

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Horspath Village Hall
on 1st October 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present: Mrs B Oakley (Chairman), Mr D Burgess, Mrs P Cook, Mr L Coolman, Mrs H Franklin, Mr I Harris, Mr B Igoe, Mr P O'Brien, Mr E Parker, Mr G Walker. Mrs H Kogel (Clerk). Mr S James-Lawrie (District Councillor).

Apologies

Absent: Mr Tim Bearder (County Councillor).

Public: 7

190/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. – There were no apologies to be made.

191/24 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS. – None.

192/24 EMERGENCY BUSINESS. – None.

193/24 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd September 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

194/24 MATTERS ARISING. – None.

195/24 SUSTRANS.

Mr Alban Luffman, Project Manager for Sustrans – A community engagement event was held in May and another event will be held in October. Sustrans are proposing to install a parallel crossing opposite the Hub, and they are seeking the opinion of HPC with regards to giving a small piece of the village green to facilitate the crossing. The existing cycle track will be extended past the garage up to the point of the crossing to allow crossing over to the Hub and Church Road. Mrs Oakley stated that there is a traffic mirror in place by the Hub as it is dangerous to cross on the bend, and HPC would not support a crossing at that location. Mr Luffman stated that with the 20mph speed limits being installed, road safety checks will be carried out.

Mrs Oakley stated that at the last community engagement event it was explained to Sustrans that the slope between Church Road and Butts Road in the winter months is icy due to an underground spring. Mrs Oakley also stated that cyclists coming down Gidley Way will not break and go along Butts Road. Mr Luffman stated that the event was to get ideas from residents. Mr Parker stated that Butts Road slope is worse than Gidley Way and is not wide enough for cars/lorries and is opposite the school. Mrs Cook stated that Councillors views were expressed at the last event but Sustrans made it clear that the route had already been decided. Mrs Oakley stated that HPC is not in favour of cyclists going through Church Road to Butts Road due to the icy road condition in the winter months. Mr Luffman stated that Sustrans have been informed that HPC wants a crossing in the village and they did take HPC's recommendations on board. Mr Luffman stated that the reason for attending the meeting is to discuss the land that is required to facilitate the crossing. Mr Burgess stated that a pedestrian crossing is needed opposite the Chequers Inn by the bus shelter. Mr Luffman asked, if the location of the crossing was moved, would HPC support it? Mr Luffman stated that there is no money in place to deliver the scheme. Mrs Oakley stated that HPC has discussed crossings with OCC but the cost to install was too high compared to an independent contractor installing it. When this was discussed with Mr Bearder, he left the meeting and hasn't attended a meeting since.

Mr Luffman asked if HPC would support in principle and dedicate a small piece of land to facilitate the crossing if the location is agreed. Mr Parker stated that subject to an agreed location and how much land is required we could support in principle. Mr O'Brien stated that HPC wants to remove the chicane on Oxford Road, this could be part of the agreement. Mr Luffman stated that the chicane is good at slowing traffic and if it was removed it could encourage people to use Horspath as a cut through. Mrs Oakley stated if the chicane was removed a crossing could be installed by the village hall. Mr Luffman stated that this option could be explored. Mr Luffman stated that Sustrans have a fund that they can apply to for the cost of the scheme. Mr Luffman stated that plans will be available to view at the community engagement event on 16th October 2024.

Councillors agreed in principle to the crossing subject to location and the amount of land required.

Mr Luffman asked that Councillors let him know any concerns regarding Northfields as he is working on the planning application.

Mr O'Brien stated that HPC is very concerned on the planning application for a new burial meadow. Mr Luffman stated that they will try and mitigate any concerns. Mr Burgess stated that the inside slip on the chicanes are filled with weeds as they are not cleared regularly. Mr Luffman stated that even if the slips were cleared they are too narrow for cyclists.

196/24 PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY. – 1 application received.

The Clerk has advertised a vacancy notice which will be displayed until 21st October 2024.

