seconded by Cllr Lewis.
2. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to continue with the terms of reference for the committee as adopted at the meeting held on Tuesday, 28th June 2022 (Min Ref: FC0045/22).
3. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to appoint the following members.
 1. Cllr Newman
 2. Cllr Gluza
 3. Cllr Edosomwan
This was proposed by Cllr Gluza and seconded by Cllr Newman.
4. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to elect Cllr Gluza as the Events Committee Chairman
This was proposed by Cllr Gluza and seconded by Cllr Newman.

5. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to elect Cllr Newman as the Events Committee minute-taker.
This was proposed by Cllr Gluza and seconded by Cllr Newman.
5. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote for Events Committee meetings to be held on third Tuesday of the month.
This was proposed by Cllr Gluza and seconded by Cllr Church.

FC028/23

Policies, Procedure and Document Review

The following were reviewed.

1. Code of Conduct
2. Communication Policy
3. Complaints Procedure
4. Equality and Diversity Policy
5. Financial Regulations 2019
6. Health and Safety/Statement
7. Privacy Policy
8. Publication Scheme
9. Standing Orders 2018 (V 2020)
 - i. The Clerk was appointed as the Data Protection Officer.
10. Training and Development Policy

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to adopted with immediate effect.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Edosomwan.

FC029/23

Representatives

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote for following councillors to be appointed to act as a representative for the following portfolios, as per the Representative Protocol.

- 1. Planning portfolio - Cllr Church**
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Nowland.
- 2. Health and Wellbeing portfolio - Cllr Nowland**
This was proposed by Cllr Nowland and seconded by Cllr Church
- 3. Environment and Climate Change - Cllr Newman**
This was proposed by Cllr Newman and seconded by Cllr Nowland.
- 4. Transport – Cllr Newman**
This was proposed by Cllr Newman and seconded by Cllr Nowland.
- 5. Community Safety- Cllr Lewis**
This was proposed by Cllr Nowland and seconded by Cllr Church.

FC030/23

Community Groups

To agree to receive a report from

- 1. Neighbourhood Watch**
This was proposed by Cllr Lewis but has no seconder, so this motion **FAILED**.
- 2. Friendleys**
This was proposed by Cllr Nowland and seconded by Cllr Church.
- 3. Oxford Polish Association**
This was proposed by Cllr Gluza and seconded by Cllr Church.

FC031/23

Financial Matters

- 1. Precept figure 2023 -24**
It was **NOTED** the precept figure for 2023-24 is £54,389.00.
- 2. Large Grants**
It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote to cease awarding the large grants from January 2024.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Gluza.

3. Income

It was **NOTED** the following income was received for May 2023.

03/05/2023	Ox City Council	Events Grant	£250.00
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Date	Payee	Description	Total
30/05/2023	Clerk	Salary - May	Conf
30/05/2023	Oxfordshire County Council	Pension Payment - May 2023	Conf
30/05/2023	HMRC	Overdue	Conf
30/05/2023	Oxford Polish Association	Reimb. for Meet Santa Inv	£106.02
30/05/2023	Oxford Polish Association	Family Games	£68.90
30/05/2023	Oxford Polish Association	Events Sundry	£119.91
30/05/2023	Oxford Polish Association	Redesigning logo	£100.00
30/05/2023	Oxford Polish Association	Reimb. for Leys Fete	£667.95
30/05/2023	Epsom	Printer Ink for Annual Meeting	£45.99
30/05/2023	Islip Parish Council	SLCC Cont	£111.00*
30/05/2023	Oxford City Council	Room Hire April	£44.00
30/05/2023	Oxford City Council	Room Hire May	£44.00
30/05/2023	Amazon	Eco friendly cups	£9.97
30/05/2023	Clerk via expenses	Refreshments	£17.75

4. Cashbook Purchases

It was **RESOLVED** unanimous vote to purchase the following cashbook for May 2023.

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

* It was **NOTED** that as the clerk works for another parish, the SLCC splits the membership cost which gives a reduction.

5. Cashbook Payments

It was **RESOLVED** unanimous vote to make the payments for the purchases as listed on the cashbook for May 2023.

This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Nowland

6. Standing Orders

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to pay the following payments via standing order/Direct Debit.

1. Clerks Salary
2. Pension
3. HMRC Contributions.

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

7. Internal Financial Controller

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to elect Cllr Edosomwan as the internal financial controller.

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

FC032/23

Date of the next Meetings

Planning Committee – Tuesday 13th June 2023

Full Parish Council – Tuesday 27th June 2023

The meeting ended at 20.40

SIGNED: _____ **Cllr Anthony Church (Chairman)**

BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 27th June 2023, at 7.00 pm held at Blackbird Leys Bowls Club Cuddesdon Way, Oxford OX4 6JP.

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Parish Councillors:** Anthony Church, (Chair), Peter Nowland (Vice Chair), Imade Edosomwan, Ewa Gluza, Maggie Lewis, Gill Taylor, and David Newman.

OTHER COUNCILLORS: **City Councillors:** None
County Councillor: Imade Edosomwan.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: **Oxford City Council Executive Director for Development:** Tom Bridgman.
Peabody Regeneration Project Director: Alex Neate.
Oxford City Council Communities & Neighbourhoods: Amber Giles, Hollie Morgan, and Jayne Watson.
Consultant: Neil Homer
Members of the Public: Five

FC033/23 **Apologies**
The following apologies were received.
Parish Councillors: Olamide Odelajo.
City Councillors: None
Oxford City Council Regeneration Manager: Karolina Soisalo de Mendonca.
Peabody Community Investment Coordinator: Sam Stronach

FC034/23 **Public Participation**

- Prof. Alexander Betts from Oxford University expressed the wish to connect with the community through the parish council.
- A resident attended to advise of a community event taking place on 11th and 12th August and make enquiries regarding a small grant.
- A resident attended to raise concerns regarding the impact on the badgers effected by the Knights Road part of the regeneration planning application.

FC035/23 **Declarations of Interest and Applications for Dispensation**
None

FC036/23 **Minutes of the previous meeting**
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to accept the minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on 30th May 2023.
This was proposed by Cllr Edosomwan and seconded by Cllr Nowland.

FC037/23 **Regeneration Update from Oxford City Council and Peabody.**

- The keyworker policy is not being used across the city, as there is a general policy from the Local Plan 2040.

Regeneration Planning Application

- The retail space will be a minimum of 942 square metres.
- The size of the community centre will be a minimum of 1200 square metres.
- The community will be consulted on the design.
- The community centre must be opened before the housing is occupied.
- The planning application is hybrid due to funding.
- The Bingo club and Wednesday Food Larder will be rehomed before the community centre is closed.

It was **NOTED** that the parish council are awaiting the response to questions raised to the City Council and Peabody regarding the planning application.

- FC038/23 Community Reports**
The community groups present gave their reports.
- FC039/23 County, City and Parish Councillor Reports**
The councillors present gave their reports.
It was **NOTED** that Cllr Gluza has the parish council's banner.
- FC040/23 Regeneration Planning Application**
The draft of the second representation from the parish council was considered, and it was agreed to include the points raised during the meeting.
It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote to approve the second representation and for it to be sent to the planning case officer on behalf of the parish council.
This was proposed by Cllr Newman and seconded by Cllr Taylor.
- FC041/23 Financial Matters**
- 1. Income**
None.
- 2. Internal Financial Controller**
Cllr Edosomwan confirmed the invoices against the June cashbook as correct.
- 3. Purchases**
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to purchase the items listed on the June 2023 cashbook.
This was proposed by Cllr Edosomwan and seconded by Cllr Nowland.
- 4. Cashbook Payments**
To agree to make the payments for the items listed on the June 2023 cashbook.
- Cashbook Payments June 2023**

30/06/2023	999.ink.com	Replacement Box for clerk's printer	£11.90
30/06/2023	Amazon	Lever Arch Files	£9.27
30/06/2023	Amazon	Index Tabs	£3.58
30/06/2023	Amazon	Printer ink for the clerk	£27.64
30/06/2023	Clerk	Salary - June 2023	Private
30/06/2023	Oxford County Council	Pension Payment - June 2023	Private
30/06/2023	HMRC	Employment Contributions	Private
30/06/2023	Neil Homer	Consultancy invoice	TBA
			£2,986.67

- FC042/23 Items for the next agenda**
- Cllr Church Expression of interest
 - Co-options
- FC043/23 Date of the next Meetings**
Extraordinary Meeting of the Council – AGAR figures – Thursday 29th June 2023.
Planning Committee – Tuesday 11th July 2023.
Full Parish Council – Tuesday 25th July 2023.

