

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th November 2019
At 8.00pm in HORSPATH VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Mr D Burgess (Chair), Mr J Dobson,
Mr P Ewart, Mr M Harris, Mrs L Hofen, Mrs B
Oakley, Mrs H Palmer, Mrs H Kogel (Clerk).
Mr T Bearder (County Councillor), Mrs E
Gillespie (District Councillor)

Apologies Mr P Dobson (Chairman),

Absent:

Public: 4

198/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. – Apologies were made on behalf of Mr P Dobson.

199/19 DECLARATION OF INTEREST. – None.

200/19 EMERGENCY BUSINESS.

Mr Burgess confirmed that he has arranged for his son to clear the debris from ditch in the Recreation Area leading to Oxford Road.

201/19 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th November 2019 were amended on:

Item 191/19 – Bus Service to read: Mr Ewart stated that the OCC service is a scheduled service, starting in April 2020, *five days a week*, which will take some demand away from the PMU service.

The Minutes were then agreed as correct and signed by the Vice Chairman.

202/19 MATTERS ARISING.

Mrs Oakley stated that she has checked with SODC and they have not received a planning application for the site at Sandy Lane for a number of caravans to be sited on the owner's field.

203/19 PLANNING APPLICATIONS. – None.

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS. – None.

204/19 CLERK'S UPDATE.

Rospa Report –The Clerk circulated a copy of the quotation from Oxford City Council Direct Services to carry out the repairs. As agreed at the last meeting, this project will be deferred until more information is received from the members of Horspath Sports Association.

Horse Chestnut Tree on Manor Farm Road – The Arboricultural Officer at SODC has given permission to lift the crown of the tree to 4m above ground level over the adjacent driveway by removing branch tips only. The Clerk will need to wait for written permission before work can be carried out.

Paving Slabs in Play Area – The Clerk has received a quote from Oxford City Direct Services, but this item will be deferred until more information is received from the members of Horspath Sports Association.

Christmas Tree – Mr Pettigrove will deliver the Christmas tree to the Green before Saturday 7th December 2019.

Playground/Football Pitch Project – The Clerk circulated an update and a copy of the recent survey carried out by Ms Tomczyk to all Councillors.

Speed Indicator Device – PCSO Davey has stated that the SID will be put in for repair on 9/12/19. He has also advised that the cost of purchasing a SID, the same device as used by TVP will be approximately

£1650.00 and £150.00 for the battery. Councillors asked the Clerk to invite PCSO Davey to the next Parish Council meeting to discuss the use of the equipment. Mr James Dobson stated that we would need a list of volunteers who would be prepared to be trained on using the device. Mr Burgess stated that it would only be worth buying a SID that is approved by TVP, and he is concerned about the personal safety of the volunteer using the device. Mr James Dobson stated that a body cam may also be required for volunteers to wear. Mrs Hofen stated that this is the wrong solution to an important problem, and that Horspath Parish Council should be looking into a permanent fixed speed camera. Councillors agreed that the Clerk will contact OCC Highways to discuss the possibility of a fixed camera being installed along Cuddesdon Road by Hill Farm.

205/19 DRAFT PRECEPT 2020/21.

The Clerk circulated a copy of the draft Precept to all Councillors. This will be finalised at the January 2020 meeting.

206/19 BUS SERVICE – Update.

Mrs Hofen confirmed to Councillors that she has now received the NDA and the Contract for the PickMeUp service provided by Oxford Bus Company. Councillors agreed that these documents are to be signed this evening by Mrs Hofen and Mr Burgess. Mrs Hofen stated that HPC asked Oxford Bus Company for information about their income & expenditure and any grants which they have received. However, the NDA states that none of the financial aspects of the contract can be disclosed by any HPC Councillor. The service will start on 5th January 2020, on a six month trial basis, and if required, it can be extended for up to 2 years. Mrs Hofen stated that the only risk involved with this service is if Oxford Bus Company should say that the PickMeUp service is making a loss, and they then withdraw the service. Mr Burgess stated that HSPC will pay on a monthly basis, so there is no financial risk involved. Mrs Hofen stated that Garsington and Wheatley are also interested in the PickMeUp service, but it has been so difficult in the past to try and solve every village's problem with bus services, so if it works for Horspath, it is possible for the service to expand. Mrs Hofen stated that all other options for bus services will be kept open and discussions will continue. Mrs Hofen advised Councillors that a training date has been confirmed on 6th January 2020, to be held in the Morgan Room between 11am-3pm, where representatives from Oxford Bus Company will give training on how to use the PickMeUp App. Oxford Bus Company are also providing a leaflet advertising the service, which will be delivered to all households along with a letter from the Parish Council. They will also put a notice in the Oxford Mail and on social media. Mr Ewart suggested that a banner on the bridge advertising the new service would be a good idea before Christmas.

