

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Horspath Village Hall
on 4th April 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), Mr T Bearder (County Councillor).
Apologies
Absent:
Public: 15

67/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. – There were no apologies to be made.

68/23 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS. – None.

69/23 EMERGENCY BUSINESS. – None.

70/23 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th March 2023 were amended on Item **50/23 Clerk's Update – Land Registration to read:-** Mrs Riley confirmed that she will store the village scrapbook at her home address. The Minutes were then agreed and signed as correct by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the HR Meeting held on 30th March 2023 were agreed and signed as correct by the Chairman.

71/23 MATTERS ARISING.

54/23 – Bus Shelter at Gateley – At the last meeting it was reported that the roof tiles and fascia's on the bus shelter need repairing but a vote did not take place. It was agreed that Mrs Oakley will obtain quotations for the repairs and also to install seating at the bus shelter.

57/23 – Driveway to the Burial Ground – Mr Eason has said that the Cricket Club will tidy the area on Good Friday, weather permitting. Mr Burgess stated that some of the work has already been carried out. Mrs Riley stated that the Cricket Club also need to tidy behind the Village Hall.

72/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

P23/S0482/ Land adjacent to the Rugby Pitch, Horspath Road, Horspath

FUL Installation of prefabricated 65 seater stand onto a new ground slab adjacent to existing Rugby Union pitch to provide seating for those with mobility issues, primarily senior and disabled visitors to the ground. – **Councillors voted unanimously to recommend approval.**

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.

P22/S3134/ Brookside Court, Cuddesdon Road, Horspath.

FUL Proposed alterations to existing building to be retained and used for agriculture, with associated works (As amended by Ecology & Agricultural justification reports received 9/12/22). – **Refused.**

P23/S0306/ 5 Blenheim Way, Horspath

HH Demolition of existing adjoining garage and lean to utility room extension. Proposed Side extensions to both north and south aspects. – **Granted.**

P23/S0498/ 90 Gidley Way, Horspath **Certificate of Lawfulness **

LDP Artist hobby room and garden tool store. – **Granted.**

73/23 CLERK'S UPDATE.

Repairs to Play Area – Repairs have now been done. The Clerk is waiting to hear from ODS about the fence and the gate. Mrs Oakley stated that the gate has been removed so quotations for a new gate is required. The Clerk will check with ODS to see if they have the gate.

Burial Ground Sign – Two signs have been ordered.

Bench in the Burial Ground. – The bench has now been ordered.

Overview Stables, Horspath – SODC have served a planning enforcement notice on 16th March 2023.

Oxford City Council's Housing Need Consultation – The response to the consultation drafted by Mr Harris has been sent.

Data Protection Courses. – Mrs Oakley and the Clerk will attend the training courses.

Defibrillator – The Clerk circulated the quotations received. Councillors agreed to purchase from Wel Medical Ltd who supplied the other two defibrillators. Mrs Oakley stated that Mr Hamlet has recently repaired the door to one of the defibrillators. Wel Medical has stated that the cost to operate a defibrillator is around £6 per year. Mrs Oakley stated that Berkeley Homes will arrange for the installation.

Village Hall – The Clerk invited Mrs Drew to attend a meeting to discuss the proposal for the Nursery to hire the Village Hall Mondays – Fridays. Mrs Drew has stated that HVHMC also have concerns about the proposal and it is likely that it will not go ahead. She will check her diary with regards to attending a HPC meeting.

Noticeboards – Delivery is expected in around two weeks.

74/23 CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT.

Following an HR meeting held on 30th March 2023 with Mrs Oakley and Mrs Cook, the Clerk circulated a copy of the draft contract of employment for the Clerk for approval by Councillors. Councillors voted unanimously to approve the contract of employment.

75/23 SYLO BEYOND HR. - Mr O'Brien stated that no update is available.

76/23 UPDATE FROM VILLAGE BEAUTIFICATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

Mrs Oakley reported that on 1st April 2023 a group of 20+ volunteers carried out a litter pick in the village which generated 28 bags of waste. Refreshments were provided by Mrs Riley. Mrs Oakley thanked everyone involved.

77/23 PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS.

Mrs Oakley reported that she received a call from a very upset resident who tried to cross the road by the bus shelter by the bridge to the Green and nearly got run over. The resident has asked if HPC can investigate installing three pedestrian crossings, one by the bus stop across to the Green, one from the Green to the Hub and the other outside the Village Hall. Mrs Oakley stated that it is unlikely that a pedestrian crossing will be installed on the bend by the Hub, but the other two locations would be suitable. The Clerk will contact OCC to discuss the possibility of installing pedestrian crossings. Mr Burgess suggested that this is raised at the APM. Mrs Oakley agreed to include this request in her report.