The meeting ended at 21.00.

SIGNED: _____ **Cllr Anthony Church (Chairman)**

**BLACKBIRD LEYS DISTRICT CENTRE & KNIGHTS ROAD
PLANNING APPLICATION 23/00405/OUTFUL (ADDITIONAL/REVISED INFORMATION)
SECOND REPRESENTATION FROM BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL**

*Prepared on behalf of the Parish Council by Neil Homer MBA B.Sc. (Hons) Dip TP UD MRTPI,
Director of O'Neill Homer Ltd.*

27 JUNE 2023

1. Introduction

1.1 Blackbird Leys Parish Council (BBLPC) welcomes the opportunity to make representations on the additional and revised information submitted on 19 May 2023 as part of the planning application (23/00405/OUTFUL) for the redevelopment of the District Centre and the development at Knights Road.

1.2 Its response is also informed by a meeting with the applicant on 19 June 2023, at which matters raised in the first response on the application were discussed. This was necessary as the additional and revised information chose not to address those matters.

1.3 At the meeting it became very clear that the City Council (OCC) as a partner in the application proposal has no means of reconsidering some of the key principles of the scheme, as it must obtain planning consent shortly to secure the project funding. The applicant regards the scheme as policy compliant in every regard and referred to preapplication discussions with OCC Planning and with the Highways Authority that appear to support that view. Together, this explains why the hybrid application approach has been used, but BBLPC considers that it effectively renders this consultation exercise futile.

1.4 BBLPC is not satisfied that such an important proposal, with profound implications for the whole future of Blackbird Leys, can be tackled in this way. The applicant considers its consultations in 2019-2022 have provided sufficient opportunity for the community to comment on the proposals, and that all the key features of those proposals have been made very clear in the documentation. Irrespective of these consultations, and the basis of the project model being set out in the March 2020 Scrutiny and Cabinet reports, BBLPC does not consider that the community have been made aware of the inevitable compromises, with the downsides either being ignored or downplayed during the design evolution and in those reports. The full extent of the proposals and their implications have only become apparent in the application documentation from this April.

1.5 With the applicant unwilling to acknowledge, let alone address or seek to mitigate, the policy conflicts that are symptoms of a proposal for the District Centre that has had to make some serious compromises, BBLPC will consider making a request that the Secretary of State (SoS) calls in the application to determine under S77 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 before an approval decision notice is issued. This may lead to the SoS issuing a holding direction under S31 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)

(England) Order 2015 pending a response to that request.

1.6 This is not a turn of events that BBLPC would have wished. It supports policies AOC3 and SP4 of the adopted Local Plan and their regeneration ambitions for Blackbird Leys, but not at any cost. The chosen funding and delivery model has required a different interpretation of those policies than was envisaged in the Local Plan and its evidence base, a matter BBLPC notes that was not addressed in the March 2020 Scrutiny and Cabinet reports in its references to the (then emerging) plan. This has led the project vulnerable to timebound sources of funding, but this should not be a problem that the local community must be

forced to live with for generations to come. If the S77 request is made in due course, and the SoS does call in the application, BBLPC will be ready to assemble those arguments and to present alternatives in helping the SoS to refuse the application.

1.7 BBLPC is confident that there are other ways to deliver new homes and other regeneration benefits within the District Centre and elsewhere in this community. They may entail other compromises to be made, but genuine spatial and delivery options should be generated to give the community a greater say in how to strike the right balance to deliver a viable and beneficial outcome. Sound planning of this type of scheme cannot be made so dependent on only one funding and delivery model. This further review will take longer to deliver but the community has waited this long and will be willing to wait longer to achieve the best result. And the Local Plan housing supply trajectory will not likely be harmed by such a delay, given the Policy SP4 housing number makes a relatively contribution to overall supply in the next five years.

1.8 To that end, BBLPC will shortly propose to OCC the designation of its administrative area to bring forward a neighbourhood plan in 2024. The plan will include co-ordinated, site-specific policies to deliver the adopted Local Plan housing, commercial and community objectives for Blackbird Leys that will fully engage residents and others in a Blackbird Leys focused plan.

2. Key Requirements of an Approved Application

2.1 Should BBLPC decide not to make an S77 request, or should the SoS choose not to call in the application if it does, then BBLPC considers that OCC Planning must make its approval of the application conditional on improving and securing the community benefits that have been offered.

2.2 BBLPC therefore recommends that:

1. the S106 agreement requires that the Community Centre building and public realm are constructed and transferred to BBLPC (as a party to the agreement) to own and manage prior to the first occupation of the District Centre housing scheme, together with a financial sum to be invested by BBLPC in operating the building for at least a three-year period and in funding the maintenance and repair of the building and public realm for an agreed period.

2. a planning condition requires that the Reserved Matters application for the Community Centre and public realm is submitted within a specified time period of the approval of the full application to allow time for OCC and BBLPC to agree the specification of the Community Centre building and public realm.

3. to ensure that the proposal conforms with Local Plan Policy V7, the description of the development approved in outline is modified thus:

*“Outline planning permission is granted for the provision of a community centre **building of at least 1,200 sq.m. and comprising Use Classes F2 and E(d)** and public open space surrounding the community centre (Use Classes F2 and E) and block A (community square and green) in the District Centre with all matters reserved except for the principal means of access”.*

4. a planning condition requires the submission of a revised parking scheme to be based on the introduction of a new Controlled Parking Zone covering the existing CPZ area and the whole District Centre area and to be implemented prior to the occupation of the scheme, to include an increase in the number of on-street and/or off-street spaces available for users of the Community Centre and Block A commercial floorspace and for car club spaces there and at Knights Road;

5. The S106 agreement requires a financial contribution to be made to the cost of

upgrading The Leys Heath Centre;

6. A planning condition requires the submission of a proposal to create a new means of access to the BLAP site, and associated vehicular, 'drop off' parking, during the adjoining construction works as a specific part of the Reserved Matters application; and

7. A planning condition requires the provision of an updated and revised ecology report with measures to ensure the protection of protected species found on the Knights Road site, and to propose effective mitigation measures to manage the effects of the proposal on the Spindleberry Nature Park and Northfield Brook.

2.3 The reasons why BBLPC considers an approval should be conditioned in this way are set out below.

Community Centre

2.4 The applicant has provided no additional evidence to demonstrate that the Centre can successfully operate from a much smaller building at a less prominent location. The modified application description now also allows for a wider range of community, commercial, business and service uses of the Centre but without explanation. The applicant has explained that the building will be a minimum of 1,200 sq.m. and that it wishes to retain flexibility for the future management of the Centre.

2.5 Although in outline only, it remains unclear if the proposal complies with Policy V7. The applicant accepts that the new floorspace will be less than exists but argues that the difference is not material. In order to comply with V7, BBLPC firstly proposes that an outline approval defines a minimum floorspace area so that there is no prospect of this being reduced any further at the Reserved Matters stage.

2.6 BBLPC secondly proposes that the outline approval limits non-F2 uses to only Class E(d), i.e. 'for indoor sport, recreation or fitness ... principally to visiting members of the public'. With other Class E uses elsewhere in the District Centre, and with a smaller building to occupy, BBLPC sees no need for any other Class E uses to compete with them and no prospect of relocating those uses in the Centre without compromising its essential, core F2 use. That use may include a small amount of office accommodation as ancillary to the main use, rather than being standalone, for the same reason.

2.7 BBLPC thirdly proposes that a planning condition is imposed to require the Reserved Matters application for the Community Centre and the public open space is submitted within a specified period. Together with a condition requiring the Centre is made available for operation prior to the occupation of the first dwelling, this will increase the community confidence that this vital asset will be delivered.

2.8 Finally, BBLPC wishes to take responsibility for owning (at least on a long lease) and managing the Centre and the public realm between it and Block A. It has an essential stake, on behalf of the community, in the future success of this venture and considers the most effective way of securing a positive outcome for the community is through ownership and management, rather than continuing to rely on OCC.

2.9 The proposal already makes provision for the cost of building and fitting out the building, but BBLPC would want an appropriate sum to fund the set up and early operational phase, that may not break even and for which BBLPC has no existing precept to subsidise. During agreeing the Reserved Matters application, BBLPC would look to work with the applicant to agree the business model principles for the building and for an appropriate commuted sum to cover the costs of maintaining it and the public realm assets for an agreed period. These arrangements should be secured through the S106 agreement in the normal way.