197/24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

P23/S3730/ FUL Land to the north of Oxford Road near Horspath (Full Application)
Amendment (no.3): As amended by revised landscape and visual impact addendum and revised plans submitted 17th July 2024. - **In addition to previous responses to the above planning application, Horspath Parish Council would like to add the following comments:-** Horspath Parish Council received notification on 24th September by way of an e-mail 'Alert' from SODC that amendments to this application have been received from the applicants, and we would like to confirm to you that we believe that the amended drainage scheme for the proposed development will not conform to the Environment Agency's safety regulations for the protection of ground water against the harmful pollution which is known to be released from cemeteries involving the interment of thousands of human bodies, and so we believe that the amendments do not in any way invalidate the grounds for our original objection to this application. The high volume of water running down the slope across this proposed development site during the recent period of wet weather merely confirms the severity of the drainage problem.

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.

P24/S2251/ HH 34 Blenheim Road, Horspath (Householder).
Extension to provide enlarged living space. – **Granted.**

198/24 CLERK UPDATE.

Play Area Inspections – A quotation has been requested for the repairs.

Thames Water Portable Toilet – Reported again to Thames Water.

Chequers Inn Car Park. – The structure has now been removed. Mr Parker stated that there is no charge for the legal advice that was sought.

Trees on Village Green – Work will be carried out in October.

Brambles on the Green – Mrs Oakley will obtain quotations for discussions at the next meeting.

Electricity Supply on Village Green – SSE has now renewed the contract.

Email Addresses – No update available.

199/24 EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT.

General reserves are low – This will be monitored throughout the year.

There were no other matters giving cause for concern.

200/24 OCC CONSULTATION – Horspath proposed 20mph & 40mph speed limits.

OCC's proposal is to introduce a 20mph speed limit in Horspath to replace the majority of 30mph speed limits. 30mph speed limits will be retained on sections of Cuddesdon Road, Littleworth and Windmill Lane. A 40mph speed limit will be introduced on Horspath Road/Oxford Road in place of the existing 60mph speed limit. The consultation will close on Friday 11th October 2024.

An email has been received from a resident in response to the consultation who regularly cycles through Horspath. The resident's opinion is that introducing 20mph speed limits will not make a difference to cyclists and recommended that chicane on Cuddesdon Road is made safe for cyclists as there is no cycle by-pass in place. Mr Burgess stated that the space between the both chicanes and the hedges is over-grown with weeds. Mrs Oakley suggested that we listen to Sustrans proposals and discuss at the next meeting.

201/24 NEW VILLAGE HALL - Update.

Mr O'Brien and Mr Coolman are meeting the architect this week at the village hall. The play area plans will be included in the discussions.

202/24 HVHMC.

Mrs Oakley reported that they are still having problems with Santander with regards to changing the signatories on the account. Several Councillors have been paying the outstanding bills and will be reimbursed when the account is sorted. Mrs Oakley stated that there are lots of bookings being made.

203/24 VILLAGE MOWERS. - Mrs Oakley is waiting for more information from Mr Rob Gray.

204/24 REVIEW OF RISK ASSESSMENTS. - Deferred until the next meeting.

205/24 CYCLE SPEEDWAY – Draft Lease for signing now received. - No update available.

206/24 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

Mr Sam James-Lawrie (District Councillor) – SODC has recently signed off the Joint Local Plan which will now go to the Inspector. If it goes through we shouldn't have any large developments of 100+ houses for the next 10 years as SODC needs time to catch up on infrastructure.

The Community Grant is now open, so if HPC want to apply let him know.

The new waste contract starting in 2026 will go out to tender. Mr Coolman asked what is the problem with the waste collections at the moment. Mr James-Lawrie stated that they have had a problem with recruiting drivers, but this has now been solved. There have also been a number of mechanical failures and staff sickness which has had an effect.

207/24 CORRESPONDENCE.

a. NALC. – Newsletter 4/9/24, 11/9/24, 18/9/24, 25/9/24. - (Circulated via email).