78/23 MAINTENANCE OF CHEQUERS INN CAR PARK.

Mrs Oakley reported that the Clerk wrote to S T Properties Ltd following the last meeting to request that repairs to the damaged wall are carried out, but to date this has not been done. Since writing the letter, the other end of the wall has been damaged. Mrs Oakley proposed that another letter is sent, and as it is part of their lease that they have to maintain the wall, if no action is taken within 28 days, HPC will arrange for the repairs to be carried out and the invoice will be forwarded on to S T Properties for payment. Mr Burgess

stated that the manhole cover is broken and rusty and very dangerous. Councillors agreed that the Clerk send a further letter to S T Properties.

79/23 REVIEW OF BURIAL GROUND CHARGES.

Mrs Oakley stated that it was suggested around six months ago that the burial ground charges are reviewed, but she is not in favour of increasing the charges. Mrs Oakley stated that in the burial ground there is a wooden plaque that displays the burial ground rules. The plaque needs to be replaced and the rules need to be reviewed and be more concise. It was agreed that Councillors will have a look at the board and discuss at the next meeting. Mrs Gray stated that Mr Don Gray made the wooden plaque and the rules came through the Church and the Diocese and were accurate at the time. Mr Parker suggested that HPC liaises with the Diocese. Councillors agreed that there would not be an increase in the burial ground charges.

80/23 CYCLE SPEEDWAY.

The Clerk circulated a copy of the draft lease after the last meeting. It was agreed that all Councillors will look at the lease this week and send any comments to the Clerk. If there are no objections the Clerk will ask Blake Morgan to proceed with the lease.

81/23 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

Mrs Gillespie (District Councillor) – Mrs Gillespie stated that it has been an honour and a pleasure to work with HPC. Mrs Gillespie is hoping in the interim to be fighting for the green belt. Mrs Gillespie is disappointed with the Northfield development. The land has been designated for building and Brasenose are committed, and the Bursar is a member of the Oxford Preservation Trust and cares about how the development is done. The Inspector at the EiP stated that there would have to be a 50m wide tree canopy which will be a visual amenity and it is very important for the villages. The land that is owned by OCC will be car free, which raises concern about where the cars will be parked. Mrs Gillespie will do what she can in the interim. Mrs Gillespie informed Councillors that she is standing down as District Councillor after 20 years. Councillors thanked Mrs Gillespie for her help and support over the years.

Mr Bearder (County Councillor) – Mr Bearder reported that he has also been contacted by a resident with regards to pedestrian crossings in the village. Mr Bearder will support the installation of pedestrian crossings but there are very expensive so OCC and HPC would have to reach an agreement. Mr Bearder suggested a pedestrian crossing by the bus stop on the Village Green would be ideal. Mr Bearder invited Mrs Oakley to attend a meeting on 12th April 2023 with OCC Officers to look at cycle improvements in the village. Mrs Oakley stated that Mr Bearder has not asked Horspath residents if they want a cycle path from Horspath to Wheatley. Mr Bearder stated that it is already a designated national cycle route and they are looking to see if they can make the area safer. Mr Bearder stated that they will be looking at what interventions could happen from BMW plant all the way down to Littleworth. A resident stated that people do not use the existing cycle path, they use the road. Mrs Cook suggested that the money should be used to install a pedestrian crossing. Mr Bearder stated that Sustrans, a national cycle network have a pot of money that they want to use on the national cycle route from Horspath to Littleworth as they have identified that the route is dangerous. The money cannot be used for a pedestrian crossing. Mrs Oakley and Mrs Cook will attend the meeting.

Mr Bearder asked if HPC has received any news on the 20mph scheme. Mrs Oakley stated that HPC has already applied to the scheme.

Mrs Oakley stated that 7 years ago, residents of Horspath agreed that the chicane on Oxford Road would be removed and be replaced with an alternative traffic calming measure. It was agreed that HPC would cover

the cost and construction engineers have been to site but Mr Jon Beale, OCC who previously supported this, has now said that it cannot be removed. A resident in the village has a campaign going with a national newspaper asking why is it that democracy doesn't work, when Parish Councils say one thing and then OCC over-rule it. This was also the case when OCC informed HPC that they would be planting a tree on the junction of Butts Road and Manor Farm Road. HPC stated that we did not want any more trees, but OCC over-ruled HPC and insisted that the tree will be planted. Mr Bearder asked for a copy of the emails from Jon Beale and from the Tree Officer to be forwarded to him. The Clerk will forward the emails and Mr Bearder will stop the tree being planted. Mrs Oakley reported that HPC has planted 700 trees over the years and a large proportion of the precept is used to maintain the trees. Mrs Oakley stated that there is a horse chestnut tree on the corner of Manor Farm Road and Church Road that HPC wanted removed as the roots are blocking the drains. OCC came and inspected the tree and drilled the roots of the trees to stop the flooding every time it rains. Since then, OCC are coming out every few weeks to drill the roots again.