Access to GP Services

2.10 BBLPC notes that the submitted Health Impact Assessment report (s5.5, p12) acknowledges that The Leys Health Centre, lying 200m from the District Centre, already has a patient list that exceeds the target patients/GP ratio of 1,800 by 14% (at 2021). It seeks to average out this ratio by including the surgeries at Temple Cowley and Hollow Way over one mile from the District Centre (and across the southern by-pass), which results in a ratio that is within the target.

2.11 In doing so it fundamentally misunderstands how communities choose to access local health services. They expect to be able to join their local surgery, especially when the alternatives require, in effect, a car trip to access. It also fails to reflect other development proposals in this southern part of the city, the cumulative effect of which will be to put further pressure on local services.

2.12 To help mitigate the harmful effects of the inevitable increase in demand for GP services at The Leys from an increase in the immediate population of 400 – 500 people, and to discourage car trips to the GPs that are too far away, it is considered that the proposal should make a financial contribution to investing in upgrading that GP surgery.

Parking Enforcement and Traffic

2.13 The letter continues to incorrectly state that the District Centre parking proposals are in line with adopted parking standards. They are not; as the highway's authority notes (in matter 13 of Table 1.1 in the Curtins Technical Note of 19 May 2023) the CPZ is not a residential CPZ of the kind elsewhere in the city to justify zero parking. And the eastern side of Blackbird Leys Road is not in the CPZ in any event.

2.14 The Note responds that the applicant expects to restrict car ownership through the tenant leases and to require that tenants will not be eligible for parking permits. Earlier (in matter 5) the applicant proposes that double yellow lines will be used throughout the District Centre and on-street bays will be short stay only.

2.15 These proposals are simply untenable in this location and may cause significant and long term damage. BBLPC therefore proposes that a new CPZ is agreed with the applicant and County Council for the District Centre and the area of the existing CPZ. It does so with some reluctance, given the challenges presented by car and van ownership and usage by residents and businesses in its area. But the proposal for 280 new, car-free homes must be managed carefully and holistically, and not allowing a poorly developed plan for low car use to dominate how the regeneration scheme will ultimately be measured. The scope and nature of the CPZ may need to differ from the norm elsewhere in the city, but this can be agreed by a planning condition requiring the approval of a new CPZ before the schemes are occupied.

2.16 Similarly, BBLPC does not consider the proposals to significantly reduce short-medium stay, public car parking spaces for the Community Centre and new retail units are tenable. This also has the potential to hinder passing trade that is typically important as part of the customer base for this type of convenience-oriented, commercial units. And it may hinder some uses of the Community Centre, especially those that need direct vehicular access for visiting operators. It therefore proposes that the proposals are amended to deliver more public spaces in the immediate vicinity of the Centre and Block A – this may be addressed in the same CPZ plan.

2.17 While new residents in the District Centre and Knights Road sites could avoid car use by joining a car club, the number of allocated car club parking spaces in both locations is far too small to be effective. Nor are there any improvements proposed to cycling routes from the Knights Road area. As part of the revisions to the parking arrangements, BBLPC requires more car club spaces are provided at both sites and the cycling routes to Spring Lane, Barns Road and the Science Park and Littlemore are improved.

BLAP

2.18 BLPC notes that the applicant accepts that the full application elements will 'fix and constrain' the community centre (p13) and access arrangements to BLAP to its rear. The applicant does not address the interim arrangements for how access to BLAP will be maintained during the two-year construction phase when the current access route will be closed.

2.19 BLAP provides an essential childcare service for the local community and its future viability cannot be undermined by this proposal, which would be contrary to Policy V7. BBLPC therefore requires that a planning condition requires that a detailed proposal for temporary, alternative means of access is submitted as part of the Reserved Matters application.

Knights Road Ecology

2.20 On 11 March 2020 the Oxford City Council Cabinet accepted many of the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee on the Blackbird Leys Development Project. The Scrutiny Committee pointed out that no mention was given to the ecological impact of the development. They recommended "3. That in the detailed design phase of the project the Council requires that Catalyst Housing Limited includes the following within the Stage Two Gateway proposals: d) The appointment of a biodiversity partner to advise on and monitor actions to support ecological mitigations to the development." This recommendation was accepted by the Cabinet. There is no evidence in the application of this having been done, beyond the ecological surveys in 2020 as required for any development. BBLPC requires this to be rectified so it is clear how the proposals will be monitored.

2.21 The Spindleberry Nature Park and areas along Northfield Brook are some of the most biodiverse areas in Blackbird and Greater Leys. To maximise the number of houses built (to meet their affordability criteria), the Knights Park development has spread much further than the playing field. It is taking up most of the wooded area to the west of the path to Kassam Stadium, leaving only a tiny area at the far west. That woodland area includes the biggest badger sett.

2.22 During a recent visit by members of BBLPC and the Oxfordshire Badger Group a badger was seen going from a bees nest they dug out next to that footpath towards the main sett. And at the south and east, the building goes right to the marked boundary of Spindleberry Nature Park. There is another badger set dug into the bank going down from the playing field towards Northfield Brook. The scheme includes building a wall on the boundary line, disturbing the landscape below, and re-levelling the woodland area in the west.

2.23 The applicant's studies found 4 badger setts (from the holes) but they have not sought to find out the extent of the badgers' territory or how many clans of badgers live around the site. The proposals are to build a single artificial sett at the far west of the site with a 30 m no dig exclusion zone around it and move all the badgers there. If they are from two clans, they will fight - but we don't know whether they are. Since the badgers will lose all their feeding ground in the woodland at the west, it is not clear where can they eat.

2.24 The applicant claims they could forage in scrub north of Vue Cinema, Minchery Farm CWS - but there is a planning application to build a Laboratory Building there (22/20555/FUL). It may be possible that badgers could make their way past all the buildings and roads to Spindleberry, but there is no dark wildlife corridor there or any underpass beneath the new footpath to the Kassam stadium. Without modifications, BBLPC is very concerned the badgers will suffer.

2.25 It should therefore be necessary to carry out a further badger survey to properly review the data and to propose and test practical and suitable mitigation measures. In addition, there need to be new surveys of other species, since many (e.g. water voles) were last carried out in 2020.

Knights Road Trees and Biodiversity

2.26 BBLPC considers that by maximising the developable area – it would seem another example of the chosen funding and delivery model requiring compromises on other matters – the proposal has increased biodiversity loss. And that loss on site does not account for the impact of more people, dogs and pollution on Spindleberry Park and Northfield Brook. Parish councils (as well as district councils) have a duty to maintain and increase biodiversity.

A 26% loss is too high.

2.27 Given the loss, to ensure biodiversity gain the first task of a developer is to identify places to increase biodiversity on-site or off-site elsewhere on their lands. It would have been possible to select places to improve biodiversity on other land owned by Oxford City Council, but instead the developers have chosen to buy units from a land manager. BBLPC accepts that OCC is under no obligation to require offsetting of the loss within the immediate area, but this will undermine the quality of life of local residents (and in particular school children) in being able to enjoy nature where they live. In which case, it would seem reasonable for the S106 agreement to direct The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment, as the offsetting provider for OCC, to demonstrate that it has exhausted options for delivering the offset on land within or adjoining Blackbird Leys before searching elsewhere in the city or county.

2.28 A further way of compensating for the proposed biodiversity loss is through planting trees and meadows as part of the landscape scheme. But the tree planting schedule has the wrong trees for this site. It appears as though a standard tree planting scheme for new housing schemes has been chosen, rather than one that bespoke to this local area.

2.29 BBLPC therefore requires that a planning condition requires a revised tree planting scheme that promotes biodiversity on site and protects Spindleberry Park by allowing for no tree planting across the red lines and by requiring the thinning of the existing overgrown trees. It also requires that the S106 agreement provides a commuted sum to OCC (or the Park manager if not OCC) to fund the maintenance of Spindleberry Park to mitigate the potential for harmful effects.

Knights Road Drainage

2.30 BBLPC is concerned that the applicant has only measured the water levels at Northfield Brook in the summer months. This provides little reassurance that there will not be flooding events in this area in the rest of the year, driven by climate change. Soakaways or SUDS may be very difficult to deploy here because the ground is a thin layer of clay and rubble on top of a deep bed of old peat. As a result, the surface water run-off is proposed to flow into a retention point at the far west corner of land. But, the water will empty into Northfield Brook through two pipes. While there are valves to reduce the flow rate, it will still be faster than the current drainage seeping through the soil and it is feared that Northfield Brook will be scoured out.

2.31 BBLPC therefore requires that an additional survey and calculations of the impact of housing on water drainage are produced as a planning condition, to demonstrate that the proposed solutions for a site that is surrounded on three sides by natural habitats will not cause harmful effects outside the application site boundary.

