

DUE TO THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE FOR THE CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY, HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL CANCELLED THE FEBRUARY MEETING AND HELD THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REMOTELY.

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st February 2022 at 8.00pm.

Present: Mrs B Oakley (Chair), Mr D Burgess, Mrs P Cook, Mr P Dobson, Mr J Dobson, Mr P Ewart, Mrs J Horne, Mr M Timbs, Mrs L Yendole, Mrs H Kogel (Clerk). Mrs E Gillespie (District Councillor).

Apologies Mrs C Riley, Mrs J Dobson, Mr T Bearder (County Councillor)

Absent: 0

Public: 25

The Clerk informed Councillors and members of the public that this meeting will be recorded to assist with drafting the Minutes. Mrs Oakley informed Councillors that the meeting has been changed to a Zoom meeting due to the increase in new Covid cases in Oxfordshire.

19/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. – Apologies were made on behalf of Mrs Riley and Mrs J Dobson.

20/22 DECLARATION OF INTEREST. – None.

21/22 EMERGENCY BUSINESS. – None.

22/22 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th January 2022 were amended on **Item 16/22 District & County Councillor Reports** to read:- Mr Ewart stated that the real threat is Grenoble Road, Oxford City want an Eastern Bypass going through *Lye Hill* Quarry and Hill Farm.

Mrs Oakley stated that on receipt of a quotation from Jon Beale, OCC for the speed surveys, she will submit a grant application to HSPC to cover the cost of the surveys.

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting (Part 2) held on 13th January 2022, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the Closed Parish Council Meeting held on 20th January 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

23/22 MATTERS ARISING. – None.

24/22 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

P22/S0029/ 22 College Way, Horspath (Householder)

HH Demolition of garage, conservatory and rear and side lean to, and construction of new two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. – **Councillors voted unanimously to recommend approval on this application.**

P22/S0216/ 59 Gidley Way, Horspath

DIS Discharge of condition 3 (Boundary walls and fences) on planning application P21/S1352/FUL (Proposed sub-division of dwelling into two dwellings with internal and external associated works). - – **Councillors voted unanimously to recommend approval on this application.**

P21/S4065/ 59 Gidley Way, Horspath (Full Application)
FUL Demolition of existing dwelling and garage. Erection of replacement dwelling and carport with internal and external associated works. (Amended plans to change garage to carport received 18/10/21 and amended block plan received 22/11/21, and PEA report and energy statement received 13th December 2021). *****This applications has been withdrawn by the applicant*****

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.

P21/S3338/ 45 Manor Farm Road, Horspath (Full Application)
FUL Amendment to application P20/S4516/FUL to rebuild a house including loft Extension, side extension and extension to front elevation. – **Granted.**

P21/S2823/ 35 Manor Drive, Horspath (Householder)
HH Side extension to single storey limb on front elevation. Hipped roof changed to pitch roof. Double doors replaced with window. French doors with sidelights changes to window on front elevation. Flat roof upgraded to front elevation. Front door and window to porch removed, opening enlarged & glazed screen with door fitted on front elevation. First floor extension to front elevation. Insertion of high level window to side elevation. First floor extension to rear elevation. Flat roof upgraded on rear elevation. Change brown windows to white except conservatory. – **Refused.**

25/22 CLERK’S UPDATE.

Rospa Inspections – Mrs Oakley will meet with Oxford Direct Services on Friday to obtain a quotation to carry out the repairs.

Burial Ground – The work on the hedges has now been completed.

Lime Tree on Village Green – A quotation has been received from ARB UK to carry out the work on the tree. It was agreed that the Clerk will obtain another quotation.

Dog Bins – The new contractor “The Shield Group” have taken over emptying the dog bins.

Street Lights, Oxford Road – The Clerk has been informed that Mr Hamlet has withdrawn his request for street lights.

2 Sycamore Trees – A quotation has been received from ARB UK to carry out the work on the trees. It was agreed that the Clerk will obtain another quotation.

Speed Surveys – The Clerk has requested that OCC go ahead with the speed surveys.

26/22 HORSPATH ALLOTMENTS – DRAFT LEASE.

The Clerk stated that the draft lease has not yet been received. The Clerk will contact Winkworth Sherwood Solicitors for an update.