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- b. RSN. - The Rural Funding Digest September 2024. – (Circulated via email).
- c. NALC. – Website 3/9/24, 10/9/24, 17/9/24, 24/9/24 – (Circulated via email).
- d. NALC. – Events 3/9/24, 10/9/24, 17/9/24, 24/9/24. (Circulated via email).
- e. RSN. - The Rural Bulletin. – 3/9/24, 10/9/24, 17/9/24, 24/9/24. – (Circulated via email).
- f. SODC. – Over £600k available to help support communities in South Oxfordshire. – (Circulated via email).
- g. TVP. – Police & Crime Bulletin August 2024. – (Circulated via email).
- h. Bioabundance. – National Planning Policy Framework – Housing numbers and super-charged building. – (Circulated via email).
- i. SODC. – Town & Parish Training. – (Circulated via email).
- j. SODC. – Collaborative efforts key to combatting anti-social behaviour. – (Circulated via email).
- k. SODC. – Amalgamation of two properties: 3 & 3A Manor Farm Road. – (Circulated via email). – **Noted.**
- l. NALC – Chief Executive’s Bulletin. – 12/9/24, 26/9/24. – (Circulated via email).
- m. Bioabundance. – Meet your MP. Talk about climate and nature 12/10/24. – (Circulated via email).
- n. NALC – Chief Executive’s Bulletin. – 19/9/24. – (Circulated via email).
- o. Community First Oxfordshire. – Want to shape the future of support for small charities, community groups and social enterprises in Oxfordshire. – (Circulated via email).
- p. NALC. – Utility Aid. – (Circulated via email).
- q. OALC. – EGM 7/10/24. – (Circulated via email).
- r. Sustrans. – Community engagement 16/10/24. – (Circulated via email). – **Noted.**
- s. Age UK. – Raising awareness of falls prevention. – (Circulated via email).
- t. OCC. - Revised TTRO (T14571) Temporary Road Closure - Oxford, Horspath Driftway & Eastern Bypass Road NR & SN 28/10/24 – 2/11/24. – (Circulated via email). – **Noted.**
- u. Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust. – Oxford City Hubs Project. – (Circulated via email).
- v. Mr Ron Bailey. – Campaign to increase safety of e-bikes and e-scooters and the lithium-ion batteries that power them. – (Circulated via email).
- w. OCC. – Invitation to attend your Districts Digital Infrastructure Webinar 14/10/24. – (Circulated via email).
- x. Citizens Advice Oxfordshire. – Press Release – Pension Credit.# – (Circulated via email).
- y. TVP. Police & Crime Bulletin August 2024. – (Circulated via email).
- z. OALC. – Update for Members August 2024. – (Circulated via email).
- aa. SODC. – Delays to bin collections. – (Circulated via email).
- bb. SODC. – Council’s plan to move a step forward. – (Circulated via email).
- cc. Bioabundance. – Save the date 12/10/24 – Meeting with MP’s to discuss climate & nature. – (Circulated via email).
- dd. Community First Oxfordshire. – Want to shape the future of support for small charities, community groups and social enterprises in Oxfordshire. – (Circulated via email).
- ee. SODC. – Major next step towards creating accessible Wallingford riverside. – (Circulated via email).
- ff. SODC. – Help us to ensure that voting is accessible for everyone. – (Circulated via email).
- gg. OCC. – Flooding Update. – (Circulated via email).
- hh. OPFA. – AGM 21/10/24. – (Circulated via email).
- ii. SODC. – Update to delays to bin collections. – (Circulated via email).
- jj. Ms Amy Byrne. – Email regarding flooding. – (Circulated via email). – **Mr Burgess and Mr Walker will inspect the drain. If it is a public footpath it will be OCC’s responsibility to clear. Mrs Oakley stated that in August she has reported several issues to Fix My Street that have still not been done.**
- kk. SODC. – Grant funding available. – (Circulated via email).
- ll. SODC. - £50,000 available for nature recovery projects in South Oxfordshire. – (Circulated via email).
- mm. Community First Oxfordshire. – AGM 23/10/24 – (Circulated via email).

- nn. SODC. – Polling District & Polling Places review. – (Circulated via email).
 - oo. SODC. – Christmas Fair 19/11/24. – (Circulated via email).
 - pp. SODC. – South News – September 2024. – (Circulated via email).
 - qq. SODC. – Report states continuing air quality improvement in the Districts. – (Circulated via email).
 - rr. ONPA. – September Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
 - ss. Open Spaces Society. – August Update. – (Circulated via email).
- * original held by the Clerk, copy available on request.
displayed on Village Hall & village noticeboards.*

208/24 PAYMENTS.