3. Summary

3.1 BBLPC is very concerned that the application has been designed in such a way as to

exploit time-limited source of funds and delivery model that was locked in in March 2020 and has since driven its combination of the very different District Centre and Knights Road Local Plan proposals and its hybrid nature. The applicant does not accept that the proposals have any harmful effects, despite the model clearly lacking an ability to fund elements of a genuine, community-centred, regeneration strategy. No amount of pointing to past consultation events will correct this basic failing, as the model did not and would not have allowed for any deviation from the proposals on cost grounds alone, no matter how well argued and evidenced by the local community.

3.2 BBLPC finds this unacceptable for a proposal that will have a profound and long-lasting effect on the heart of Blackbirds Leys and that is not consistent with the evolution of OCC's regeneration ideas over the last few years.

It therefore **OBJECTS** to the application on the grounds that it does not conform to adopted Local Plan policies AOC3, SP4, M3 and V7 for the reasons set out above and in its previous representation.

BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the extraordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 29th June 2023, at 7.00 pm held at Blackbird Leys Community Centre

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Parish Councillors:** Anthony Church (Chair), Peter Nowland (Vice Chair), Imade Edosomwan, Ewa Gluza, Maggie Lewis, Gill Taylor, and David Newman.

OTHER COUNCILLORS: None

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

OTHERS PRESENT: None

FC044/23 **Apologies:** None

FC045/23 **Declarations of interest and Applications for Dispensation**
None

FC046/23 **Community Picnic**
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to support the community event on 12th August, and offer the use of the Petting Zoo.
This was proposed by Cllr Gluza and seconded by Cllr Newman.

FC047/23 **Year End Audit figures 2022-23 (AGAR Figures)**

- 1. Annual Internal Audit Report 2022-23**
The clerk circulated the internal auditors report in advance.
It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the report by unanimous vote.
This was proposed by Cllr Lewis and seconded by Cllr Edosomwan.
- 2. Annual Governance Statement**
The clerk circulated the questions in advance, and they were read out in the meeting for confirmation.
It was **RESOLVED** to tick 'yes' to all questions as there were no findings from last year's return.
This was proposed by Cllr Gluza and seconded by Cllr Nowland.
- 3. Signed Accounting Statement**
The clerk circulated the figures along with the asset register in advance.
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to agree the Accounting Statement.
This was proposed by Cllr Edosomwan and seconded by Cllr Nowland.
- 4. Statement of Account**
The clerk circulated the statement of Account before the meeting.
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to agree the Statement of Account.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Nowland.
- 5. Confirmation of the Dates of Electors Rights.**
It was **NOTED** that the date of announcement would be Friday 30th June 2023, and the date of commencement Monday 3rd July 2023 ending on Friday 11th August 2023.

FC048/23 **Dates of the next Meetings**
Planning Committee – Tuesday 11th July 2023.
Full Parish Council – Tuesday 25th July 2023.

The meeting ended at 20.00.

SIGNED: _____ **Cllr Anthony Church (Chairman)**

BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 25th July 2023, at 7.00 pm at Blackbird Leys Bowls Club, Cuddesdon Way, Oxford OX4 6JP.

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** **Parish Councillors:** Anthony Church (Chairman), Peter Nowland (Vice - Chairman), Imade Edosomwan, Ewa Gluza, Maggie Lewis, and David Newman.
- OTHER COUNCILLORS:** **City Councillors:** None.
County Councillor: Imade Edosomwan.
- OFFICERS PRESENT:** **Clerk to the Council:** Emma Kearney
- OTHERS PRESENT:** **Oxford City Council Communities & Neighbourhoods:** Amber Giles
Peabody Project Director: Alex Neate
Oxford City Council Regeneration Manager: Karoline Soisalo de Mendonca
Thames Valley Police: Ehab Shahab and Leighton Jones.
Members of the Public: 6 members.
- APOLOGIES:** The following apologies were received:
Parish Councillors: Olamide Odelajo and Gill Taylor.
City Council Councillors: Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini and Rae Humberstone.
Peabody Community Investment Coordinator: Sam Stronach
- FC049/23** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**
None
- FC050/23** **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to accept the minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 27th June 2023 and the extraordinary meeting held on Thursday 29th June 2023.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Nowland.
- FC051/23** **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
Representatives from Blackbird Leys FC attended to enquire about the use of pitches on the estate.
- FC052/23** **REGENERATION UPDATE**
An update was received.
- FC053/23** **COUNCILLOR UPDATE**
The councillors present gave their reports.
- FC054/23** **CO-OPTIONS**
I. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to co-opt Hassan Sabriye to Blackbird Ley Ward and to the Events Committee.
This was proposed by Cllr Edosomwan and seconded by Cllr Nowland.
II. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to co-opt Kathleen Balsamo to Greater Ley Ward and to the planning Committee.
This was proposed by Cllr Nowland and seconded by Cllr Gluza.
- FC055/23** **MENTOR**
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to nominate Cllr Nowland as the mentor for new councillors if they would like guidance on parish council policy and procedure.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Edosomwan.

FC056/23

SEPTEMBER MEETING DATE

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to move the September meeting date to Tuesday 19th September 2023.

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

FC057/23

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to submit an Expression of Interest to the Government Department for Levelling Up Community Fund for the purchase of the Bullnose Morris.

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

FC058/23

REGENERATION PLANNING APPLICATION 23/00405/OUTFUL NEXT STEPS

There were discussions regarding the regeneration planning application and the concerns raised from the independent consultant were reviewed.

It was **NOTED** there had been no movement from the City Council on the issues raised by the parish council, and no attempt made to resolve any concerns outlined in the two responses submitted by the parish council for the regeneration planning application.

1. It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote to call-in the regeneration planning application under Section 77 Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

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

2. It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote to appoint the consultant to support with the next steps.

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

FC059/23

FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. **Income**

None.

2. **Training**

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to book all Councillors that have not attended the Roles and Responsibilities training on to the next session.

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

3. **Internal Financial Controller**

Cllr Edosomwan confirmed the invoices against the July cashbook as correct.

4. **Purchases**

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to purchase the items listed on the July 2023 cashbook.

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

5. **Cashbook Payments**

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to agree to make the payments for the items listed on the July 2023 cashbook.

This was proposed by Cllr Edosomwan and seconded by Cllr Church

Cashbook Payments July 2023

Date	Payee	Description	Amount
25/07/2023	Jane Olds	Internal Audit 2022-23	£375.00
25/07/2023	Cllr Taylor via expenses	Meeting Screens	£53.98
25/07/2023	Oxford City Council	Hall Hire Extraordinary Mtg	£11.00
25/07/2023	Clerk	Salary - July 2023	Private
25/07/2023	HMRC	Employment Contributions	Private
29/07/2023	Oxford County Council	Pension Payment - July 2023	Private

29/07/2023	Oxford County Council	Pension Anomaly - July 2023	Private
29/08/2023	Clerk	Salary - Aug 2023	Private
29/08/2023	HMRC	Employment Contributions	Private
29/08/2023	Oxford County Council	Pension Payment - Aug 2023	Private
		Total	£6,016.69

FC060/23 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None

FC049/23 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

Planning Committee – Tuesday 8th August 2023.

Full Parish Council – Tuesday 19th September 2023.

The meeting ended at 20.31.

FC061/23 SIGNED: _____ Cllr Anthony Church (Chairman)

BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 19th September 2023, at 7.00 pm at Blackbird Leys Bowls Club, Cuddesdon Way, Oxford OX4 6JP.

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** **Parish Councillors:** Anthony Church (Chairman), Peter Nowland (Vice - Chairman), Gill Taylor, Ewa Gluza, Maggie Lewis, David Newman, Kathy Balsamo and Hassan Sabriye.
- OTHER COUNCILLORS:** **City Councillors:** Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini.
County Councillor: None.
- OFFICERS PRESENT:** **Clerk to the Council:** Emma Kearney
- OTHERS PRESENT:** **Oxford City Council Communities & Neighbourhoods:** Amber Giles
Peabody Project Director: Alex Neate
Oxford City Council Regeneration Manager: Karoline Soisalo de Mendonca
Thames Valley Police: Ehab Shahab.
Members of the Public: 5 members.
- APOLOGIES:** The following apologies were received:
Parish Councillor: Imade Edosomwan
City Council Councillor: Rae Humberstone.
County Councillor: Imade Edosomwan.
Peabody Community Investment Coordinator: Sam Stronach
- FC049/23** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**
None
- FC050/23** **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to accept the minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 25th July 2023.
This was proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Nowland.
- FC051/23** **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- Thames Vally Police provided an update on activity on the estate.
- Oxford Polish Association provided an update on planned events.
- FC062/23** **REGENERATION UPDATE**
An update was received.
- FC063/23** **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**
 1. It was **NOTED** the proposal to create a neighbourhood plan was reviewed, and the funding available was explained by the planning consultant.
 2. It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote to apply for a grant via the Locality grant and support programme.
This was proposed by Cllr Nowland and seconded by Cllr Newman.
 3. It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote for the parish council to cover the remaining cost of the Neighbourhood Plan.
This was proposed by Cllr Nowland and seconded by Cllr Newman.
 4. It was **NOTED** the budget virement would be added to the next agenda, to be considered after the quarterly budget update.
- FC064/23** **COUNCILLOR UPDATE**
The councillors present gave their reports.