27/22 UPDATE FROM VILLAGE BEAUTIFICATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

Mrs Oakley reported that the sub-committee met on 13/1/22 and have agreed that the location of the new bench will be near to the war memorial. The sub-committee also agreed that quotations will be sought for 3 planters to be placed at the entrances to the village. The planters will be red, white and blue in time for the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

Mrs Oakley invited Councillors to attend a meeting with a local carpenter at the weekend to discuss replacing the noticeboard. Mrs Cook stated that she may be able to attend.

28/22 FENCING BY THE BRIDGE.

Mrs Oakley reported that there have been several messages received about the installation of the fencing around the bridge, most of which have been posted on Facebook. Mrs Oakley gave the following report to Councillors and residents:-

In May 2021, Mr Peter Dobson, Chairman at the time, received complaints from villagers about anti-social behavior on the bridge, and on checking there was considerable evidence of drug and alcohol abuse. Mr Peter Dobson convened a meeting with the landowners. Dr Munt stated that the embankment was used by villagers walking but also others abusing the area and entering his parent's garden. Dr Munt pointed out that this is not a public right of way. OCC refused an application several years earlier for a public right of way. At the instigation of HPC, the landowners agreed to fence off the land to provide security for Dr Munt's parents, he also agreed to pay for the fence on his land. HRE would pay for the fence on the embankment. In June 2021, a vote was taken by HPC to decide which type of fencing, wood or palisade. Mr James Dobson and Mr Timbs abstained from the vote, with all other Councillors voting in favour of palisade fencing. The two main reasons for this is because a wooden fence would not be so durable or secure. In November 2021, concerns were raised about wildlife access. An amicable meeting was held with Mr Munt, who agreed to investigate putting arches in both of his fences. Unfortunately, that is when the abusive messages from a handful of residents were sent to Dr Munt and his family. Mr Munt's father was born in Horspath and is 90 years old this week, and his mother is in her mid-eighties and both have been subjected to really vile abusive, and bullying threats were made. These messages were sent to cause major distress to the family, which they did. Dr Munt has now cancelled the arches. HPC has decided to contact Matthew Irvin at HRE, and ask that a narrow access be made to the embankment fence. HPC is not prepared to ask for the fence to be removed. Some residents may not be happy with this, but numerous messages have been received from residents in favour and are happy to see the fencing reinstated, especially when the planting becomes established. The plants are very wildlife friendly and also provides a secure barrier for possible intruders. Mrs Oakley reiterated that Dr Munt is the legal owner of the land from the bridge to Butts Road and he is entitled to fence his land. The land above the bridge is owned by the Department of Transport and is managed by Highways England. Mrs Oakley also contacted Ed Turpin from the Wildlife Trust, who stated that foxes, badgers and munt jack will, and can burrow under fences. Munt jack will burrow and manage to get through a hole as small as 8cms. The red deer found in Horspath can easily jump up to 1.8 meters. All of this information has been minuted. Mrs Oakley stated that she finds it very sad that a resident should question the integrity of HPC, who have, and will always protect the interests of Horspath residents. The HPC meetings, although due to the pandemic have been carried out via Zoom, have always allowed residents to express their opinion, and everything has always been minuted.

Mr Timbs stated that a lot of what has just been said is mis-information and suggests that HPC has agreed, and he doesn't feel that HPC is at that stage. Mrs Oakley stated that at the last meeting it was agreed that HPC would investigate installing a deer gate and if not possible we would look at a small opening. Mr Timbs stated that this was not agreed. Mr Timbs also stated that both himself and Mr James Dobson abstained from the voting, which they didn't, they were against the fencing. Mrs Oakley stated that her notes state that Mr Timbs and Mrs James Dobson abstained from the vote. Mr Timbs stated that Mrs Oakley has reported that prior to the June meeting all Councillors agreed to contact Dr Munt, this did not happen, it was a couple of Councillors who went to Dr Munt and HRE and said that HPC wanted fencing. Mr Timbs stated that there was information provided to Councillors before the June meeting, which did not include information from the previous meeting, and stated that this was the desire of HRE and we had a choice of which type of fencing. Mrs Oakley stated that HRE contacted the Chairman and Vice Chairman to inform them of the drug abuse, syringes, glass and alcohol and also children riding bicycles down the embankment. Mr Timbs stated that it was a small number of Councillors who decided to install the fencing. Mrs Oakley stated that it was all Councillors who voted in favour of the palisade fencing, apart from Mr Timbs and Mr James Dobson who abstained from voting. Mr Ewart stated that he agrees with Mrs Oakley.