Paid by	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
BACS	Inty Ltd	Email Address Fee 9.9.24	1.18	7.06
BACS	Moore	External Audit Fee	63.00	378.00
BACS	Shield Maintenance	Emptying Dog Hygiene Bins (8035)	15.47	92.82
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Home Office September 2024		30.00
		Stationery & R&P Book		145.78
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Salary 24/8/24 – 24/9/24		1498.11
BACS	Nest 12.9.24	Pension Contribution		84.16
BACS	Nest 23.9.24	Pension Contribution		84.16
BACS	Mr P Aries	Bus Shelter Maintenance August/September 2024		120.00
		TOTAL	79.65	2440.09

Bank balances as of 26.9.24 - £41,904.60

Councillors approved a payment of £35.77 to Mrs Cook for purchasing bulbs for the flower tubs.

HORSPATH RECREATION CHARITY

Paid by	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
10.9.24	SSE	Electricity Supply		53.26
		TOTAL		53.26

209/24 RECEIPTS.

Date	Received from	Details	Total £
5.9.24	SODC	2 nd Instalment of Precept	27,500.00
2.9.24	Barclays Bank	Interest Business Prem Account	93.18
		TOTAL	27,593.18

HORSPATH RECREATION CHARITY

Date	Received from	Details	Total £
27.9.24	Mr Pettigrove	Donation	200.00
24.9.24	S T Properties Ltd	Quarterly rent for Chequers Inn Car Park	712.50
		TOTAL	912.50

210/24 AOB.

- a. Mr Parker stated that he has received complaints from neighbours regarding the entrance to the property next to his and the new development on Gidley Way by the Nursery that has large lorries going in/out

causing damage to the footpaths. Mr O'Brien and Mr Coolman will inspect the area and report back at the next meeting.

- b. Mr Coolman asked when was the last time the gullies were cleared out in the village as a lot of them in Gidley Way and Butts Road are blocked. Mr Burgess stated that it is the same in Church Road/Butts Road by the School. Mrs Oakley will report to Fix-My-Street.
- c. Mr Burgess stated to clarify, that he didn't ask the Handyman to carry out any work, he was just planning on showing him work that needs to be done as there are willow branches over-hanging that need to be cut back along the Bowley Field by the wooden bridge. Mrs Oakley and Mr Burgess will inspect the work required.
- d. Mr Walker reported that the bridge by the footpath has collapsed. Mrs Oakley will report to OCC.
- e. Mrs Oakley reported that the tree at the bottom of Church Road still needs cutting back as it is over-hanging the footpath. The Clerk will write to the property owner again.

Public:-

- c. Mr Hookham commented that a great job has been done with resurfacing the footpath at Manor Drive. He also reported that he has recently tripped along the footpath at Fords Close which is also in need of resurfacing. Mrs Oakley stated that Councillors inspected the footpath and decided that no further action was required, but will inspect the footpath again. There is also a large bulge in the stone wall on the right at the top of Fords Close towards the farm. Mrs Oakley will look at the wall.
- g. Mr Hamlet asked for an update on the request from Stagecoach for a new sub-station, as they now have the new buses. Mr O'Brien stated that Stagecoach have experienced some delays but the sub-station will be built. Mr Coolman stated that there are other organisations that have to agree the route for the cabling. Mr O'Brien stated that the legal documents will be drawn up and passed to HPC to review. Mr Coolman stated that Stagecoach cannot charge to buses elsewhere indefinitely. Mr O'Brien will request an update. Mr Hamlet reported that the trees at the Malthouse are over-growing across the lane to the School and on Manor Farm Road. The Clerk will write to the property owner. Mr Hamlet stated that there is a large pothole around the manhole cover in Church Road. Mrs Oakley will report to Fix-My-Street.
- h. Mr Peter Dobson stated that he thought Mrs Drew was supporting the change-over for the bank signatories for HVHMC. Mrs Oakley stated that Mrs Drew has not supported the change-over. Mrs Oakley stated that the new signatory forms were submitted on 30th August 2024 but are not yet approved. Mr Dobson stated that he, along with Mrs Drew will pay the outstanding bills as they are still signatories.

211/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 15th October 2024 (To be confirmed).

Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 5th November 2024 at 7.30pm

Signed.....

Date.....