FC065/23

FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Income

The income from hosting recent events was **NOTED** at a total of £569.00.

30/05/2023	OXFORD POLISH ASSOCIATION	Leys Raffle Fund	£60.00
30/05/2023	OXFORD POLISH ASSOCIATION	Leys Fete Fund	£297.00
30/05/2023	OXFORD POLISH ASSOCIATION	Santa Fund	£212.00

2. Training

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to enrol Cllr Church to a training course to obtain a Certificate in Town Planning on behalf of the parish council at a cost of £110 + vat.

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

3. Signatories

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to add Cllr Sabriye as a bank signatory.

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

4. Internal Financial Controller

This could not be confirmed as the financial controller gave apologies.

5. Cashbook Purchases

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to purchase the items listed on the September 2023 cashbook.

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

6. Cashbook Payments

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to agree to make the payments for the items listed on the September 2023 cashbook.

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

Cashbook Payments September 2023

Date	Payee	Description	Total
01/09/2023	H3G	Mobile Phone Payment	£12.00
09/09/2023	Lloyds Bank	Bank Account Fee	£3.00
19/09/2023	RCOH Ltd	Consultancy Fees	£1,380.00
19/09/2023	Reed Courses	Certificate in Town Planning	£110.00
19/09/2023	Blackbird Leys Bowls Club	Hall Hire	£250.00
19/09/2023	Dropbox - RETRO	Dropbox Subscription	£199.00
25/09/2023	Clerk	September Wages	Private
12/09/2023	Oxfordshire County Council	Pension Contribution	Private
25/09/2023	Oxfordshire County Council	Pension Contr. Anomaly	Private
25/09/2022	HMRC	Employee Contr. Interest	Private
		Total	£6,467.26

FC066/23

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None

FC050/23

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

Planning Committee – Tuesday 10th October 2023.

Full Parish Council – Tuesday 31st October 2023.

The meeting ended at 20.34

FC067/23

SIGNED: _____ **Cllr Anthony Church (Chairman)**

BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 31st October 2023, at 7.00 pm at Blackbird Leys Bowls Club, Cuddesdon Way, Oxford OX4 6JP.

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Parish Councillors:** Anthony Church (Chairman), Peter Nowland (Vice - Chairman), Imade Edosomwan Gill Taylor, Ewa Gluza, Maggie Lewis, David Newman, Kathy Balsamo and Hassan Sabriye.

OTHER COUNCILLORS: **County Councillor:** None.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: **Oxford City Council Communities & Neighbourhoods:** Hollie Morgan, and Jayne Watson.
Oxford City Council Regeneration Manager: Karoline Soisalo de Mendonca
Peabody Development Manager: Kristina Hall.
Transition by Design Architect: Wongani Mwanza
Members of the Public: 3 members.

APOLOGIES: The following apologies were received:
City Councillors: Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini and Rae Humberstone.
Peabody Project Director: Alex Neate
Peabody Community Investment Coordinator: Sam Stronach

FC068/23 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**
None

FC069/23 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to accept the minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19th September 2023.
This was proposed by Cllr Lewis and seconded by Cllr Newman.

FC070/23 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
Transition by Design gave a presentation on the consultation process for the community centre design.

FC071/23 **REGENERATION UPDATE**
An update was received from Oxford City Council and Peabody.

FC072/23 **OXFORD LOCAL PLAN – Special Meeting 7th November**
It was **NOTED** that any concerns with the plan can be raised with the City Councillors.

FC073/23 **COUNCILLOR REPORTS**
The councillors present gave their reports.

FC074/23 **CO-OPTIONS**

1. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to co-opt Jennifer Wells to Greater Leys Ward and to the Planning Committee.
This was proposed by Cllr Lewis and seconded by Cllr Gluza.
2. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Lewis and seconded by Cllr Newman to co-opt Martin Scarrot to Greater Leys Ward and to the Events Committee.
The motion **FAILED** as the vote did not reach a majority.

FC075/23 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

1. Income

It was **NOTED** the following payments have been received.

03/10/2023	Precept	2nd installment	£27,194.50
13/10/2023	Oxford City Council	Cil Fund	£34,042.92

2. Small Grant Request

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to award Dovecote £500 to provide a Santa socking for the children on the estate.

The grant was awarded under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

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

3. Training

1. Planning Training

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote for –

1. Cllr Church.
2. Cllr Taylor.
3. Cllr Balsamo.
4. Cllr Nowland.
5. Cllr Edosomwan.
6. Cllr Wells.

To attend the Oxford Association of Local Councils planning training session on Monday 13th November 2023.

It was further **AGREED** that transportation would be arranged due to the health issues with some councillors.

2. Roles and Responsibilities Training

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote for –

1. Cllr Wells.
2. Cllr Sabriye
3. Cllr Taylor
4. Cllr Balsamo

To attend the Oxford Association of Local Councils Roles and Responsibilities training session on Thursday 18th January 2023.

4. Neighbourhood Plan Payments

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote for payments for the Neighbourhood plan project would be taken from the 'General Reserves'.

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

5. Internal Auditor 2023-24

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to appoint Jane Olds as our internal auditor for 2023-24.

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

6. External Audit 2022-23

The response was **NOTED** from the external auditor, and that apart from the box not being ticked to confirm the council has no trusts, it was another clear year.

It was **NOTED** this was now display on the council website.

7. Internal Financial Controller

Cllr Edosomwan confirmed the invoices against the October cashbook as correct.

8. Cashbook

1. Purchases

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve the items listed on the October cashbook to be purchased.

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

2. Budget Virement

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve a budget virement of £103.00 from the 'General Reserves' to the 'Audit' budget.

3. Payments

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve the items listed on the October cashbook to be paid.

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

October 2023 Cashbook

Date	Payee	Description	Total
01/10/2023	H3G	Mobile Phone Payment - Oct	£12.00
31/10/2023	Islip Parish Council	SLCC Membership Contribution	£111.00
31/10/2023	Moore	External Auditors Fee 2022-23	£378.00
31/10/2023	OALC	Planning Training @£55 per councillor	£396.00
31/10/2023	OALC	R&R @£110 per councillor	£528.00
31/10/2023	Dovecote	Small Grant	£500.00
05/10/2023	HMRC	Employment Contributions	Private
05/10/2023	HMRC	Employment Contributions	Private
05/10/2023	HMRC	Employment Contributions	Private
10/10/2023	Oxf County Council	Pension Contribution - Oct	Private
25/10/2023	HMRC	Employment Contributions	Private
25/10/2023	Clerk	October Wages	Private
25/10/2023	Ox County Council	Pension Contr. Anomaly	Private
		Total	£4,258.72

FC076/23 CLERKS APPRAISAL

It was **NOTED** the clerk's appraisal would be held on Tuesday 7th November 2023.

FC077/23 NEXT MEETINGS

1. Planning Committee – Tuesday 14th November 2023 at 7pm
 2. Full Parish Council – Tuesday 28th November 2023 at 7pm
- Meetings are held at the Blackbird Leys Bowls Club, 2-4 Cuddesdon Way, Oxford OX4 6JP.

The meeting ended at 20.46

SIGNED: _____ Cllr Anthony Church (Chairman)

BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 28th November 2023, at 7.00 pm at Blackbird Leys Bowls Club, Cuddesdon Way, Oxford OX4 6JP.