82/23 CORRESPONDENCE.

- a. NALC. – Events 9/3/23, 16/3/23, 21/3/23, 28/3/23 – (Circulated via email).
 - b. OALC. – Green/Sustainability Day 24/3/23. – (Circulated via email).
 - c. NALC. – Newsletter 8/3/23, 15/3/23, 22/3/23, 28/3/23. - (Circulated via email).
 - d. SODC. – Councils launch new nature recovery project in sites across South Oxfordshire & the Vale of White Horse. – (Circulated via email).
 - e. RSN. - The Rural Bulletin. – 7/3/23, 14/3/23, 21/3/23, 28/3/23. – (Circulated via email).
 - f. SODC. – Pre-election and candidate briefing slides. – (Circulated via email).
 - g. SODC. – Improvements to be made to cycle and walking routes in Didcot. – (Circulated via email).
 - h. NALC – Chief Executive's Bulletin. – 3/3/23, 10/3/23, 17/3/23, 24/3/23 – (Circulated via email).
 - i. SODC. – Help share our message about Poll Clerk positions. – (Circulated via email).
 - j. SODC. – Council's challenge Oxford City's plan for high housing numbers. – (Circulated via email).
 - k. Open Spaces Society. – A new guide to protection. – (Circulated via email).
 - l. Need not Greed Oxon. – Don't let Oxford City dictate our County's future. – (Circulated via email).
 - m. Mrs Annie Lower. – TFP Oxford Summer Party, Horspath Hub. – (Circulated via email). – **Mrs Oakley stated that if the food van is on the highway she would need to contact OCC. Councillors agreed that permission would not be given to allow it to be on the Village Green as it would be dangerous. Mrs Oakley suggested that it is sited in the Hub car park. Mr Coolman stated that if they hired the Village Hall they could use the Village Hall car park. The Clerk will contact Mrs Lower for clarification on the location of the food van.**
 - n. CPRE. – Oxford Housing Need Consultation – Draft responses to help you have your say. – (Circulated via email).
 - o. ONPA. – Invitation to workshop 25/3/23. – (Circulated via email).
 - p. Ms Annie Lower. – The Green – Parking Query. – (Circulated via email). – **Councillors agreed that parking a caravan on the Village Green is not permitted.**
 - q. Cllr Tim Bearder. – New Nature Reserves planned for **Mrs Oakley stated that if the food van is on the highway she would need to contact OCC. Councillors agreed that permission would not be given to allow it to be on the Village Green as it would be dangerous. Mrs Oakley suggested that it is sited in the Hub car park. Mr Coolman stated that if they hired the Village Hall they could use the Village Hall car park. The Clerk will contact Mrs Lower for clarification on the location of the food van.**
- Oxcam Arc. – (Circulated via email).
- r. OALC. – Town & Parish Council Elections 2023. – (Circulated via email).

- s. SODC. – Get election ready – check your voter registration and ID. – (Circulated via email).
- t. Morland House Surgery. – March Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- u. SODC. – South News March 2023. – (Circulated via email).
- v. Carri Unwin, Oxford City Council. – New Burial Meadow. – (Circulated via email). – **Mrs Oakley stated that Oxford City Council want HPC’s opinion on the feasibility of the new burial ground. It has since been on local news that the burial ground has been approved. It was agreed that the Clerk will arrange a meeting with Ms Unwin.**
- w. SODC. – Essential website maintenance. – (Circulated via email).
- x. TVP. – Police & Crime Bulletin March 2023. – (Circulated via email).
- y. SODC. – Nominations. – (Circulated via email).
- z. SODC. – Activities over Easter. – (Circulated via email).
- aa. Dr Munson. – Request for a headstone. – (Circulated via email). – **Councillors approved the request.**
- bb. Didcot Town Council. – Mayor Making 15th May 2023. – (Circulated via email).
- cc. OCC. – Discussion on NCN 57 Improvements (Wheatley to Horspath) 12/4/23. – (Circulated via email).
- dd. Babies1st.net. – Baby Bonding Sessions at Horspath Hub – Funding Request. – (Circulated via email). – **Mr Igoe stated that there is no information about the organisation available on their website, and no information listed on the Charity Commission website and as it is not a village organisation a donation should not be made. A resident stated that she is a volunteer for Babies1st.net and runs the class held in the Hub. The organisation is a gentle intervention to support families with young children and to offer parenting advice. There are currently 4 babies in the group held in the Hub. Councillors agreed that the Clerk request more information.**
- ee. Jake. – A bench fit for a King – Our new King Charles III Coronation Bench. – (Circulated via email).
- ff. Oxford Preservation Trust. – OPT Awards 2023 – Call for entries. – (Circulated via email).
- gg. CPRE. – March 2023 Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- hh. NALC. – Utility Aid. – (Circulated via email).
- * original held by the Clerk, copy available on request.
displayed on Village Hall & village noticeboards.*