Mr James Dobson stated that all Councillors received a pack of information prior to the June meeting that outlined the options and the fact that HPC proposed a timber rail fence as opposed to palisade fencing. Mr Timbs stated that it was at a late stage that we were asked by HRE to choose the type of fencing, we were not asked if we want the fencing, and now we are in the position where the landowner has purchased the fencing and doesn't want to take it down, and HPC is in a situation where a lot of residents do not want the fencing and it has been mentioned that there are a lot of residents who want the fencing, although no one has come forward to suggest that. Mr Timbs stated that HPC did not agree to put a hole in the fence. Mrs Oakley stated that at the last meeting Councillors agreed that we would investigate deer gates, but if this is not an option, we would make a hole big enough in the fence for deer to pass through. Mrs Cook confirmed that this was agreed at the last meeting. Mr Burgess also stated that this was agreed and that Mr Timbs had googled deer gates and said he couldn't find them. Mrs Oakley read the Minute from the last meeting:- Mrs Oakley proposed that either a gate is installed in the fencing or a small opening made to the fence on the embankment, seconded by Mrs Cook, In Favour – unanimous.

Mr Ewart stated if the Wildlife Trust are happy with what we have, they are the experts and deer will find their own way round the fencing. Mr Timbs asked about the email from Mr Harris. Mrs Oakley and Mr Burgess have not seen the email from Mr Harris.

Mrs Julian stated that as an ecologist, she is concerned that the wildlife has been shut off and the animals will not be able to pass through the fence and as Mr Harris pointed out, badgers are protected species and under the NERC act, we need to show that we are positively trying to support wildlife. Mrs Julian stated that she is sorry if abuse has been directed at the Munt family, this is not acceptable, but the village should not be punished because of the behavior of a few individuals, and this should be reported to the Police. Mrs Julian stated that she is concerned that the wildlife has been stopped from using the only corridor from Shotover to the other side of the road, it also weakens our case with the Northfields development that the village is a wildlife corridor and the lawyers will state that we have shut off the wildlife corridor ourselves by installing the fence, and also she feels that the fencing is dis-figuring the Village Green and is not in keeping with the rural character of the village. Mrs Julian stated that the post and rail fencing would have been more in keeping with the village and allowed the wildlife to get through and stopped children cycling down the embankment and anti-social behavior. Mrs Julian stated that HPC should listen to the 600+ people who have signed the petition. Mrs Oakley stated that the petition has been signed by people all over the county not just residents in Horspath. Mrs Julian stated that she feels that the residents have asked for a review and she feels that residents are being shut down and it is important that HPC as our elected representatives are listening to people in the village. Mrs Oakley stated that HPC has agreed to try and make an opening in the fence. Mrs Oakley stated that she can understand why Dr Munt has decided not to do anything with his fencing due to the abuse that his family has received.

Mrs Hofen stated that she has a copy of Mr Harris's email and it clearly says that the fencing is in breach of the wildlife act. We also have people in the village who are experts in what they do and they should be consulted with and they are willing and able to make these discussions so much richer than they might already be. Mrs Hofen stated that as the person who set up the survey with around 650 respondents, the majority of whom are in the OX33 postcode, and HPC can try and dismiss it, but this is the largest survey response she has ever seen in the village. Mrs Hofen stated that there was also a survey carried out on security in the village, and whether people felt safe with drug use etc, and although it is now out of date, what it said was that there was very little compared to other villages. Mrs Hofen is concerned that HPC does not have a clear plan, this is not about what the fencing looks like, it is important to make sure that the wildlife corridors are open. HPC needs to reinstate this, otherwise as Mrs Julian mentioned it will weaken our case with regards to planning with the Brasenose development. Mrs Hofen has emailed Mrs Oakley and the Clerk with regards to the aspects of planning and has had no response. Mrs Hofen stated that there needs to be some clear legal advice if choosing to expect munt jacks to burrow under the fence. Mrs Hofen stated

