

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Horspath Village Hall
on 7th March 2023 7.30pm.

Present: Mrs B Oakley (Chair), Mr D Burgess, Mrs P Cook, Mr L Coolman, Mr P Ewart, Mr I Harris, Mr B Igoe, Mr P O'Brien, Mr E Parker, Mrs C Riley, Mrs H Kogel (Clerk), Mrs E Gillespie (District Councillor).
Apologies Mr T Bearder
Absent:
Public: 11

44/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. – Apologies were given on behalf of Mr Bearder.

45/23 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS. – None.

46/23 EMERGENCY BUSINESS. – None.

47/23 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th February 2023 were agreed and signed as correct by the Chairman.

48/23 MATTERS ARISING. – None.

49/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

P23/S0498/ 90 Gidley Way, Horspath **Certificate of Lawfulness**
LDP Artist hobby room and garden tool store.

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.

P22/S4552/ 90 Gidley Way, Horspath **Certificate of Lawful Development**
LDP Artist hobby room and garden tool store. ****Application has been withdrawn****

50/23 CLERK'S UPDATE.

Repairs to Play Area – Repairs have now been done. The contractor has reported that there is damage to the picnic bench and the gate. The Clerk will contact ODS for more information.

Openreach – All complaints/faults must be reported by the resident to their service provider. Openreach will only carry out work on the green street cabinets if reported by the service provider.

Manor Drive. – A planning application has been submitted but it is invalid. HPC will be advised when a new application has been processed.

Burial Ground Sign – It was agreed that the Clerk will order two larger signs.

Bench in the Burial Ground. – The bench has now been ordered. A resident has agreed to pay for the engraving on the bench.

Land Registration. – Mr Peter Dobson has confirmed that the Bowley Field, the Recreation Ground and the Village Green have all now been registered and the documents passed to Mrs Riley and Mrs Cook. Mrs Riley confirmed that she will store the village scrapbook at her home address.

Horspath Burial Ground – The Clerk has received an invoice for £120.00 for works carried out in the Burial Ground. Councillors agreed that the Clerk arrange payment.

Data Controller – OALC will forward information.

51/23 SYLO BEYOND HR.

Mr O'Brien has written to the Dept Collecting Agency but has not yet received a reply to date.

52/23 UPDATE FROM VILLAGE BEAUTIFICATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

Mrs Oakley passed thanks to Mrs Riley and Mr Brooks for planting the plants in the new tub by the memorial bench. Another tub will be planted for the Kings Coronation. Mrs Riley has been maintaining the tubs and the daffodils.

53/23 HORSPATH VILLAGE HALL.

Mr O'Brien reported that he has spoken to Ms Paula Fox at SODC who said that she will arrange for Sharon Crawford to contact him yesterday but he has not had any contact. SODC requested that the pre-planning meeting takes place on Teams, but as the cost is around £900.00, HPC has stated that they want a site meeting which has been agreed by the Head of Planning. Mrs Oakley passed thanks to Mrs Gillespie for her assistance.

Mrs Oakley reported that the Village Hall is managed by HVHMC with several members. Mr Peter Dobson was the Chairman of HVHMC but resigned back in September. At a meeting last week, as no-one wanted to take over as Chairman, Penny Drew who is the Booking Clerk, the Secretary, and the Treasurer is now Co-Chairman along with Mr Peter Dobson, who is only there until Penny Drew is able to take over. At the meeting Mrs Drew reported that she has been contacted by an organisation who want to hire the village hall every day to run a nursery from 9am – 3pm. Mrs Drew and Mr Peter Dobson considered this request to be acceptable. Mrs Oakley stated that a nursery would require alternative toilet facilities, and there was no mention of setting up/packing away the nursery, or storage facilities. This would also mean that the village hall would not be available to hire at all from Monday – Friday during the day. Mrs Cook stated that there would be a safeguarding issue for the village hall to be used as a nursery, and also the outside play area, and a lot of changes would have to be made to the village hall. Mrs Oakley stated that the village hall has regular long term users who hire the village hall during the week. Mrs Riley stated that it is just an enquiry at this stage. Mrs Oakley stated that this would be an extra nursery in addition to the existing nursery as they have stated that several local nurseries have closed. Mrs Cook stated that some nurseries have closed as there is a shortage of early years' practitioners in Oxfordshire. Mr O'Brien asked why the Chairman of HVHMC would think that it is ok to utilise the village hall with the nursery and for go long standing bookings with long term hirers. Mrs Oakley stated that there is another group that want to hire the Morgan room three days a week. Mr Burgess stated that the nursery's porta-cabin is coming to the end of its life and they are looking to replace them. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to Mrs Drew and invite her to attend a Parish Council meeting along with the Manager of the nursery to discuss HPC's concerns.

