

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Horspath Village Hall
on 2nd August 2022 at 8.00pm.

Present: Mrs B Oakley (Chair), Mr D Burgess, Mrs P Cook, Mr J Dobson, Mr P Dobson, Mr P Ewart, Mrs C Riley, Mr M Timbs, Mrs H Kogel (Clerk). Mrs E Gillespie (District Councillor).
Apologies Mrs J Horne, Mrs L Yendole.
Absent: Mr Bearder (County Councillor)
Public: 19

Mrs Oakley reminded members of the public that they are not permitted to speak until AOB. Some Councillors have reported that members of the public making derogatory remarks when they have wanted to speak, this will not be tolerated.

141/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. – Apologies were given on behalf of Mrs Horne and Mrs Yendole. Mr Bearder was absent from the meeting. Mr Timbs requested that it is noted that Mrs Horne and Mrs Yendole didn't attend the meeting out of protest.

142/21 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS. – None.

143/22 EMERGENCY BUSINESS. – None.

144/22 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th July 2022 were agreed as correct and signed by the Chair.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Open Meeting held on 26th July 2022 were agreed as correct and signed by the Chair.

The Minutes of the Additional Parish Council Meeting held on 26th July 2022 were agreed as correct and signed by the Chair.

145/22 MATTERS ARISING.

125/22 Clerks Update – Mr Timbs asked if there is any update with contractors being issued with contracts. Mrs Oakley stated that she has been in contact with contractors who carry out work for HPC, but is waiting for Sylo to forward on details of what the contracts will look like. Mr Timbs stated that Sylo is more for HR contracts. Mrs Oakley stated that most contractors are prepared to sign a contract, but it will need to be written specifically to suit the work that they are carrying out. Mr James Dobson asked if contractors will be employees or sub-contractors. Mrs Oakley stated that the contractors will be sub-contractors. Mrs Oakley will draw up the contracts to suit each contractor and report back to full Council before the contracts are signed.

146/22 PLANNING APPLICATIONS. – None.

P22/S2550/ 2 Spring Lane, Horspath

LB Replacement of existing “recent” timber doors and window with new stained hardwood door in the north elevation (to the courtyard of the “recent” single storey south wing. –
Councillors have no objections and recommend approval.

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.

P22/S2145/ 27 Blenheim Way, Horspath

(Householder)

HH Ground floor flat roofed rear extension, ground floor front extension and ground floor side extension. Convert and extend hipped roof loft to new gables front and rear. Loft conversion (As amended by drawings received 29/6/22 omitting roof terrace). – **Granted.**

147/22 CLERK'S UPDATE.

Trees by the War Memorial – The Clerk has requested two quotations for work to be carried out, one quotation has been received to date. Mrs Oakley has two other contractors that can be contacted. It was agreed that a second quotation will be obtained before a decision is made. The Clerk circulated an email from a resident on the Green about the tree outside of his property. Mrs Oakley stated that this tree is included in the quotation that has been received.

Parish Councillor Vacancy – The vacancy notice has been displayed on the noticeboard and on the website. The Clerk reported that she has spoken with OALC about advertising the vacancy with a certain specification of person required. OALC has stated that there is no guidance on this, it is a Council decision, but it could put people off from applying if they don't meet the specification but might have other skills that would be useful. Mr James Dobson stated that it was OALC who suggested advertising a specification. The Clerk stated that two applications have been received to date.

Flag Pole – The Clerk circulated an email received from Mrs Jane Dobson with regards to installing a flag pole in the village, which would be a fitting tribute to the Queens Jubilee Celebration and would be in readiness for Operation London Bridge. It was agreed that this will be included on the September Agenda.

Burial Ground – The Clerk circulated an email from Mr Underdown who has requested that a volunteer group is formed to carry out general maintenance in the burial ground. Councillors agreed to the volunteer group and Mrs Oakley will post an advert on social media for volunteers. Mr James Dobson stated that Mrs Oakley will need to inform Mr Underdown that a risk assessment will need to be done before any work is carried out for insurance purposes.

Register of Members interest Forms – The Clerk asked all Councillors to return the new completed register of members interests form.