that HRE are waiting for clarification from HPC, and they will do whatever HPC want, if it is a sensible solution. Mrs Hofen stated that there needs to be some thought to resolve this as it has gone on far too long. Ms Joanne Milton stated that she fully supports the views of Mrs Julian and Mrs Hofen. It is a shame that the fence didn't get enough consultation with residents and perhaps wouldn't have happened without a meeting with Dr Munt as they have lived there for many years without feeling it necessary for a fence. It is an accident waiting to happen with the wildlife. It is also a potential accident with motorists if they hit a deer in the road. Ms Moore stated that it is great that we have the opinion of the Wildlife Trust but expert opinions differ, and it's not worth relying on when there are other options. Ms Moore stated that she is disappointed that this has all taken so long and it still sounds like there are still discussions to be had. If HRE will take out some of the mid-rails temporarily, that would help. Mrs Oakley stated that she will be meeting with HRE. Mr Burgess stated that we can't take anything out of Mr Munt's fence, only the fencing over the bridge. Anyone living on the Green will be aware that the deer graze on the Green around 3am and then go off up Manor Farm Road. Mrs Hofen asked if anyone has told Dr Munt that he is in breach of the wildlife act as HPC has the ability to advise him of that. Mrs Oakley stated that it may be beneficial for HPC to advise Dr Munt, however the fences are on his land and anyone can put up a fence. Mrs Hofen stated not if it is in breach of legislation.

Mr James Dobson stated that HRE stated in their options paper that an ecological survey would be carried out, and it would be interesting to see how they saw the impact of the fencing, and he would like to think that they have considered a number of these issues in the installation of the fencing. A solution may be to look to try and put pedestrian gates in and the gates kept in the locked/open position to allow access for the wildlife and across the top, and if there was a need the gates could be closed. Mrs Oakley asked if it would be beneficial if HPC spoke with Dr Munt and offer to pay for the installation of gates in his fence. Mr James Dobson stated that the costs are secondary and the priority needs to be to find the best solution, but HRE are best placed to do so as they have undertaken the work and the impact of the fencing should have been assessed as part of it. Mrs Oakley stated that HRE have said that an ecological survey as carried out. Mrs Oakley stated that the embankment is private land, and Dr Munt has put up a fence whether or not it is a breach of the wildlife act, and people have walked on it for many years without any duress and also helping themselves to fruit and veg. Dr Munt wants his family to be safe and the reason that people are making a fuss is that people in Manor Drive, most of which have gates in their back garden onto the embankment and have walked this area for years.

A resident (Ray) who has lived in the village since 1964, thinks that it is wrong that HPC can decide what is going to happen in the village. The fence is ludicrous and should not be there and if it contravenes planning rules, then it should be taken down. The fence is an accident waiting to happen. It is quite clear that the majority of villagers that have wildlife at heart think that it is wrong to install the fencing and stop the wildlife from passing through. Who will be responsible if there is an accident? Ray stated that the fencing has caused so much division and should be put to a vote for residents in the village and not be the decision of a few Councillors. Mrs Oakley stated that the decision was made by the majority of HPC Councillors. Mr Peter Dobson stated that one side of the bridge has had a fence across it for many years, so part of that land is already closed down by the landowner. When HPC contacted HRE with regards to the existing fence that has failed, we spoke about liability and in reality liability could fall to HPC if there was no fence at all. HPC spoke with OALC who stated that if there was no fence there, HPC and HRE could be liable for any accidents across the bridge or people coming down the bridge, and this is why the fence was put up. The palisade fencing was voted in by the majority of Councillors on 1st June 2021 with sufficient knowledge and based on the anti-social behavior that has increased over the years. These discussions were held at HPC meetings.