Mrs Palmer asked about the existing Thursday minibus service that is in place. Mrs Hofen stated that it will continue for now for people who are unable to use the PMU App, or if that becomes unviable. Mrs Oakley stated that there are people in the village who do not have a mobile phone, so they will be unable to use the service, however, it is possible in the future to have a volunteer to arrange the service for people, but that would be difficult for journeys not originating in Horspath. Mrs Oakley stated that the details of the money spent will be in the public domain as it is being paid for by HSPC. Mr Burgess stated that it is Oxford Bus Company's financial details that are confidential.

Mr James Dobson stated that this would be the best service that Horspath village has ever had.

207/19 VILLAGE HALL – Winter Maintenance

Mr Burgess stated that the gutters around the Village Hall are blocked and need clearing as well as the paths need to be cleared of leaves. Councillors agreed for Mr Hamlet to go ahead and carry out the work required.

208/19 HEDGE CUTTING

Mr Burgess informed Councillors that a quote has been received to cut the hedges on both sides of the Bowley Field, the Pumping Station, Mutton Field and around the Burial Ground. Councillors voted in favour of accepting the quote. Mr Burgess stated that the work will be carried out as soon as the ground is dry enough.

209/19 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

Cllr Tim Bearder (County Councillor) – Mr Bearder reported that the full Oxfordshire County Council met on 5th November 2019 and OCC voted to reject the Expressway. Labour and the Conservative Councillors did not vote for Cllr. Bearder's amendment, to reject the 1 million houses and instead build houses to meet local need. The Conservative Transport Minister, Grant Schapps, has stated that the Government will review the return on the investment from the proposed Expressway, but they still have the aspiration to build 1 million houses.

OCC has cancelled the meeting due to take place in December due to the Election. OCC has accepted Mr Bearder's decision to give his Councillors' allowance to the Maple Tree Children's Centre. Mr Bearder has £700.00 left of the allowance but has to be used by March 2020, grant application forms are available on OCC's website and the money has to be used for a one-off project, such as lessons etc.

Mr Bearder reported that the Greens won the By-Election for Wantage Constituency on Thursday.

Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie (District Councillor) – Mrs Gillespie reported that Robert Jenerick, MP, is still sitting on the Local Plan 2034 having intervened when SODC Councillors voted to withdraw the Plan, which is the first time that this has ever been done. Mrs Gillespie stated that allegedly, Mr Jenerick has said that no Councillor or Officer is permitted to speak in public about the Local Plan 2034. Mrs Gillespie had planned to speak at the Examination in Public of the Oxford Local Plan 2036 today, but she was advised not to by a SODC Officer. Mrs Gillespie has passed this information onto CPRE.

Mrs Gillespie stated that it is possible that SODC will merge with VoWHDC. The benefits of this are that it will cut costs but there will be a certain degree of lack of localism. The Leader of VWHDC has said that she will not consider it if there is not a consultation first. Mrs Gillespie asked Councillors how they would feel about merging with VWHDC. Mr James Dobson stated that sharing services would be a good thing but more information about the benefits of merging are required. Mrs Hofen stated that where other Councils have merged over the years, did they bring what they said they would when the merge was completed. Mr Bearder stated that West Oxfordshire District Council has out-sourced lots of services and functions, Cherwell Council has co-operated with south Northamptonshire, and SODC & VoWHDC share Offices. Mrs Gillespie stated that with SODC & VoWHDC sharing offices, this can bring conflict and it will be even less evenly defined if the two Councils merge and will also mean fewer Councillors. Mrs Gillespie stated that it may or may not happen. Mr Harris stated that he is against the merger as it will reduce the local influence of Councillors both politically and economically, and the two Councils have different agendas with regard to housing policies. Mr Harris stated that the shared services of the two Councils could continue, but not with fewer Councillors. Mrs Oakley asked who has lead the possibility of this merge of the two Councils. Mrs Gillespie stated that the plan for new premises for SODC is going ahead anyway but the Liberal Democrats and the Greens are all for the merger, but it is down to the two Councils to decide.