Sylo Beyond HR – The Clerk reported that she has raised concern in recent months about the high level of invoices being received from Sylo. Two further invoices have been received this month, one for £463.00 for the monthly retainer, and the other for HR services activity for £2337.00. Since 1st April 2022 this brings the total spend on HR services to £7842.00. Mrs Cook asked what the invoice is for. Mrs Oakley asked Mr James Dobson to elaborate on the invoice for £2337.00. Mr James Dobson stated that part of the invoice is in relation to a defined piece of work that the HR sub-committee requested and the other was in relation to three pieces of work undertaken on behalf of HR sub-committee. Mr James Dobson stated that all pieces of work were requested in open correspondence by the HR sub-committee. Mr James Dobson stated that he didn't want to go into full details but will share this information after the meeting. The Clerk stated that she wanted her concerns minuted as she has had no contact with Sylo since the end of April, they haven't dealt with her grievance fairly, she has been denied an appeal hearing and she hasn't seen any evidence of any employment processes, which is part of the costs. Mr Peter Dobson stated that HR business needs to be discussed outside of this meeting and in the correct forum. Mrs Oakley stated that the Clerk is always excluded from HR meetings. The Clerk stated that she wanted the expenditure noted and as Financial Officer we are in a very difficult situation with such a high value being spent in four months. Mr Peter Dobson stated that the monthly retainer of £463.00 that has been agreed by HPC. Mrs Oakley asked for a Councillor to propose the payment of the monthly retainer invoice of £463.00 and also for the invoice for £2337.00. Mr Peter Dobson proposed that both invoices are paid, Seconded by Mr James Dobson, In Favour – 4, Against – 4. Mrs Oakley used her casting vote and voted against the payment of £2337.00 as she wants to know exactly what work has been carried out as she hasn't seen any correspondence or work carried out from Sylo since May 2022. (Members of the public applauded this decision). Mrs Oakley agreed to pay the monthly retainer invoice as this has been agreed by HPC. Mrs Oakley stated that HPC should not

pay an invoice if we don't know what it is for. Mrs Oakley stated that if Sylo have sent correspondence to Mr James Dobson since May 2022, why have HPC not been privy to this information.

Subject Access Request – The Clerk reported that she has received a SAR from Mr James Dobson on 30th June that needed to be actioned by 30th July 2022. The Clerk spoke to the ICO who confirmed that the request did not need to be actioned until 1st August 2022, which was done. On 31st July 2022, the Clerk received a complaint from Mr James Dobson stating that she had not handled his personal information correctly and the failure of the Council and Charity to provide the information is causing him concern and distress, it also shows that the Council do not have suitable processes in place and he is requesting that his complaint is fully investigated. The Clerk confirmed that she did action the request within the timeframe, and asked Mr James Dobson if he still wanted an investigation. Mr James Dobson stated that he is slightly disappointed and he would expect his confidentiality to be respected, and by revealing this in a public meeting, his confidentiality is completely ruined and he finds this unacceptable. The Clerk apologised to Mr James Dobson if he feels that she has breached his confidentiality as it wasn't intended, but stated that this request was to HPC, so she has no option other than to share the information as he is calling for a full investigation to be carried out. The Clerk stated that it is not her decision on whether or not an investigation is carried out. Mr James Dobson stated that he will now consider his opinion.

The Clerk informed Councillors that she has submitted a SAR to Mr James Dobson on 18th July 2022. The Clerk reported that Mr James Dobson provided details of a company who deal with SAR's, and she had a telephone appointment with the company who have quoted £500.00 for the initial hosting and 40p per page to redact the final document. The company have stated that we would need to collate the information, and based on the size of the file, they will provide a final cost for providing the service. Mr James Dobson stated that HPC needs to decide on how best to respond to it. Mrs Oakley asked if a SAR is to the whole of the Parish Council. Mr James Dobson stated that it is to a number of individuals but it is to the Parish Council. Mrs Oakley asked if a SAR means any data held on a phone or computer has to be provided. The Clerk stated that it took a large number of hours to collate the information requested by Mr James Dobson. Mrs Oakley asked what is the point of a SAR and asked if the Clerk had submitted a SAR because Mr James Dobson had submitted one, maybe a tit-for-tat. The Clerk stated that she was not aware of SAR's so carried out some research, and under the circumstances it would be very helpful for her to submit a SAR to Mr James Dobson as the Chair of the HR sub-committee and other named individuals. Mrs Oakley asked for clarification of what is required on a SAR as she is not clear what this is for. Mr Peter Dobson stated that any emails provided must have names and other irrelevant information redacted. Mrs Oakley stated that the Clerk has already dealt with the SAR from Mr James Dobson who initially submitted a SAR. Mr James Dobson stated that as part of his SAR he would like emails from Mrs Oakley. Mrs Oakley stated that she is not prepared to share information about private emails to family members and friends to Mr James Dobson as she uses a company phone that belongs to someone else.