Ms Leah Cox stated that it isn't just the Munt family and their land, there are three parties involved and three fences, but it has all been directed to one family instead of being split across three parties. There have been multiple occasions reported on Facebook about deer being hit on Horspath Road before the fencing

was installed, without any concern shown from wildlife lovers. It is private land and people have trespassed for years even though there are signs clearly stating that it is not a footpath. There are children on the bridge throwing stones at people walking past and on to cars, children going down the bridge on bikes, and so much drug use. Some residents say they don't see this anti-social behavior, but it's because this is not happening in their back garden. If there was an accident with someone being up on the bridge, and if the landowner, HPC and HRE were liable, of course a fence will be put up. If as the landowner you have been told to put up a fence that you have not chosen, but have paid for, and then received the amount of abuse that has been sent the family's way, people would feel the same as the family feel. At some point, everyone's houses were land where wildlife once lived. In 2020 there were never any issues with wildlife getting around the village, but now because people can't walk where they want to, there is an issues. Mrs Knerr stated she supports the views of Mrs Julian and Mrs Hofen. Mrs Knerr stated that the abuse on Facebook is a terrible thing. Mrs Knerr is not aware from the previous Minutes that a wildlife survey has been done, other than on the bridge itself in relation to bats, and she is curious if HRE carried out a survey around the bridge in relation to the fencing. Mrs Knerr stated that the behavior she has seen of the deer since the fencing was installed is unusual, seeing them in the middle of the road due to the fencing, and this was reported to Mr Burgess in November. The suggestion that deer have always strolled through the village is not relevant, something has changed and we are seeing the effects of that. This is a wildlife corridor and in the March Minutes, HPC state that they will do what they can to protect the bridge and the wildlife corridor. Mrs Knerr would like to see surveys carried out and the fencing taken down, although she understands that there is a problem with anti-social behavior that needs to be resolved with liability issues. If anti-social behaviour is the reason that we are putting up a six foot fence and blocking a wildlife corridor, we have some real problems.

Mr Timbs proposed that HPC take down the palisade fencing and replace with a wooden fence, although HPC has no control on what the Munt family do. Mr Burgess stated that south of the bridge is another private land owner who has had a fence up for a long time, so any deer bridge will have nowhere to go. Mr Timbs stated that HPC has no control over that. Mr Burgess stated that children will climb over a wooden fence.

Mr James Dobson asked for an amendment to the proposal, we ask HRE to come up with some options, as we can't take the fence down as it doesn't belong to HPC, its HRE's fence. We can give a strong opinion as to what we want to happen. HRE gave us an option paper, and he would like a number of options, and find out if they did an impact assessment, and what are the options to resolve the concerns. Mr James Dobson suggested that if HRE attended a HPC public meeting to hear the views of residents may help with that.

Mr Timbs proposed that we contact HRE with a proposal to remove the palisade fencing and replace it with a wooden fence, but also to ask for advice on other options. Seconded by Mr James Dobson, In Favour – 3 – vote not completed.

Mr Peter Dobson stated that he believes that we have already had this vote as Mrs Oakley has agreed to speak with HRE tomorrow. The fencing that Mr Timbs is proposing is only a very short piece of fencing with no ends to it, so there will be no benefit from taking the first fence down, it will only be cosmetically. Mr Peter Dobson stated that with regards to both ends being blocked off, the area is now down with Mr Munt and he paid for his own fence, HPC had no input in making him do that. The fence was put further back on his own land to make the effect minimal to the public and the local area, so there is not a sufficient change for a vote to be taken to take the fence down. Mrs Oakley should discuss this with Dr Munt and then put out a statement to the public.

Mrs Oakley proposed that she speaks to Matthew Irwin at HRE tomorrow and explain the situation. HPC has already voted that the fencing will remain with a provision for access for the wildlife. It is possible that for a temporary measure, HRE can arrange for a small hole to be made in the fence, but this won't affect Dr Munt's fencing, it will allow the deer to get on the top of the bridge. Mr Peter Dobson asked that Mrs Oakley make HRE aware about the breach of the wildlife act. Mr Burgess asked if anyone has actually

walked the fence. HRE have put a gate in on the corner of the Green that could be opened, but it doesn't get you anywhere, only on to the bridge. There are plenty of residents living on the Green that are happy to see the area fenced off. Mrs Oakley will ask HRE for the combination for the gate and arrange for it to be opened as a temporary measure. Ms Cox stated that the gate can't be opened as it will allow anti-social behavior and the children back up onto that bit of land and also opening up the area to someone's back garden. Ms Cox stated that badgers do dig and they will get underneath the fence. Mr Burgess stated that badgers have already gone under the fence in several places.