Mrs Gillespie reported that she has spoken with Paul Bowers, SODC Planning Officer about the planning application at 69 Gidley Way and he is going to contact the applicant and the architect with regards to the height of the building and request precise measurements.

210/19 CORRESPONDENCE.

- a. Clerks & Councils Direct – November 2019 Edition.*
- b. Maple Tree Children’s Centre – Christmas at Maple Tree. – (Circulated via email).
- c. Blue Cedar Homes – Places for later living in South Oxfordshire. – (Circulated via email).
- d. Open Spaces Society – Campaigning Hero’s eZine. – (Circulated via email).
- e. John Howell MP – Expressway Update. – (Circulated via email). – **John Howell MP has written to Mrs Palmer stating the plans for Oxford-Cambridge Expressway have been cancelled. This decision was taken by the Secretary of State who cannot officially cancel it during an election period, but he has announced a review to find an alternative.**
- f. RSN - The Rural Bulletin. – 5/11/19, 12/11/19, 19/11/19, 26/11/19. – (Circulated via email).
- g. What3words.com – What3words. – (Circulated via email).
- h. NALC – Chief Executive’s Bulletin 8/11/19, 15/11/19, 22/11/19. – (Circulated via email).
- i. OCC – Flood warnings for River Cherwell. – (Circulated via email).
- j. SODC – Your comments are invited on the Town & Parish Council Forum review/feedback survey. – (Circulated via email).
- k. SODC – Volunteers needed to help set Councillors’ allowances. – (Circulated via email).
- l. SODC – Free parking in the run up to Christmas. – (Circulated via email).
- m. SODC – Deep Cleanse Horspath 2020. – (Circulated via email). – **The Clerk will request that Gidley Way and Cuddesdon Road be included in the deep cleanse.**
- n. OCC – Oxfordshire libraries – recruiting Customer Service Advisors. – (Circulated via email).
- o. SODC – Letter to EU Citizens. – (Circulated via email).
- p. OPFA – A new Community Development Officer for OPFA. – (Circulated via email).
- q. NALC – Launch new guide to tackle loneliness. – (Circulated via email).
- r. RSN – Rural Funding Digest November 2019. – (Circulated via email).
- s. Cllr. Tim Bearder – Expressway. – (Circulated via email).
- t. NALC _ newsletter 5/11/19. – (Circulated via email).
- u. TVP – Don’t Disappear: Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner launch video to raise awareness of relationship abuse. – (Circulated via email).
- v. SODC – Oxfordshire Growth Board: Time’s running out to influence how growth is managed across Oxfordshire – Have your say. – (Circulated via email).
- w. OALC – Dissolved Parliament, Remembrance Events and Purdah. – (Circulated via email).
- x. Mr Horton – Chess in South Oxfordshire. – (Circulated via email).
- y. TVP –Police & Crime Bulletin November 2019. – (Circulated via email).
- z. ONPA – November 2019 Mailing. – (Circulated via email).
- aa. Cllr Tim Bearder – Expressway. – (Circulated via email).
- bb. SODC – Parish Council Code of Conduct Training. – (Circulated via email).
- cc. The Landscape Group Oxford – Grounds Tender 2020. – (Circulated via email).
- dd. OPFA – Autumn Newsletter 2019. – (Circulated via email).
- ee. The High Sheriff of Oxfordshire – High Sheriff Awards 2019. – (Circulated via email).
- ff. Maple Tree Children Centre – Re-scheduled AGM 28/11/19. – (Circulated via email).
- gg. SODC – South News November 2019. – (Circulated via email).

- hh. Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd – Horspath School Site: Lease of Part to Pre-School Trustees. – (Circulated via email). – **Mrs Oakley stated that Horspath School is not clear on who owns the land that the Nursery Portakabin stands on. Horspath Nursery pays rent to HPC for the PortaKabin and not the land. The Clerk will inform the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) of this information.**

** original held by the Clerk, copy available on request.
displayed on Village Hall & village noticeboards.*

211/19 PAYMENTS.