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** **Parish Councillors:** Peter Nowland (Vice -Chairman), Gill Taylor, Anthony Church, Ewa Gluza, Maggie Lewis, David Newman, Kathy Balsamo and Hassan Sabriye.
- OTHER COUNCILLORS:** **City Councillor:** Rae Humberstone.
- 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 Project Director: Alex Neate.
Members of the Public: One.
- APOLOGIES:** The following apologies were received:
Parish Councillors: Imade Edosomwan (Chairman) and Jenny Wells.
City Councillors: Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini
County Councillor: Imade Edosomwan
Peabody Community Investment Coordinator: Sam Stronach
- FC078/23** **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
1. Cllr Church declared an interest in agenda item FC085/23 7, as a trustee for Agnes Smith, and will leave the room when this item is considered.
2. Cllr Humberstone declared an interest in agenda item FC085/23 7, as a family member has a connection to Agnes Smith, and will leave the room when this item is considered.
- FC079/23** **Minutes of the previous meeting**
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to confirm as a true record the minutes of the full parish council meeting held on Tuesday 31st October 2023.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Lewis.
- FC080/23** **Public Participation**
A resident raised concerns with the community centre consultation. Namely the short notice of the engagement events, lack of advertising, and how the success of the engagement was being measured.
- FC081/23** **Regeneration Update**
An update from Oxford City Council and Peabody was received.
- FC082/23** **Reports**
The councillors, officers and community group representatives that were present gave their reports.
- FC083/23** **Oxford Local Plan**
It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote for -
1. Our consultant to review the plan and draft a response on behalf of the parish council.
2. The draft to be circulated and approved via email before the deadline of 5th January 2024.
3. The cost of £650 + vat to be paid from the general reserves.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Nowland.

FC084/23

Proposals

The draft proposals for the Strategic Aims 2024-27 and the Events 2024-25 were reviewed, and it was **NOTED** a meeting in the new year would take place to finalise.

FC085/23

Financial Matters

1. Income

None.

2. Quarterly Budget Update

The following update was received.

	Hall Hire	Stationery	Postage	Telephone	Dropbox	Expenses
Spent	£414.20	£51.83	£0.00	£106.64	£199.00	£53.98
Budgeted	£600.00	£300.00	£28.00	£150.00	£200.00	£82.00
Remaining	£185.80	£248.17	£28.00	£43.36	£1.00	£28.02

	Office 365	Memberships	Insurance	Info Cert	Audit fee	Training
Spent	£0.00	£2,423.68	£764.96	£35.00	£753.00	£1,007.00
Budgeted	£80.00	£2,550.00	£800.00	£45.00	£753.00	£1,000.00
Remaining	£80.00	£126.32	£35.04	£10.00	£0.00	-£7.00

	Grants	Events	Emergency Fund	Annual Meeting	Mailboxes	Bank Charges
Spent	£5,250.00	£2,137.78	£0.00	£63.74	£799.48	£57.00
Budgeted	£8,000.00	£6,569.00	£2,500.00	£300.00	£565.00	£200.00
Remaining	£2,750.00	£4,431.22	£2,500.00	£236.26	-£234.48	£143.00

	Zoom	Strategic Aims	CIL Fund	General Reserves
Spent	£0.00	£0.00	£657.67	£7,013.20
Budgeted	£150.00	£2,000.00	£0.00	£10,175.00
Remaining	£150.00	£2,000.00	£51,311.00	£3,232.00

	Total	Salary	Pension	HMRC
Spent	£21,482.34	£13,586.63	£3,470.78	£4,424.93
Budgeted	£26,500.00	£17,500.00	£4,500.00	£4,500.00
Remaining		£3,913.37	£1,029.22	£75.07

It was **NOTED** as budget virement would need to take place in the January to cover the cost of the HMRC.

3. Budget 2024-25

It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote to approve the budget and reserves allocation for 2024-25.

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

Budget	Amount
Staff Costs	
Wages	£17,580.00
Pension	£4,850.00
HMRC	£5,400.00

Travel	
Mileage	£100.00
Taxis to training sessions	£300.00
Hall Hire	
Full Council Meeting	£750.00
Planning Meeting	£300.00
Bank Charges	
Quarterly current account fee	£72.00
Monthly Credit Card Fee	£36.00
Insurance	£800.00
Clerk Mailbox	£65.00
Office 365	£80.00
Website	
12 mailboxes	£800.00
OALC Membership	£2,250.00
Information Commissioner Fee	£45.00
SLCC Annual Membership - Joint	£150.00
Audit Fee	
Internal	£300.00
External	£350.00
Postage	£28.00
Telephone	
Mobile contract cost	£144.00
Stationery	£300.00
Strategic Aims	
Community Engagement	
Promotion	£1,000.00
Events	
Community Mapping	
Hall Hire for the day	£200.00
Publicity	£100.00
Refreshments	£300.00
Computer hire and	£200.00

writing materials	
Room hire for organising the event	£250.00
Leys Fete	
Room hire for organising the event	£250.00
Hire field	£250.00
Hire entertainment	£6,000.00
Annual Meeting	
Refreshments	£100.00
Printing	£100.00
Living in the Leys, exploring our place	
Room hire for organising the event	£250.00
Printing 5000 leaflets/brochures:	£200.00
Expenses for visiting guides and speakers	£200.00
Photography and video:	£200.00
Learning about the community	
Room Hire	£750.00
Surveys	£2,000.00
Training	£2,000.00
Dropbox	£200.00
Small Grants	£850.00
Improving the place	
Community Mapping	
Digital Map	£550.00
Online Forms	£1,500.00
Developing Plans	
Mapping Software	£550.00
Total expenditure	£52,700.00

Reserves	
Current Bank Balance - 22/11/2023	£105,775.68
Cil Fund - 22/11/2023	£51,311.00
Wix Premium Plan	-£136.80
Strategic Aims	
Community Engagement	
Website hosting	-£180.00

Contractor to extend the current website	-£750.00
Remaining CIL Fund after deductions	£50,244.20
Bank Balance - 22/11/2023	£54,464.68
Anticipated outgoings until March 2024	
November Cashbook	-£938.20
Clerks Wages - Nov	-£1,391.40
Clerks National Wage Increase Back pay	-£518.52
Clerks Pension - Nov	-£429.34
HMRC - Nov	-£450.00
Hall Hire Nov	-£100.00
Information Comm	-£35.00
Mobile phone - Nov	-£12.00
Account Fee -Nov	£3.00
Clerks Wages - Dec	-£1,465.00
Clerks Pension - Dec	-£429.34
HMRC - Dec	-£450.00
Hall Hire - Dec	-£25.00
Clerks' equipment	-£590.00
Local Plan Consult Response - TBA	-£650.00
Mobile phone - Dec	-£12.00
Corporate Card Monthly Fee - Dec	£3.00
Quarterly Bank Account Fee - Dec	-£18.00
Clerks Wages - Jan	-£1,465.00
Clerks Pension - Jan	-£429.34
HMRC - Jan	-£450.00
Hall Hire - Jan	-£100.00
Mobile phone - Jan	-£12.00
Corporate Card Monthly Fee - Jan	£3.00
Taxis to the Training	-£100.00
Clerks Wages - Feb	-£1,465.00
Clerks Pension - Feb	-£429.34
HMRC - Feb	-£450.00
Hall Hire - Feb	-£100.00
Mobile phone - Feb	-£12.00
Corporate Card Monthly Fee - Feb	£3.00
Clerks Wages - Mar	-£1,465.00
Clerks Pension - Mar	-£429.34
HMRC - Mar	-£450.00
Hall Hire - Mar	-£100.00
Mobile phone - Mar	-£12.00
Corporate Card Monthly Fee - Mar	£3.00
Quarterly Bank Account	-£18.00

Fee - Mar	
Total Remaining on 1st April 2024	£38,428.86
Income VAT return - (estimate)	£10,000.00
Total Reserves	£48,928.86
General Reserves	-£3,000.00
Neighbourhood Plan April 24 - Mar 25	-£12,000.00
Strategic Aims	
Community Engagement	
Large Grants - Never applied for before	-£3,000.00
Rebranding/name change	-£4,000.00
Elections	-£5,000.00
New Councillor Cost	-£740.00
Insurance Excess	-£500.00
Crisis Fund	-£3,000.00
Staff Costs	-£1,000.00
Training	-£4,000.00
Events	-£2,300.00
Grants	-£3,000.00
Strategic Aims	-£2,000.00
Legal Costs	-£1,400.00
Virement to budget to small grants	-£4,000.00
Remaining	£539

FC086/23

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

4. Precept

It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote for the precept request to remain the same at £52,700.00 for 2024-25.

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

5. Roles and Responsibilities Training

It was **NOTED** that the following councillors would be attending the training, and that transport would be provided.

1. Cllr Gill Taylor
2. Cllr Hassan Sabriye
3. Cllr Jenny Wells
4. Cllr Kathy Balsamo

Cllr Church and Cllr Humberstone left the meeting.

6. Large Grant Second Instalment

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to award Agnes Smith Advice Centre £750 the second instalment of their grant award.

This was awarded using the power of Citizen's Advice Bureau from the Local Government Act 1972 Section 142 (2A)

This was proposed by Cllr Gluza and Cllr Lewis.