Mrs Oakley asked if anyone is in favour of the proposal made by Mr Timbs. Mrs Cook withdrew her vote in favour and agreed to wait for Mrs Oakley to speak with HRE. Mr James Dobson stated that HPC has little influence on this apart from a small section of the fence, and picking up on comments tonight, by making a suggestion and influencing the part that we can influence is quite powerful. It was agreed that Mrs Oakley will speak with HRE tomorrow.

29/22 WEBSITE REVIEW.

Mr Burgess stated that there is nothing to report due to lack of time. Mrs Oakley asked if Mr Judges has sent over photographs for the website. Mr Burgess stated that he has only received photographs from Fiona Smith and Joanne Horne.

30/22 QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE.

Mrs Oakley stated that this is taking place on 2nd June 2022. An email has been received about Jubilee mugs and possibly giving them to the school children in the village, but not all children in the village attend Horspath School. We could purchase mugs and over order so that there is enough for all children in the village. Mr James Dobson asked if we are looking to encourage village events, or a get together, we could procure a certain amount of mugs and give out on a first come, first served for children of a certain age attending the event. Mrs Cook stated that all children in Horspath School should have a mug. Mrs Oakley suggested that all children in Horspath School and the Nursery with a mug, and over order to allow for children who do not attend Horspath School. Mrs Oakley stated that Mrs Riley is keen to organise a village event on 2nd June 2022. Mrs Horne stated that mugs are not ideal for younger children, but suggested either a pen, pencil or notebook would be better suited.

Mrs Oakley proposed that Mrs Riley organise a family picnic on 2nd June to celebrate the Queens Jubilee. Seconded by Mrs Cook.

Mr James Dobson suggested an amendment to the proposal, that it would be really good if it is not solely a Parish Council event, and it's bringing other village groups and organisations together because that works really well and will bring people out, and shows the diversity and the village at its best. Mr Timbs stated that as a Parish Council do we need to do/spend on this, or should we be encouraging village organisations to get together or do their own thing. Mr Timbs doesn't think HPC needs to organise an event or should buy mugs for the children. Mrs Oakley stated that Mrs Riley is involved with lots of the village organisations. Mrs Oakley stated that it has also been suggested that villages light a beacon at 9.45pm, and the only location for this would be on the Bowley Field on the top of the slope which won't cause any damage. Mr Leigh Smith agreed that it would be better to give school children a water bottle, not a mug. Mr Timbs stated that there has also been a suggestion from a member of the public to plant a tree. It was agreed that Mrs Riley will liaise with other village organisations.

31/22 OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE.

Mrs Oakley asked for a Councillor to produce a document on what we will do and who will take responsibility in the event that something happens. Mr Peter Dobson stated that when the Duke of Edinburgh passed away, we worked with Brian Lowe at the Church to have a book of remembrance. The Clerk reported that OALC held a briefing on this that was over-subscribed, and they have said that if there

is the demand they will hold another briefing. OALC have emailed over the briefing that will be circulated to all Councillors. Mr Ewart agreed to liaise with Brian Lowe and produce a document on behalf of HPC.

32/22 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

Mrs Elizabeth Gillespie – District Councillor – Mrs Gillespie reported that she has attended a meeting with Mrs Oakley with the Northfield developers, and as said last time, this is the only chance that we have the capacity to have any input in what we want in the development. Mrs Gillespie sent them a map of where we want the community woodland and how wide we want it to be. Mrs Gillespie is also attending meetings with them with Garsington Parish Council and lots of other issues have been raised. We will be in regular contact with them, the recent meeting was very short, we were keeping them on board and they are getting back to us. Mrs Gillespie has been in contact with the Officer at SODC who is dealing with it, which is good on clarification because what the developers didn't realise, is that the reason there has been a hold up with the whole process is that OCC own part of the land that Northfields will be built on, and they are being difficult, which she thinks is because OCC want to keep the land and it be rental only. The developers were not aware of this and will hopefully now get on to it and things will speed up. We need to get what we want now as when the developers have the land we will no longer have any say, and that will happen very soon. Mrs Gillespie reported that SODC is going ahead with the joint plan with VWHDC which she does not agree with as the Vale does not have the same interests as us, and we will lose even more input into what is happening.