Mr James Dobson stated that HPC needs to agree how we are going to respond to the Clerk's SAR. The Clerk stated that this wasn't taken into consideration when she received and responded to his SAR. Mr James Dobson stated that he sent his request to the Clerk of HPC. The Clerk stated that she received the request and has notified Councillors tonight that his SAR has been actioned. The Clerk stated that she expects her SAR to be actioned within the timeframe, and under the circumstances it is essential that the information is received. Mr James Dobson asked if HPC is going to use Data Works to deal with the Clerks SAR? Mrs Oakley stated that the Clerk dealt with the request from Mr James Dobson, so he should deal her request. The Clerk informed Mrs Oakley that a SAR would only involve any emails that she holds with James Dobson name contained in it. Mrs Oakley stated that she deletes emails after she has dealt with them. Mr Timbs stated that HPC is clearly not able to answer SAR's, so we need a process in place to deal with them, and we do not have the expertise or time to deal with them, so suggested that these are outsourced. Mr Timbs stated we are going to have to act quickly and he has also contacted a company for a quotation. Mrs Oakley stated that Councillors will still have to collate the information to send on to the company. Mr

Timbs stated that HPC is not set up to deal with SAR's and we do not have the time or know the legislation, so we either outsource it or buy software to do it. Mrs Oakley stated that we have already brought in an HR service that has cost almost £8000.00, HPC do not have spare money and cannot take money from HSPC to pay for these types of cost. Mr Timbs stated that the issues with SAR will not go away because HPC does not have the money. Mrs Cook stated that the Clerk had to deal with Mr James Dobson's request. Mrs Riley asked when all of this will stop, all of things are costing money and it has never happened before. Mr James Dobson stated that HPC has received FOI requests in the past and we need a system to be able to respond to it. Mrs Oakley stated that this was instigated by Mr James Dobson. Mr James Dobson stated that it is his right to request this information. Mrs Cook stated that it also the Clerks right to request the information. Mr Burgess stated that he is against paying out any more money. Mr Peter Dobson stated that as of last Friday HPC has £20,000 in the bank, and some of the things that we decide not to pay, that we discuss on a monthly basis will come back to bite us in the future. Mrs Cook stated that Councillors are entitled to know what we are paying for. The Clerk stated that some of the £20,000 is already allocated. Mr Peter Dobson stated that HPC agreed for Sylo to deal with HR issues and it is difficult for the HR sub-committee to share some of the information at these meetings as it is confidential. Mrs Oakley stated that the HR sub-committee do not share any information. Mr James Dobson stated that he would like to know the process to deal with a SAR and then he will co-operate fully. The Clerk stated that the reason that she raised this matter is because Mr James Dobson has requested a full investigation. Mr James Dobson stated that it would be appropriate for the Clerk to correspond with him explaining the information that has been given and ask if he wants to follow through with the complaint, and then he will reply. The Clerk stated that she is not HPC, so she needed to share this information.

148/22 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT. – The Clerk stated that the amended AGAR has been sent off, and a reply has been sent to the internal auditor with regards to the initial observations and is now waiting for a reply.

149/22 UPDATE FROM VILLAGE BEAUTIFICATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

Mrs Oakley passed thanks to Mrs Riley, Mrs Cook, and Mr Peter Dobson for their help with weeding and watering the trees around the Green planted by HRE. Mr Hamlet provided the water carrier and Mrs Yendole and her son delivered two loads of water. The other side of the Green has not yet been done but will be done when the brown bins have been emptied. The planters are regularly watered and the wild flowers at the top of Cuddesdon Road have been lost during cutting. Mrs Oakley will continue to put something on the memorial. Mr Peter Dobson suggested that Mr John Underdown and volunteers could form part of the Beautification sub-committee.