7. Refreshments

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to agree to purchase refreshments for after the November meeting, for up to £20, and taken from the 'Expenses' budget.

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

8. Internal Financial Controller

Cllr Church confirmed the invoices against the November cashbook as correct.

9. Purchases

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to agree to purchase the items listed on the November 2023 cashbook.

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

10. Cashbook Payments

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to agree to pay the items listed on the November 2023 cashbook.

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

Date	Payee	Description	Total
01/11/2023	H3G	Mobile Phone Payment - Nov	£12.00
26/11/2023	Lloyds Bank	Corporate Card Monthly Fee	£3.00
28/11/2023	Royal Cars	06.11.2023 return taxi to Garsington PC (AC)	£18.00
28/11/2023	Royal Cars	02.11.2023 return taxi to Garsington PC (AC)	£18.40
28/11/2023	Royal Cars	08.11.2023 return taxi to Garsington PC (AC)	£18.40
28/11/2023	Royal Cars	13.11.2023 return taxi to Witney training (AC, GT, KB & JW)	£118.40
28/11/2023	Agnes Smith Advise Centre	30% Grant remainder	£750.00
10/11/2023	OCC	Pension Payment - Nov 2023	£429.34
25/11/2023	HMRC	Employment Contributions	£439.51
25/11/2023	Clerk	October Wages	£1,391.40
30/11/2023	Clerk	National Inc Back Pay	£518.52
10/12/2023	OCC	Pension Payment - Dec 2023	£457.31
25/11/2023	HMRC	Employment Contributions	£439.51
25/12/2023	Clerk	December Wages	£1,463.97
01/12/2023	Info Comm. Reg	Annual Certificate	£35.00
01/12/2023	H3G	Mobile Phone Payment - Dec	£12.00
26/12/2023	Lloyds Bank	Corporate Card Monthly Fee - Dec	£3.00
30/12/2023	Unity Trust	Quarterly Service Charge	£18.00

****Exclusion of the public and Press****

FC087/23 Clerk's Appraisal

1. The outcome of the clerk's appraisal was **NOTED** and there were no changes to the employment particulars.
2. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to purchase the following office equipment.

Office Equipment

Docking station	£400.00
Headset	£50.00
Additional screen	£100.00
Wrist support	£20.00
Footrest	£20.00
Total	£590.00

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

FC088/23

National Pay Increase

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

1. To agree the increase from December 2023.
2. To agree the back pay from April 2023 to November 2023.

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

The meeting ended at 21.13.

SIGNED: _____ Cllr Peter Nowland (Vice Chair)

BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 30th January 2024, at 7.00 pm at Blackbird Leys Bowls Club, Cuddesdon Way, Oxford OX4 6JP.

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Parish Councillors:** Imade Edosomwan (Chair), Peter Nowland (Vice- Chair), Gill Taylor, Anthony Church, Ewa Gluza, Maggie Lewis, David Newman, Kathy Balsamo and Jenny Wells.

OTHER COUNCILLORS: **County Councillor:** Imade Edosomwan

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

OTHERS PRESENT: **Oxford City Council Communities & Neighbourhoods:** Gertrud Pakot
Oxford City Council Regeneration Manager: Karoline Soisalo de Mendonca.
Peabody Development Manager: Kristina Hall
Members of the Public: Two

APOLOGIES: The following apologies were received:
Parish Councillors: Hassan Sabriye
City Councillors: Rae Humberstone and Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini.
Peabody Community Investment Coordinator: Sam Stronach.

FC089/23 **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
None

FC090/23 **Minutes of the previous meeting**
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to confirm as a true record the minutes of the full parish council meeting held on Tuesday 28th November 2023.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Nowland.

FC091/23 **Public Participation**

- A resident attended to ask the Regeneration Team to clarify the plan for the badgers, and their habitat located near Spindleberry Nature Park when building works start.
- Gertrud Pakot was introduced as covering the Oxford City Council Communities & Neighbourhoods role for the time being and was warmly welcomed by the council.

FC092/23 **Regeneration Update**
An update from Oxford City Council and Peabody was received.

FC093/23 **Reports**
The councillors, officers and community group representatives that were present gave their reports.
A written report from Cllr Djafari-Marbini was received.

FC094/23 **Planning Committee Meeting Date**
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to move the committee meeting date to the third Tuesday of the month.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Nowland.
It was **NOTED** the date of the next planning committee meeting would be Tuesday 20th February.

FC095/23 **DBS Checks**
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote for all councillors to complete a basic DBS check with immediate effect, at a cost of £18 + VAT per check and the funds to be taken from the General Reserves.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Nowland.

FC096/23 Financial Matters

1. Income

None.

2. Roles and Responsibilities Training

- i. It was **NOTED** the date of the training has been rescheduled to Monday 17th June 2024.
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to pay for the training in June from the 'General Reserves' whilst awaiting a refund.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Nowland.

3. Internal Financial Controller

It was **NOTED** the invoices against the December 2023 and January 2024 cashbooks were correct.

4. Small Grants

I. Oxford Hub

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to award the Oxford Hub £500 to set up a free adult and child space for outdoor learning and gardening, for those who do not have access to outdoor space.

The grant was awarded under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

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

II. Raw

The motion to support via a small grant of £500 'RAW Educate', to work with young people aged 11 - 18 and offer 16 placements per annum **FAILED** as it did not reach a majority vote.

5. Budget Virement

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to move £1,350.00 from the 'General Reserves' to the HMRC budget heading.

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

6. Purchases

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to purchase the items listed below on the December and January cashbook.

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

Date	Payee	Description	Total
28/11/2023	Co-op	Christmas buffet	£14.30
01/01/2024	H3G	Mobile Phone Payment - Dec	£12.00
26/01/2024	Lloyds Bank	Corporate Card Monthly Fee - Dec	£3.00
01/12/2024	Info Com Reg	Annual Certificate remaining fee	£5.00
30/01/2024	Oxford Hub	Small Grant	£500.00
30/01/2024	Amazon	A box of paper	£13.99
30/01/2024	Amazon	Folder	£6.04
30/01/2024	Amazon	Delivery charge	£3.99
30/01/2024	OALC	R & R Training Fee	£660.00
30/01/2024	RCOH Ltd	Rep. Oxford Local Plan 2040	£780.00
30/01/2024	TBA	11 basic DBS Checks	£242.00
10/01/2024	Oxfordshire County Council	January Pension Payment	£457.31
25/01/2024	Clerk	January Wages	£1,463.97
25/01/2024	HMRC	Employment Contributions	£1,343.74

7. Cashbook Payments

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to pay for the items listed on the December and January cashbook.

1. This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Edosomwan.

FC097/23

To propose Items for the next agenda

1. Noticeboards – Cllr Church
2. New defibrillator – Church

FC098/23

Next Meetings

1. Planning Committee – Tuesday 20th February 2024 at 7 pm.
2. Full Parish Council – Tuesday 27th February 2023 at 7pm.

All meetings are held at the Blackbird Leys Bowls Club, 2-4 Cuddesdon Way, Oxford OX4 6JP.

The meeting ended at 20.27

SIGNED: _____ Cllr Imade Edosomwan (Chair)

BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 27th February 2024, at 7pm at Blackbird Leys Bowls Club, Cuddesdon Way, Oxford OX4 6JP.

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** **Parish Councillors:** Imade Edosomwan (Chair), Peter Nowland (Vice- Chair), Gill Taylor, Anthony Church, Maggie Lewis, David Newman, Kathy Balsamo Hassan Sabriye and Jenny Wells.
- OTHER COUNCILLORS:** **County Councillor:** Imade Edosomwan
- OFFICERS PRESENT:** **Clerk to the Council:** Emma Kearney
- OTHERS PRESENT:** **Oxford City Council Communities & Neighbourhoods:** Gertrud Pakot, Hollie Morgan, and Jayne Watson.
Oxford City Councillors: Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini.
Oxford City Council Regeneration Manager: Karoline Soisalo de Mendonca.
Peabody Development Head of Delivery North Counties: Satwinder Kukadia
Members of the Public: Five.
- APOLOGIES:** The following apologies were received:
Parish Councillors: None.
Peabody Community Investment Coordinator: Sam Stronach.
Peabody Development Manager: Kristina Hall
- FC099/23** **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
Cllr Church – Committee Member of the Bowls Club.
Cllr Taylor – Committee Member of the Bowls Club.
Dispensation was requested and granted by unanimous vote.
Both councillors requested to remain in the meeting but abstained from voting on item FC0104/23 5.2.
- FC0100/23** **Minutes of the previous meeting**
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to confirm as a true record the minutes of the full parish council meeting held on Tuesday 30th January 2024.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Lewis.
- FC0101/23** **Public Participation**
- A resident attended to ask Oxford City Council and Peabody if there can be engagement with the community regarding the new locations of the artificial Badger sett.
- FC0102/23** **Regeneration Update**
An update from Oxford City Council and Peabody was received.
- FC0103/23** **Reports**
The councillors, officers and community group representatives that were present gave their reports.
- FC0104/23** **Financial Matters**
1. **Income**
None
 2. **Budget Virement**
 - I. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to move £1,000 from 'Staff Costs Reserves' to 'Staff Costs'.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Lewis.
 - II. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to move £300 from 'Elections Reserves' to Staff Costs.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Nowland.