Mrs Gillespie has been asking for some time for a Supplementary Planning document about solar farms as it is tragic that we are planting solar farms over good agricultural land and we need to have strategic places to put them.

Mrs Gillespie stated that she passes frequently through Horspath and it's very sad that the one object in Horspath, the bridge, which has real character and brings the village together is now looking more like Brixham with the fencing and she hopes that HPC can come to a conclusion. Mr Harris carried out a wildlife survey many years ago, and there is lots of wildlife passing through.

Mrs Oakley asked Mrs Gillespie if she supports the HSPC grant application for the over-flow car park. Mrs Gillespie as Independent advisor agreed to the grant being paid.

Mr Tim Bearder – County Councillor – No report available.

33/22 CORRESPONDENCE.

- a. NALC. – Newsletter 19/1/22, 26/1/22. – (Circulated via email).
- b. NALC. Events 18/1/22, 25/1/22. – (Circulated via email).
- c. RSN. - The Rural Bulletin. – 5/1/22, 11/1/22, 18/1/22, 25/1/22. – (Circulated via email).
- d. Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens Advice. – Donation Request. – (Circulated via email). – **Councillors agreed to a donation of £100.00.**
- e. NALC – Chief Executive's Bulletin. – 14/1/22, 21/1/22. – (Circulated via email).
- f. SODC. – Updated Planning Enforcement Statement Briefing. – (Circulated via email).
- g. Morland House Surgery. – January Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- h. Community First Oxfordshire. – Membership 2022/23. – (Circulated via email).
- i. OCC. – Local Transport & Connectivity Plan Webinars. – (Circulated via email).
- j. SODC. – Member's Allowances Parish Councils Report. – (Circulated via email).
- k. Mr Simmonds. – Oak Trees. – (Circulated via email). – **It was agreed that the Clerk will send the reply drafted by Mr Burgess. Mrs Cook stated that there are four trees but she is not sure who they belong to. The trees are closer to Littleworth and one of the trees has a plaque on it but it is covered in ivy.**
- l. SODC. – SO Charitable Lottery raises an additional £15,000 for good causes. – (Circulated via email).
- m. NALC. – New Publication. – (Circulated via email).

- n. Dr Angela Julian. – Email regarding the palisade fencing around the railway embankment. – (Circulated via email).
- o. Ms Karen Amos. – Email regarding the fencing along the railway embankment. – (Circulated via email).
- p. Ms Clare Abbott. – Email regarding the fencing around the bridge. – (Circulated via email).
- q. SODC. – South News January 2022. – (Circulated via email).
- r. SODC. – Over £2.5 million available for businesses in South Oxfordshire & Vale of White Horse. – (Circulated via email).
- s. NALC. – New Year Open Letter. – (Circulated via email).
- t. Bioabundance. – Response to consultation on Oxford’s Economic Strategy. – (Circulated via email).
- u. Dash Uk Ltd. – Personalised Platinum Jubilee Mugs for Parish & Town Councils. – (Circulated via email).
- v. SODC. – Asset of Community Value Notice of Expiry: 16S 11/1 Horspath Road Athletics Track. – (Circulated via email).
- w. SODC. – Have your say on our draft Joint Design Guide. - (Circulated via email). – **As advised by Mr Harris, it was agreed that the Clerk will write to request an extension to the consultation period as they have only allowed four weeks.**
- x. Mrs Lisa Hofen – Email regarding report to FixMyStreet for the danger of wildlife running across the road.
- y. SODC. – Members’ Allowances, SODC. – (Circulated via email).
- z. OALC. – Petition for virtual meetings. – (Circulated via email).
- aa. RSN – Rural Funding Digest January 2022. – (Circulated via email).
- bb. OCC. – Local Transport and Connectivity Plan. – (Circulated via email).
- cc. Open Spaces Society. – January 2022 News. – (Circulated via email).
- dd. Mrs O’Day. – Email regarding the fence around the bridge and the wildlife corridor. – (Circulated via email).
- ee. The Maple Tree Centre. – Application for a financial contribution from HPC for the current year and 2022/23. – (Circulated via email). – **Councillors agreed to defer this request until the new financial year and review again in May. Mr Chris Sewell from the Maple Tree Centre thanked HPC for previous donations that were important to help them through the Covid restrictions. Mr Sewell reported that approximately 5% of families attending the Maple Tree are from Horspath and this figure is growing. The Maple Tree has changed its programme to consider the needs arising from Covid, so have increased activities for babies and added a session for children for social development, speech and language. Mr Sewell reported that all fundraising was cancelled during the lockdowns but hopefully this will get back to normal. The Maple Tree relies on fundraising and grants to keep them going, and around 10% of their income comes from Parish Councils, and they hope to develop their relationship with HPC further.**
** original held by the Clerk, copy available on request.
 # displayed on Village Hall & village noticeboards.*