150/22 HORSPATH BURIAL GROUND. – Review of charges.

Mr James Dobson previously suggested a price increase for the burial ground. Mrs Oakley stated that she has spoken with Mr Horsley and they both agree that as a price increase was implemented around 8 months ago, it would not be appropriate to apply a further increase at this time. It was agreed that this will be reviewed in January 2023. Mr James Dobson stated that he thinks the last price increase was longer than 8 months ago. Mrs Oakley will check the date of the last price increase.

151/22 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

Mrs Gillespie (District Councillor) – Mrs Gillespie reported that it is extremely quiet at SODC. A grant of up to £1,000 is available for play equipment or anything that encourages physical activity for any not for profit institution. The first round closes on 30th September 2022, and round two begins on 7th November 2022.

Mrs Gillespie stated that OCC are still causing delay with the Northfields development and there is concern that the developers may pull out. Mrs Gillespie has attended a meeting with the developers who have stated that they have no intention of pulling out, which is good, and although we don't want the development, at least they are promising things like the tree barrier and we might get a better quality of housing with this developer.

Mrs Gillespie stated that with regards to the solar panel farm, the developers have come back because there was an error made by the Officer doing the application, who wrote 35 years instead of 40 years. This is the largest solar panel farm in the country and as it is on a north facing slope, they have had to put more expensive solar panels in, so they want it to be for 40 years. The Officers have tried to dissuade them from doing this as Mrs Gillespie and CPRE are against it, but they haven't succeeded, so the application will come to committee for the 40 years.

Mr James Dobson asked if the play area grant would cover repairs to the play area. Mrs Gillespie stated that she thought the grant would cover repairs. Mr James Dobson stated that this is something which HPC should look at. The Clerk stated that the play area inspections are due to take place in July. Mrs Gillespie stated that full details of the grant are available on the SODC website.

Mrs Oakley stated that with regards to the Northfield development, she has received a message from Mr Harris today reporting that down the Oxford Road in Garsington, on the left hand side there are earthworks going on. Mr Harris stated that this is an archeological dig to try and prove that there is no historical archeological relics on that field, but they are not doing it on the field opposite. Mrs Oakley stated that it would have been good if Cllr Bearder was present tonight to find out why OCC are still causing the delays. Mrs Gillespie stated that OCC have said that they don't have the resources to deal with it and they have a problem with the conditions that SODC are trying to impose on the deal.

152/22 CORRESPONDENCE.

- a. SODC – Call for communities to plant trees in record numbers. – (Circulated via email).
- b. OALC. – Webinar today about EV charge points and Parish Councils.
- c. SODC. – Waste services and the heat. – (Circulated via email).
- d. SODC. – Financial boost to keep residents active. – (Circulated via email).
- e. OCC. – Free testing of electric blankets #. – (Circulated via email).
- f. NALC. – Events 20/7/22, 26/7/22 – (Circulated via email).
- g. RSN. - The Rural Bulletin. – 5/7/22, 12/7/22, 19/7/22, 26/7/22. – (Circulated via email).
- h. SODC. – Free shows, performances and sports in Didcot Garden Town this summer. – (Circulated via email).
- i. Clean Slate. – Donation Request. – (Circulated via email). – **It was agreed that no donation will be made on this occasion.**
- j. Mr Pete Aries. – New trees planted around the Green. – (Circulated via email). – **Noted.**
- k. SODC. – Revised focus for Didcot Garden Town. – (Circulated via email).
- l. My Vision Oxfordshire. – South Oxfordshire Community Engagement Project. – (Circulated via email). – **It was agreed that no donation will be made on this occasion.**
- m. OALC. – June Update for Member Councils. – (Circulated via email).
- n. NALC. – Star Council Awards 2022. – (Circulated via email).
- o. OALC. – Roles & Responsibilities Course 27/7/22. – (Circulated via email).
- p. Community First Oxfordshire. – Summer Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- q. SODC. – Residents urged to check their voter registration details. – (Circulated via email).
- r. NALC – Chief Executive's Bulletin. – 22/7/22. – (Circulated via email).