54/23 BUS SHELTER AT GATELEY.

Mrs Oakley passed thanks to Mrs Riley for painting the bus shelter at Gateley in time for the delivery of the new noticeboard. Mrs Cook reported that there are tiles missing from the roof of the bus shelter and the fascia boards need replacing. Mrs Cook also suggested that a bench seat is fitted inside the shelter and a sign is required to request that people do not leave un-wanted items in the bus shelter. Mr Ewart reported that OCC are going to specify a minimum standard for bus shelters.

55/23 NEW DEFIBRILLATOR.

Mrs Oakley stated that Berkley Homes have confirmed that HPC can install a defibrillator at the mobile home site. The Clerk has received two quotations for a new defibrillator. The Clerk contacted Mr Bearder and Mrs Gillespie to enquire if any grants are available to cover the cost of purchasing a defibrillator, but no replies have been received to date. Alternatively an application will be made to HSPC.

56/23 PROTECTION OF THE VILLAGE GREEN.

Mr Burgess suggested that wooden posts/dragons teeth are installed on the Village Green to stop the lorries from causing damage to the Village Green. Mr Parker stated that by doing this, it won't deter lorries from coming into the village. Mr Burgess stated that the last two lorries that caused damage to the Village Green did not come from BMW. It was agreed that Mr Burgess will obtain prices for different options and report back at the next meeting. Mr Aries asked if HPC claim from companies whose drivers cause damage to the Village Green. Mrs Oakley stated that we do make a claim where possible but the last two drivers did not have any insurance.

57/23 DRIVEWAY TO THE BURIAL GROUND.

Mr Burgess reported that the driveway from the village hall up to the burial ground gates is very untidy on both sides. There is dis-guarded cricket club equipment that has been left there for some time now. Mr Burgess suggested that the Clerk write to the Cricket Club and request that the equipment is removed and that a general tidy is carried out and the grass is cut to make the driveway more attractive.

58/23 CYCLE SPEEDWAY.

Mrs Oakley stated that Cycle Speedway have now answered most of the questions raised by the Solicitor with regards to a new lease. The Clerk stated that there is still some information that HPC is waiting for. Mr Clarke stated that he has recently answered all questions apart from one which was about the cost of preparing the lease, which he was assured by the previous Chairman and other representatives around two years ago that HPC would cover the cost. Mr Clarke stated that Cycle Speedway do not have the money to cover the cost of the lease. Mrs Oakley stated that it is possible that a copy of the old lease is in the documents recently collected from the previous Chairman. Mr Burgess stated that he was part of the discussions that took place previously and it was suggested that Cycle Speedway could apply for a grant from HSPC. Mr Parker asked what the rent is on the new lease. Mr Clarke stated that it is £10 per year. Mr Coolman asked why Cycle Speedway need a 30 year lease. Mr Clarke stated that this is a requirement for most grant applications. Mr Coolman stated that at the moment Cycle Speedway have a good committee, but this could change in the future. It was agreed that the Clerk will circulate the draft lease produced by Blake Morgan Solicitors to all Councillors and discuss at the next meeting.

59/23 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

Mrs Gillespie (District Councillor) – Mrs Gillespie asked if Sharon Crawford from SODC has made contact regarding the Pre-Planning meeting. Mr O'Brien stated that he has not had any contact. Mrs Gillespie stated that all of the Officers are working at home. Mrs Paula Fox, Head of Planning assured Mrs Gillespie that it would be a site meeting. Mr O'Brien stated that HPC has two sets of plans but he is loath to be sharing the plans when they are the property of the architects who have not yet been engaged. Mrs Gillespie will contact Paula Fox again tomorrow.