83/23 PAYMENTS.

Paid by	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
BACS	Inty Ltd	Email Address Fee April		5.40
BACS	Codec Facilities	Purchase of new bench	102.83	616.99
BACS	Nest	Pension contribution for Mrs Kogel		67.05
BACS	Mr R Surman	Work in the burial ground		120.00
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Home Office March 2023		30.00
		Stationery		60.00
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Salary 24/2/23 – 24/3/23		1256.64
BACS	Mr P Aries	Bus Shelter & Play Area Maintenance Feb/March		120.00
BACS	HMRC	Employer Contribution for Mrs H Kogel		6147.49
BACS	Mr Rob Gray	Grass Cutting Burial Ground		162.00
		Grass Cutting Play Area		36.00
		Empty Burial Ground Bins		29.00
BACS	Shield Maintenance	Emptying Dog Bins	12.13	72.79
BACS	Oxford Direct	Repairs to the Play Area	310.00	1860.00

	Services		
		TOTAL	10,583.36

HORSPATH RECREATION ACCOUNT.

Paid By	Received from	Details	Total £
BACS	Mr R Gray	Grass Cutting Village Green	660.00
		Diesel	130.36
		TOTAL	790.36

84/23 RECEIPTS.

Date	Received from	Details	Total £
6.3.23	Barclays Bank	Interest Business Premium Acct	40.96
		TOTAL	40.96

HORSPATH RECREATION ACCOUNT.

Date	Received from	Details	Total £
24.3.23	S T Properties Ltd	Quarterly Rent for Chequers Inn Car Park	712.50
		TOTAL	712.50

85/23 AOB.

- a. Mrs Oakley stated that the APM will be held on Wednesday 26th April 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.
- b. Mr O'Brien reported that he has recently met with Sharon Crawford, SODC Planning, to discuss the possibility of a new village hall and look at the plans. The meeting was very positive and Sharon Crawford said that she liked the scheme and the design. Mr O'Brien is now waiting for Sharon Crawford to send her report. Once this has been received we will go back to the committee to decide what to do. Mr O'Brien introduced the two residents who delivered the letters to all households in the village. Mrs Oakley thanked them for their help, it is very much appreciated.

Public:

- c. Mr Mutton stated that if the pedestrian crossing is anything to do with OCC and safety it won't happen. HPC and residents have tried for 8 years to get the chicane on Oxford Road replaced, but OCC have stopped this, they are just not interested in safety. OCC have spent millions of pounds building a cycle lane at the Slade but you rarely see cyclists using the track. Mrs Oakley stated that HPC appreciates what he is trying to do with the letters that he has sent, which will be circulated to all Councillors.
- d. Mrs Oakley presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs Gillespie for all of her help and support over the years.
- e. Mr Hamlet stated that the rules for the burial ground were written to protect the village to stop outsiders from using the burial ground, and recommended that they should be kept. The nearest burial ground is in Botley and is filling up quickly. Mr Hamlet has attended meetings with OCC with regards to removing the chicane, and up until recently the representative from OCC was in support of the scheme. HPC should write to his Manager to arrange a meeting to discuss why OCC are no longer in support of a scheme that was agreed 8 years ago. Mr Hamlet stated that the potholes and white lines in the village all need attention.
- f. Mr Clarke asked if there is an update with the planning application at 8 Manor Drive. Mrs Oakley stated that as no further correspondence has been received the Clerk will contact SODC Enforcement Team.

86/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 18th April 2023 (To be confirmed).
Horspath Parish Council Meeting – ***Tuesday 9th May 2023***
Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 26th April 2023.

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