- s. SODC. – South News July 2022. – (Circulated via email).
- t. SODC. – SODC sets out its plan to help with sustainable food production and the reduction of food waste. – (Circulated via email).
- u. Wel Medical – Product recall iPad SP1. – (Circulated via email & passed to Mr Peter Dobson).
- v. SODC. – Deep Cleanse Services – Horspath 31/10/22 – 2/11/22. – (Circulated via email).
- w. OALC. – AGM Draft Minutes and Presentations. – (Circulated via email).
- x. Morland House Surgery. – Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- y. SODC. – Litter mapping project. – (Circulated via email).
- z. The Shield Group. – Dog Bin Reports. – (Circulated via email).
- aa. SODC. – Councils bring back their free activity trails competition for the school summer holidays. – (Circulated via email).
- bb. OCC. – Winter Preparedness. – (Circulated via email).
- cc. Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment. – Help us to help you protect and restore Oxfordshire’s environment. – (Circulated via email).
- dd. Ms Joanne Milton. – Street Recycling Bins. – (Circulated via email). – **Mr Burgess reported that SODC have previously supplied recycling bins, but the bins are filled with waste from tradesmen. Mrs Riley stated that we do need something there. Mr Burgess stated that the bins were also used for dog waste.**
- ee. OALC. – AGM Presentations. – (Circulated via email).
- ff. TVP. – Recruitment materials. – (Circulated via email).
- gg. NALC. – Newsletter 6/7/22, 27/7/22. – (Circulated via email).
- hh. RSN. – Rural Funding Digest July 2022. – (Circulated via email).
- ii. SODC. – Settlement Assessment Questionnaire for Town & Parish Councils. – (Circulated via email).
- jj. Mr Jon Stacey. – Email regarding 20mph speed limits. – (Circulated via email).
- kk. Ms Miller, Gidley Way. – Email regarding building works at Gidley way. – (Circulated via email). – **Mrs Oakley stated that there were big machines on the building site, but they are now parking on a driveway, but this is a civil matter and there is no action that HPC can take. Mr Burgess stated that the vans are now parked by the portacabins, so hopefully the issue is now resolved.**
- ll. CPRE – Newsletter. – (Circulated via email)
** original held by the Clerk, copy available on request.
 # displayed on Village Hall & village noticeboards.*

153/22 PAYMENTS.

Paid by	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
7/7/22	Nest	Pensions contribution for Mrs Kogel		25.67
8/7/22	Inty Ltd	Email address fee		5.40
6/7/22	Sylo Beyond HR	Monthly retainer fee	77.20	463.20
6/7/22	Horspath Cricket Club	Grass Cutting Recreation Field		2380.00
29/7/22	Shield Maintenance Ltd	Emptying Dog Bins	12.13	72.79
25/7/22	IAC Audit Consultancy	Internal Audit Fee	57.00	342.00
11/7/22	ARB UK	Emergency tree works	50.00	300.00
1/7/22	Chris Lewis Fire & Security	Annual maintenance plan	47.20	283.20
15/7/22	Brittons Solicitors	Professional services	80.00	480.00
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Home Office July 2022		30.00
		Zoom Monthly Subscription		14.39
		Stationery		22.00

BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Salary 24/6/22 – 24/7/22 Authorised overtime payment Additional meetings		1193.62
2/8/22	Mr P Aries	Bus Shelter & Play Area Maintenance June & July		120.00
		TOTAL	323.53	5732.27

Mrs Oakley stated that the total paid to the Clerk for salary, authorised overtime payment and additional meetings is £1193.62.

HORSPATH RECREATION CHARITY

Paid by	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
22/7/22	Prospect House & Garden Maintenance	Repairs to Village Green from damage caused by lorry		290.00
2/8/22	SSE	Electricity supply to Village Green		36.85
		TOTAL		326.85

154.21 RECEIPTS.

Date	Received from	Details	Total £
14/7/22	Tesco Motor Policy	Insurance for damage caused to Village Green	180.00
		TOTAL	180.00

155/22 AOB.

- a. Mr James Dobson stated that he previously mentioned about trees in the village being inspected and recommended that HPC implements an inspection process for the trees. Mrs Oakley stated that she has three companies that are prepared to give a quotation to inspect the trees around the village. One of the companies require a payment up front, so she will not be using them. Mrs Oakley stated that it will not include trees on the Bowley Field.