Mrs Gillespie has recently had a meeting with the developers, Brasenose College and Chelgate and she is pushing hard for the tree belt to be planted before they start the building. The Bursar of Brasenose College is a member of Oxford Preservation Trust, and Mrs Gillespie is keen to make sure we get a proper barrier of 200 yard wide tree barrier, and the Inspector at the Examination in Public made this a main modification. While we have Brasenose College and the Bursar on board it's important that we make sure that this is all established. Mrs Gillespie stated that at a recent meeting she asked for assurance that the trees will be planted before the building starts and he said that they won't be able to plant all of the trees until the services have been put in. Mrs Gillespie stated that Garsington want an avenue of trees going up Oxford

Road into Garsington, and as Brasenose own that strip of land and they have said that if Garsington provide a plan, they will plant the trees. Mrs Gillespie spoke with Nicola Smith the SODC Officer dealing with this, and informed her of the 200 metre tree belt and she has will make certain that it happens. They have now agreed and are about to sign the Planning Policy Agreement by the end of the month and then they will hold meetings with the Council. It is possible that OCC will be doing a separate application as they want housing with no cars, which will bring more cars to Horspath and Garsington.

Mrs Gillespie introduced her colleague Ms Sue Lawson, District Councillor for Sandford. Ms Lawson left the Conservatives and became an Independent and cares just as much as she does for villages.

60/23 CORRESPONDENCE.

- a. SODC. – Hundreds use new website to help shape Districts’ new future. – (Circulated via email).
- b. NALC. – Newsletter 8/2/23, 15/2/23, 22/2/23, 1/3/23.– (Circulated via email).
- c. Charity Commission. – February 2023 Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- d. RSN. - The Rural Bulletin. – 7/2/23, 14/2/23, 21/2/23, 28/2/23. – (Circulated via email).
- e. NALC. – Events 7/2/23, 16/2/23, 21/2/23, 23/2/23, 29/2/23 – (Circulated via email).
- f. SODC. – Celebrate women and their stories at Cornerstone Arts Centre as part of International Women’s Week. – (Circulated via email).
- g. SODC. – Third taxi driver convicted and fined for offering illegal rides at Henley Regatta. – (Circulated via email).
- h. SODC. – Help us to keep your community connected. – Questionnaire. – (Circulated via email)
- i. NALC – Chief Executive’s Bulletin. – 3/2/23, 10/2/23, 17/2/23, 24/2/23. – (Circulated via email).
- j. Wheatley Parish Council. – Newsletter Feb/March 2023. – (Circulated via email).
- k. Mr Ben Morris. – Questions for the Parish Council. – (Circulated via email). – **Mr Parker stated that the item raised by Mr Morris has been deferred until 2024.**
- l. CPRE. – Abingdon Reservoir & 5 year housing land supply rules – Key Consultations. – (Circulated via email).
- m. Bioabundance. – Climate rules. – (Circulated via email).
- n. Bioabundance. – Letters to MP’s. – (Circulated via email).
- o. SODC. – Community wellbeing & climate action in South Oxfordshire’s 2023/24 budget. – (Circulated via email).
- p. SODC. – Have your say on conservation area updates. – (Circulated via email).
- q. London Hearts. – Council defibrillator grant funding. – (Circulated via email).
- r. SODC. – “Living Wall” will bring more sustainable Council HQ to life. – (Circulated via email).
- s. SODC. – News from Didcot Gateway. – (Circulated via email).
- t. Morland House Surgery. – Newsletter. – (circulated via email).
- u. Clean Slate. – Donation Request. – (circulated via email). – **No donation on this occasion.**
- v. Jane Cotton. – Litter issues. – (circulated via email). – **Noted.**
- w. Oxford City Council. – Oxford Local Plan 2020-2040 Housing Need Consultation. – (Circulated via email).
- x. Mr Robinson. – Trees at Cuddesdon Road. – (Circulated via email). – **OCC have now carried out the work on the trees.**
- y. SODC. – EV charging has tripled in first six months of Council’s scheme. – (Circulated via email).
- z. Community First Oxfordshire. – Community Engagement & Town & Parish Councils – A short survey to tell us about your experiences. – (Circulated via email).
- aa. ARC Thermal Products. – Village Hall grants for infrared heating. – (Circulated via email).
- bb. Bioabundance. – NPPF consultation template. – (Circulated via email).
- cc. RSN. – Fantastic response to rural cost of living survey. – (Circulated via email).