34/22 PAYMENTS.

Paid by	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
BACS	Edward Hawes	Hedgecutting on playing field and road side	150.00	900.00
BACS	Wheatley Park School	Annual prize Giving Donation		150.00
BACS	A J Landscapes	Hedge cutting in Burial Ground		600.00
BACS	Community First Oxfordshire	Annual Subscription		70.00

BACS	SODC	Emptying Dog Bins 1/10/21 – 17/1/22	144.90	869.40
BACS	Mr P Aries	Bus Shelter/Play Area maintenance Dec 21 & Jan 22		120.00
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Home Office January 2022		30.00
		Zoom Monthly Subscription		14.39
		Stationery		50.90
		Postage		10.01
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Salary 24/12/21 – 24/11/21		800.98
14.1.22	NEST Pension Scheme	Pension contribution for Mrs H Kogel		22.91
8.11.12	HMRC	Employer Contributions for Mrs H Kogel		144.80
		TOTAL	294.90	3783.39

RECREATION CHARITY

Paid by	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
BACS	SSE	Power Supply to Village Green		44.99
		TOTAL		44.99

35/22 RECEIPTS.

Date	Received from	Details	Total £
6.1.22	Tony James Memorials	1 x Memorial	125.00
20.1.22	Mr J Edwards	Interment of Ashes	160.00
		TOTAL	285.00

Mr Timbs stated that there are two different contractors carrying out hedge cutting in the village, and asked if we have an on-going contract. Mr Timbs stated that the finance sub-committee were going to put forward all contracts for review. Mr James Dobson stated that a significant amount of work has been done on pulling that together. The last finance meeting was focused on the proposal of the Precept as the deadline for this was in January 2022, but this will be picked back up at the next finance meeting and move it forward.

Mr Peter Dobson stated that the hedge cutting cost of £900.00 carried out by Edward Hawes was for the cutting the perimeter hedges around the Bowley Field and by the burial ground right up to the left side of the Cricket Club. The contractor has done this for us for at least the last three years and we were limited with the time gap that it had to be carried out. Mr Timbs stated that Councillor don't know about these costs until they are being paid.

36/22 AOB.

- a. Mr Ewart reported that he will attend the PCR meeting on 9th February and will request a report on the bus usage.

Public:

- b. Mr Smith thanked HPC for their support with the Maple Tree Centre over the years. Mr Smith spoke with HPC three years ago and HPC has supported them financially since then. The Maple Tree Centre has been invaluable to his family and would encourage HPC to continue to support them.
- c. Mrs Julian asked if a new bench and planters could be installed at Gateley as well as on the Village Green. Mrs Oakley agreed to consider this request has a meeting with a carpenter at the weekend and hopefully will be able to install a notice board as well.

- d. Mr Hamlet asked if HPC is going to have one skip in the over-flow car park, and if so what is going in it. Mrs Oakley stated that it is going to be a large skip and the longer that we leave it there, it's more likely that people will use it. Mr Hamlet stated that there is a heap of approximately 40 tones which will not go into a skip. Mrs Oakley stated that it was Mr Burgess who put this in the grant application. Mr Hamlet stated that we will need a grab lorry to dispose of it.
- e. Mr Peter Dobson suggested that at the next meeting we consider looking at planning approvals outside of the main meeting as it may save some time. In the past we used to have a planning meeting separate from the main meeting.

37/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 15th February 2022 (To be confirmed).

Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 1st March 2022.

Signed.....

Date.....