Public:

- b. Mr O'Brien asked if more than one contractor is needed to quote for the inspections of the trees, did the same process happen with Sylo, and if so, did they detail in their quotation what work would be included, as the Chair of HPC doesn't know what you are paying for. Mr O'Brien stated that he cannot believe the amount of negativity there is on the Parish Council, and by outsourcing to different companies you are making yourselves look like a bunch of clowns. Mr James Dobson stated that the HR sub-committee ran a tender process and invited between 6-10 companies to respond, unfortunately it wasn't advertised on the village website, we then wrote a scope of works of around 25 items, for companies to tender against and demonstrate that they could fulfill the a scope of service, and then ran a selection process. Mr O'Brien asked why doesn't anyone know what work has been carried out on the invoice received for £2337.00. Mr James Dobson stated that from time to time additional works is requested under the contract, and he is not prepared to discuss the details of the work involved. Mr O'Brien stated that additional works should be itemised on an invoice. Mr James Dobson stated that he hasn't seen the invoice, he would normally expect the invoice to be sent to the HR sub-committee who tasked the work, to be signed off, but this hasn't happened. Mr O'Brien asked why then are you paying the bill. Mr Peter Dobson stated that we are not paying the bill. Mr O'Brien stated that Mr Peter Dobson put his hand up to pay the bill. Mr Peter Dobson stated that he put his hand up to pay the agreed monthly retainer invoice, he doesn't know what the other invoice is for, and Mr James Dobson is correct, we usually receive the invoice first so that it can be

analysed before payment is made, but that didn't happen this time. Mr O'Brien stated that there is not a single Councillor present who knows what we are being charged for. Mr James Dobson agreed but stated that they have an idea but they haven't done a reconciliation against it. Mr O'Brien asked why the invoice has been presented to be paid. Mr Peter Dobson stated that he hasn't seen the invoice. Mr O'Brien asked who is checking the reconciliation on the invoices, as someone must know that they are presenting an invoice. The Clerk stated that the invoice was received yesterday from Sylo and Mr James Dobson was also copied in on the email. The Clerk also stated that this is why she is correct in questioning the invoice before payment is made. Mr James Dobson apologised if he has missed the invoice, but stated that this is why we need internal processes in place for payments, so that people who commission the work should sign it off for payment. Mrs Cook stated that it is also good that we have a Clerk who questions these things. Mr O'Brien asked about the £7,000.00 that has already been paid, how has that been reconciled? Mr James Dobson stated that is against a payment schedule presented as part of the tender, in which three pieces of work were approved, a monthly retainer, develop systems and processes and the other was for a very defined piece of work. Mr O'Brien asked what the defined piece of work was. Mr James Dobson stated that he did not want to discuss that. Mrs Oakley stated that two pieces of work were not completed. Mr James Dobson stated that the work has been done and he has given his assurance on numerous occasions, the information is available and the work has been delivered. Mrs Oakley stated that she hasn't received the information. Mr James Dobson stated that he wouldn't expect the Chair to have the information. Mrs Oakley asked why not as she is the Chair to HPC. Mr James Dobson stated that she should trust members to deal with it. Mr O'Brien stated that given all of the confusion, it is absolutely clear to everyone in the room that Mr James Dobson can't answer the questions, so suggested that all Sylo payments are suspended until the framework is in place and then move forward. (Members of the public applauded Mr O'Brien's comment). Mr Coolman stated that there should not be a sub-committee, it is absolutely flawed. Mrs Oakley stated that discussions have already taken place about the sub-committee making decisions without ratification from full council, but she was over-ruled. Mr Peter Dobson stated that the HR sub-committee had authority to make decisions by resolution. Mrs Oakley stated that the HR sub-committee did not have authority. Mr Coolman stated that the HR sub-committee should be rescinded. Mr Peter Dobson stated that he doesn't have a problem if the sub-committee is rescinded but a lot of work has been done since February 2022. Mrs Oakley stated that Councillors have not seen any work produced from Sylo since May 2022. Mr James Dobson stated that Sylo have contacted Mrs Oakley in June 2022. Mrs Oakley stated that this was about a SODC matter that she could not deal with as she did not have the information required. Mr Peter Dobson stated that this is not helpful, he has explained that the HR sub-committee have not seen the invoice, and it will not be paid until we are sure that we have value for money, and he respects the comments from Mr O'Brien. Mr James Dobson confirmed that he will provide details of the work carried out on the outstanding invoice. Mr O'Brien stated that there is a lot of talk about contracts for contractors, but when it comes to Sylo it seems that they are under the radar, why aren't they under the same scrutiny as other contractors. Mr O'Brien asked why Mr James Dobson will not tell the public about the work carried out by Sylo. Mr James Dobson stated that if there is a scope of work requested in relation to employment matters, you don't usually disclose that in front of your employee. Mr O'Brien stated that this is a contract for services, and it was very close to paying the invoice for £2337.00 tonight. Mr Peter Dobson stated that he hasn't seen the invoice and had no expectation for the invoice to be paid.