3. Mileage

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve the Clerks mileage claim.
This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Edosomwan.

4. Budget Position

The following cashbook and reserves update was received, this is up to and including February 2024.

Cashbook Position

	Hall Hire	Stationery	Postage	Telephone	Dropbox	Expenses	Office 365	Memberships	Insurance	Info Cert
Budgeted	£600.00	£300.00	£28.00	£150.00	£200.00	£82.00	£80.00	£2,550.00	£800.00	£45.00
Remaining	£185.80	£224.15	£28.00	£7.36	£1.00	£2.02	£80.00	£126.32	£35.04	£5.00
Spent	£414.20	£75.85	£0.00	£142.64	£199.00	£79.98	£0.00	£2,423.68	£764.96	£40.00

	Audit fee	Training	Grants	Events	Emergency Fund	Annual Meeting	Mailboxes	Bank Charges
Budgeted	£753.00	£1,000.00	£8,000.00	£6,569.00	£2,500.00	£300.00	£565.00	£200.00
Remaining	£0.00	-£7.00	£1,250.00	£4,431.22	£2,500.00	£300.00	-£234.48	£113.00
Spent	£753.00	£1,007.00	£6,750.00	£2,137.78	£0.00	£63.74	£799.48	£87.00

	Zoom	Strategic Aims	CIL Fund	General Reserves
Budgeted	£150.00	£2,000.00	£0.00	£8,825.00
Remaining	£150.00	£2,000.00	£51,311.00	£753.40
Spent	£0.00	£0.00	£849.67	£8,071.60

Salary	Pension	HMRC
£17,971.00	£5,329.00	£5,850.00
£1,461.79	£457.83	£81.33
£16,509.21	£4,871.17	£5,768.67

Reserves Position

	Elections	New Cll costs	Events	Ins Exces	Crisis Fund	Staff Costs
Budgeted	£4,700.00	£1,210.00	£5,000.00	£500.00	£3,000.00	£0.00
Remaining	£4,700.00	£1,210.00	£5,000.00	£500.00	£3,000.00	£0.00
Spent	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

	Training	Grants	Str.Aims 1	Str.Aims 2	Str.Aims 3	Str.Aims 4	Legal Costs
Budgeted	£2,000.00	£3,000.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£750.00
Remaining	£2,000.00	£3,000.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£750.00
Spent	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

5. Small Grants

I. Proud to be me - £500

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to award Proud to Be Me £500 to support an afro hair workshop showing how to style afro hair and explain the history.

This grant was awarded under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 145 (D).

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

II. Bowls Club - £500

It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote to award the Bowls Club £500 to replace the toilet flooring and to repaint the toilet walls.

This grant was awarded under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 144 (B).

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

The councillors that were granted dispensation chose to abstain from voting on this item.

6. Signatories

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to remove.

1. Cllr Gluza
2. Cllr Davies
3. Cllr De Gregori

The relevant paperwork was signed.

7. Internal Financial Controller

Cllr Edosomwan confirmed the review of the invoices against the February 2024 as correct.

8. Cashbook Purchases

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to purchase the items listed on the February 2024 cashbook.

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

9. Cashbook Payments

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to agree to make the payments for the items listed on the February 2024 cashbook.

This was proposed by Cllr Edosomwan and seconded by Cllr Church

February 2024 Cashbook

Date	Payee	Description	Total
08/02/2024	WEL Medical	Battery for the defibrillator	£192.00
25/02/2024	Clerk Via Expenses	Mileage to Planning meeting	£11.70
25/02/2024	Proud to be me	Small Grant	£500.00
25/02/2024	Bowls Club	Small Grant	£500.00
26/02/2024	Lloyds Bank	Corporate Card Monthly Fee - Feb	£3.00
25/02/2024	Clerk	February Wages	£1,463.97
10/02/2024	Oxfordshire County Council	Pension Payment - Feb 2024	£457.31
		Total	£3,127.98

FC0105/23 Items for the next agenda

1. Bus service – Cllr Taylor

FC0106/23 Next Meetings

1. Planning Committee – Tuesday 19th March 2024 at 7 pm.
2. Full Parish Council – Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 7pm.

All meetings are held at the Blackbird Leys Bowls Club, 2-4 Cuddesdon Way, Oxford
OX4 6JP.

The meeting ended at 20.45

SIGNED: _____ Cllr Imade Edosomwan (Chair)

BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 26th March 2024, at 7pm at Blackbird Leys Bowls Club, Cuddesdon Way, Oxford OX4 6JP.

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Parish Councillors:** Imade Edosomwan (Chair), Peter Nowland (Vice- Chair), Gill Taylor, Maggie Lewis, David Newman, and Jenny Wells.

OTHER COUNCILLORS: **County Councillor:** Imade Edosomwan.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: **Oxford City Council Regeneration Manager:** Karoline Soisalo de Mendonca.
Oxford City Councillor: Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini.
Peabody Development Manager: Kristina Hall.
Members of the Public: Eight.

APOLOGIES: The following apologies were received:
Parish Councillors: Anthony Church and Hassan Sabriye.

FC0107/23 **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
None

FC0108/23 **Minutes of the previous meeting**
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to confirm as a true record the minutes of the full parish council meeting held on Tuesday 27th February 2024.
This was proposed by Cllr Lewis and seconded by Cllr Nowland.

FC0109/23 **Public Participation**

- A resident attended to ask Oxford City Council and Peabody for further information regarding the badger setts, the homeless and to reiterate the request for public consultation regarding moving the setts.
- A resident raised queries about the regeneration billboards, the litter and raised concerns regarding how the regeneration was affecting the wildlife on the estate.

FC0110/23 **Regeneration Update**
An update from Oxford City Council and Peabody was received.

FC0111/23 **Reports**
The councillors, officers and community group representatives that were present gave their reports.

FC0112/23 **Financial Matters**

1. Income

It was **NOTED** £6,144.49 was received from the VAT return.

2. Defibrillator

i. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to accept the grant of a defibrillator from the British Heart Foundation.

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

ii. It was **RESOLVED** to agree for the Bowls Club to be the guardian of the defibrillator.

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

iii. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote for the defibrillator to be located by the front door of the Bowls Club.

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

iv. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote for training to take place on Tuesday 16th April at the Bowls Club.

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

3. Internal Auditor

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to appoint Rachel Brown as the internal auditor for 2023-24.

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

4. Mileage

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve the Clerks mileage claim.

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

5. Small Grants

No applications received.

6. Internal Financial Controller

Cllr Edosomwan confirmed the review of the invoices against the March 2024 cashbook as correct.

7. Cashbook Purchases

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to purchase the items listed on the March 2024 cashbook.

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

8. Cashbook Payments

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to agree to make the payments for the items listed on the March 2024 cashbook.

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

March 2024 Cashbook

	Date	Payee	Description	Amount
1.	01/03/2024	H3G	Mobile Phone Payment - Mar	£12.00
2.	25/03/2024	Bowls Club	Parish Council Meetings Sept - Mar	£537.50
3.	25/03/2024	Clerk	March Wages	£1,463.97
4.	10/03/2024	Oxfordshire County Council	Pension Payment - Mar 2024	£457.31
5.	25/03/2024	Clerk	Underpayment of Wages	£52.23
6.	25/03/2024	Clerks	Mileage	£11.70
			Total	£2,534.71

FC0113/23

Items for the next agenda

- Cllr Lewis – Councillor Business Cards

FC0114/23

Next Meetings

- Planning Committee – Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 7pm
- Defibrillator Training – Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 7.30 pm
- Strategic Aims Working Group - Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 8pm
- Full Parish Council – Tuesday 30th April 2024 at 7pm
- All meetings are held at the Blackbird Leys Bowls Club, 2-4 Cuddesdon Way, Oxford OX4 6JP.

The meeting ended at 20.55.

SIGNED: _____ Cllr Imade Edosomwan (Chair)