- dd. TVP. – Police & Crime Bulletin February 2023. – (Circulated via email).
- ee. Bioabundance. – NPPF Consultation. – (circulated via email).
- ff. SODC. – South News February 2023. – (Circulated via email).
- gg. OCC. – Highway tree planting South Oxfordshire. – (Circulated via email). – **OCC have informed HPC that as part of their tree planting scheme, they will be planting tree on the corner of Butts Road/Manor Drive. HPC informed OCC that they are not in favour of the tree planting, but OCC stated that they will be going ahead with the planting. Mrs Oakley suggested that the tree could be planted on in the burial ground, but it has to be planted on a grass verge. OCC have stated that they are relying on a resident in the village to maintain the tree. Mrs Gillespie will report this to SODC Tree Department.**
- hh. SODC. – Pre-Election Period Guidance. – (Circulated via email).
- ii. SODC. – Household support fund closes but help is still available. – (Circulated via email).
- jj. Open Spaces Society. – February Update. – (Circulated via email).
- kk. SODC. – Anniversary of Ukraine Invasion. – (Circulated via email).
- ll. SODC. - £2million boost for community & neighbourhood facilities. – (Circulated via email).
- mm. CPRE. – Oxford Housing Need Consultation – Green Belt Parishes – Have your say. – (Circulated via email). – Mr Harris will attend the meeting.
- nn. CPRE. – February 2023 Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- oo. Community First Oxfordshire. – Community Emergency Plans. – (Circulated via email).
- pp. Community First Oxfordshire. – Winter Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- qq. RSN. – Rural Funding Digest March 2023. – (Circulated via email).
- rr. OALC. - February 2023 Update. – (Circulated via email).
- ss. Geoff Stevens. – Upcoming activity at Littleworth Nature Reserve. – (Circulated via email).
- tt. Mr David Matthews. – Footpath between 10 & 12 Manor Farm Road. – (Circulated via email). – **Mr O’Brien has inspected the footpath and reported that it is a tiny path and the shale is higher than the driveways on either side and next time he has left over concrete he will put this in as a barrier.**
** original held by the Clerk, copy available on request.*
displayed on Village Hall & village noticeboards.

61/23 PAYMENTS.

Paid by	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
BACS	Inty Ltd	Email Address Fee March		5.40
BACS	SODC	Planning meeting fee		905.69
BACS	Nest	Pension contribution for Mrs Kogel		256.83
BACS	OALC	Annual subscription		297.12
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Home Office February 2023		30.00
		Stationery		10.75
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Salary 24/1/23 – 24/2/23		1256.64
BACS	OPFA	Annual Subscription		45.00
BACS	Shield Maintenance	Emptying Dog Bins		72.79
		TOTAL		2,880.22

HORSPATH RECREATION ACCOUNT.

Paid by	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
BACS	SSE	Power supply to Village Green		132.19
BACS	Mr Bob Surman	Repairs to the Village green		210.00

		TOTAL		342.19
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62/23 RECEIPTS.

Date	Received from	Details	Total £
13.2.23	Horspath Nursery	Annual rent for Porta cabin	240.00
		TOTAL	240.00

63/23 AOB.