- c. A resident stated that she is a president of a committee and they often have a sub-committees who obtain information and they bring that back to the full committee for approval and that is the way it works. Mrs Oakley stated that until fairly recently that's how it should work but unfortunately it didn't happen in this case. Mr James Dobson stated that HPC agreed to an HR sub-committee with full delegated authority. Mrs Oakley stated that this was not agreed. HPC was told that the cost for Sylo was going to be £1300.00 for the

first six months, and that is what full Council agreed to. HPC was not informed about the monthly retainer or any of the other additional costs. Mrs Oakley stated that the contract with Sylo was signed by Mr James Dobson. Mr James Dobson stated that on the back page of the contract all HR sub-committee members signed the contract and suggested that Mrs Oakley check resolution 10/22. The resident stated that the sub-committee should get the quotes and bring them back to full Council. Mrs Oakley stated that is what should of happened but it didn't happen.

d. Mr Coolman stated that if Sylo do nothing for the next three years, it will cost HPC £18,000 over the next three years for just the retainer costs. Mr James Dobson stated that if they did nothing they would be breaching the contract and we would not pay it. Mr James Dobson stated that there is plenty of work for them to do. Mr Coolman stated that you will have plenty for them to do if you keep on at the Parish Clerk the way that you are.

e. Mr Brooks stated that the problem is all of the secrets on HPC.

f. Mr Mutton stated that he agrees with the conversations and he thinks it is disgusting with what has been said and it seems that Councillors are not supporting the Chair in the way that they should be. It seems that there are situations behind the scenes that are happening that is not directed to the Chair. Mr Mutton stated that the Chair should have the control of the Parish Council and then get the decisions from the members of the Parish Council.

Mr Mutton mentioned at the APM about the chicane being removed and he was informed by the Chair that everything is hand and it is expected to take around 18 months to achieve. Mr Mutton stated that he has the contact details for an OCC approved contractor who could carry out the work in a shorter time frame, and if this was possible would HPC agree. Mrs Oakley stated that she would agree with it but it would have to be approved by OCC. Mrs Oakley, Mr Burgess and Mr Hamlet are all working on it, and have received a message today from Jon Beale, OCC, regarding the cost of smiley face speed signs. Mr Beale also confirmed that we have all of the other traffic calming measures earmarked. Mr Mutton stated that the situation with the chicane has been going on for 7 years.

Mr Mutton stated that when entering the village, the hedge is so over-grown so motorists can't see properly when they get to the chicane. There has been several accidents at this location as the chicane is extremely dangerous. Mrs Oakley stated that HPC is doing its best but OCC are very slow. Mrs Oakley asked that Mr Mutton send over the details of the OCC approved contractor and she will look into this. Mrs Oakley stated that HPC is trying to do this as soon as possible.

Mr Mutton asked why Mr Peter Dobson and/or Mr James Dobson use a laptop during the meeting, this should not be allowed. Mr Mutton stated that he is concerned that the public have not been notified if the meeting is being recorded. Mrs Oakley stated that the Clerk records the meeting to use when drafting the Minutes.

g. A resident asked if HPC would consider purchasing a microphone for use at the meetings. Mr Peter Dobson stated that HPC has a link speaking system, and if someone would like to set it up we could use it. Mrs Oakley will look into this option.

h. Mr Peter Dobson asked for an update on the repairs at the Conservation Area. Mrs Oakley stated that a grant of £5,000.00 has been received from HSPC to carry out the repairs, but the volunteer who is over-seeing the project has not been available due to family commitments. The work will be carried out asap.

156/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 16th August 2022 (To be confirmed).

Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 6th September 2022.

Signed..... Date.....