Chq	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
2704	Wheatley Parish Council	Admin share of Transport Survey		16.80
2705	Wel Medical	2 Batteries & 2 x pads for defibrillators	86.76	520.56
2706	001 Taxis	November Minibus Fees		192.00
2707		CHEQUE CANCELLED		0.00
2708	OPNA	Annual Subscription		25.00
2709	Mr R Gray	Grass cutting Burial Ground		116.00
		Grass cutting Play Area		40.00
		Emptying Bins		28.00
		Diesel & Maintenance Costs		67.71
2710	R Hamlet Ltd	Repairs to Village Hall Roof & Gutter	63.33	380.00
2711	Mr P Aries	Bus Shelter & Play Area Maintenance Oct/Nov 19		120.00
		Xmas Box		20.00
2712	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Salary 24/10/19-24/11/19		544.08
2713	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Home Office November 2019		30.00
		Stationary		48.00
		Postage		33.70
		TOTAL	150.09	2181.85

HORSPATH RECREATION CHARITY

Chq	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
100066	Mr R Gray	Grass Cutting Village Green 10/7/19 - 29/10/19		500.00
		TOTAL		500.00

212/19 RECEIPTS.

Date	Received from	Details	Total £
3.10.19	D L Hancock Funeral Directors	1 x Burial	400.00
		TOTAL	400.00

213/19 AOB.

- a. Mrs Oakley informed Councillors that she has applied to HSPC for a grant to cover the cost of the Senior Residents' Christmas Dinner.

Mrs Oakley stated that she has received a complaint from a resident about the poor state of Sandy Lane, Horspath. This lane leads to Robinson's timber yard and Mr Robinson has stated that the lane will be worse when the touring caravans are coming to the site. Mrs Oakley has spoken to SODC and they have confirmed that a planning application for this has not been submitted.

Mrs Oakley reported that the Christmas Bazaar will be held on Friday in the Hub and the Nursery bingo will be held on Friday night.

- b. Mrs Hofen asked what action is being taken on the paving slabs in the Play Area. Mr Burgess stated that this has been deferred while the Horspath Sports Association obtains quotes for the Play Area as this can be included in the project.
- c. Mr Harris asked about the lights for the Christmas tree which is being put up at the weekend. Mr Burgess has all of the lights and will arrange for volunteers to help on the day.
Mr Harris stated that he has attended the legal hearings of Oxford City Council Local Plan 2036, and it is interesting to hear how the Inspectors are responding to the City's claimed housing need, implying that some of the new houses for the City will need to be in South Oxfordshire. The standard calculation of housing need in Oxford City was for 776 new houses per year, this has now been increased to 1,400 new houses per year. OGBN and Kidlington Development Watch Alliance gave the best presentations at the hearing stating that the housing need figures were wrongly calculated. It will be the same Inspector who will inspect the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2034 in the future.

Public:-

- d. Mrs Riley asked for contact details for Penny Drew. The Clerk will email this information to Mrs Riley. Mrs Riley reported that the Village Hall alarm system was serviced a few weeks ago but the lights on the alarm are still flashing like they have done since the alarm was installed. A member of staff from Chris Lewis Fire & Security has stated that there may be a £70.00 call out charge to look at the alarm. Mr Burgess authorised Mrs Riley to call the company out to resolve the problem as they supplied the alarm system. Mrs Hofen stated that HPC has an obligation to ensure that a fully functioning alarm system is in place in the Village Hall.
- e. Mr Hamlet reported that a car has been abandoned in College Way which is obstructing the pavement. Mr Hamlet will pass the details of the vehicle onto the Clerk who will report it to SODC. Mr Hamlet asked if HPC receives any income from the Wildlife Conservation Area. Mr Harris stated that HPC owns and maintains the Conservation Area, but receives no income from it. Mr Hamlet stated that he has seen on You Tube that a group is looking for funds to carry out a survey as there is a claimed to be a bulge in the tunnel, and that it is likely to collapse. Mr Harris stated that he has not seen this himself, but since the 1860's lots of repairs were successfully carried out on the bulges in the brickwork inside the tunnel. Mr Harris stated that a qualified Tunnel Engineer will be required to carry out a survey.

214/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 17th December 2019 (To be confirmed).

Horspath Parish Council Meeting – 7th January 2020.

Signed.....

Date