- a. Mr Ewart reported that he has recently attended the Public Transport meeting and the main subject was that some villages are running car clubs which are very successful. Mr Ewart stated that the local bus service is secure and the use of electric buses is now starting. Mrs Oakley thanked Mr Ewart for attending the meeting.
- b. Mr Burgess reported that he has received a lot of complaints regarding the lack of seating in the bus shelter on the Village Green.
- c. Mrs Oakley thanked Mr Brooks for planting snowdrops and daffodils around the war memorial. Mrs Oakley informed Councillors and members of the public that HPC is looking for volunteers to join the litter picking project on 1st April 2023. All equipment will be provided by SODC. Notices will be displayed around the village.
Mrs Oakley passed thanks to Mr Martin Harris for attending several meetings on behalf of HPC. Mrs Oakley reported that in September 2022 HPC welcomed 4 new Councillors and 1 other new Councillor in November 2022. Since that time HPC has achieved many things, including 2 new noticeboards for the village, 2 new benches have been installed, goal posts ordered, flower tubs planted, agreed to purchase a new defibrillator, refurbished the bus shelter at Gateley and recovered all HPC documents from the previous Chairman. HSPC has cancelled the Infrastructure Fund, are planning a new village hall and have introduced a grant to senior residents for a meal voucher which has been well received. Despite this, there is someone who is trying to cause disruption to the running and operation of HPC. Three official bodies have made contact with HPC to raise questions. The current members of HPC have achieved more in the last six months than the last Council in the last six years.

Public:

- d. Mr Lee Clarke stated that he will send the information requested regarding the lease for Cycle Speedway to the Clerk. Councillors suggested that Cycle Speedway submit a grant application to HSPC.
- e. Mr Gordon Clarke reported that there is soon to be a boxing match that is being held at the Marathons.
- f. Mrs Walker reported that the storm drains at Blenheim Road have been emptied.
- g. A resident asked if there is a gate that could be installed to stop people from fly-tipping at the entrance of the field just before the village hall car park. Mrs Oakley stated that HPC cannot block entrances as local farmers need access. Mrs Oakley will report the fly-tipping.
- h. A resident reported that the car that has been left at Gidley Way for a long period of time has now gone.
- i. Mr Hamlet stated that he understood that Cycle Speedway pay £1 per year as a peppercorn rent. Mr Lee Clarke stated that the old lease expires in 2053, and previously Cycle Speedway paid £100.00 to cover 100 years rent.
Mr Hamlet asked why there is a porta-loo in the village hall car park. Mrs Oakley stated that it has been reported and she is waiting to hear from Thames Water regarding collection.
Mr Hamlet stated that Mr Beale from OCC Highways has backtracked on his opinion by saying that the chicane on Oxford Road doesn't need replacing. HPC should arrange a meeting to request an explanation as to why 8 years later this has happened after HPC has paid for the traffic surveys.

- j. Mr Mutton stated that he was at the same meeting with OCC Highways when they agreed to replace the existing chicane with speed cushions. Cars coming into the village in the morning have to queue at the chicane as cars leaving the village take priority. Mr Mutton stated that the village voted unanimously in favour of this and if OCC will not push it forward, then HPC should. Mrs Oakley stated that Mr Beale totally agreed that the chicane needed to be removed. Mr Mutton stated that he has experienced how many near misses there have been at the chicane over the years as well as four accidents, and asked why we have waited 8 years to have it removed. Mrs Oakley stated that HPC cannot go ahead without permission from OCC.
Mr Mutton stated that at a previous HPC meeting a letter was going to be sent to Horspath School with regards to parking on footpaths and blocking footpaths. Mrs Oakley stated that she visited the Head Teacher who agreed to email all parents. Mrs Oakley will speak to the Head Teacher again.
Mr Mutton stated that the village doesn't need posts installed on the village green up to the railway bridge. Mrs Oakley stated that HPC is only getting quotations at this stage.
- k. Mrs Oakley stated that at the last meeting Councillors agreed that the Clerk write to Mr Peter Dobson and Mr James Dobson to request that all HPC and HSPC documents are returned to HPC within 14 days. Mr Peter Dobson has made contact and a collection date has been arranged, but Mr James Dobson has not replied.

64/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 21st March 2023 (To be confirmed).
 Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 4th April 2023.
 Horspath Stone Pit Meeting – Tuesday 21st March 2023.
 Annual Parish Meeting – Date to be arranged.

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