

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Horspath Village Hall
on 5th November 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present: Mrs B Oakley (Chairman), Mrs P Cook, Mrs H Franklin, Mr I Harris, Mr P O'Brien, Mr G Walker. Mrs H Kogel (Clerk).

Apologies Mr D Burgess, Mr L Coolman, Mr B Igoe, Mr E Parker. Mr S Lawrie-James (District Councillor).

Absent: Mr Tim Bearder (County Councillor).

Public: 2

212/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

It was resolved to accept apologies from Mr Burgess, Mr Coolman, Mr Igoe, Mr Parker and Mr James-Lawrie. Mr Bearder was absent from the meeting.

213/24 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS. – None.

214/24 EMERGENCY BUSINESS. – None.

215/24 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1st October 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

216/24 MATTERS ARISING. – None.

217/24 PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY. – 1 Application received.

The applicant was unable to attend the meeting, so Councillors agreed to defer until the next meeting.

218/24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

P23/S3730/ FUL Land to the north of Oxford Road, Horspath (Full Application)
Change of use of agricultural land to a 7.34 hectare low impact, landscape-led meadow burial space, with a naturalistic character. One new vehicle access to the site to be constructed and a new footpath link to be provided from the existing council owned car park (in front of the athletics track) to the burial ground. A small, open-sided shelter, a number of benches, signs and hard access ways to be created. Headstones to be limited to 80cms in height and made from non-glossy stone or hardwood. Access to the site to be provided for hearse vehicles, maintenance vehicles and onsite priority parking spaces. (As clarified by updated ecological assessment dated December 2023 which includes a dormouse survey and Agents email dated 17th April 2024 with accompanying plan, as amended by revised Landscape and visual impact addendum and revised plans submitted 17/7/24 and as clarified by applicant's response to OCC Highways comments). –
Horspath Councillors added the following objections to this planning application. Previous objections submitted still stand. Horspath Parish Council recommend the refusal of Planning permission by SODC because the revised scheme proposed for the drainage of the site of this proposed cemetery is considered to be inadequate to protect the groundwater within the catchment of Northfield Brook from becoming seriously polluted by the harmful leachate which will inevitably flow downslope from the progressive decay of several thousand decaying human bodies to be interred there.

Northfield Brook is an important stream which runs through the parishes of Horspath and Garsington and forms the core of the established wildlife corridor which connects wildlife to and from the Shotover SSSI with the network of other wildlife corridors within the Thames valley, and it is vitally important that the good water quality should be maintained in the catchment of this stream to support the biodiversity which already exists there as part of Oxfordshire County Council's Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Polluted leachate from the proposed cemetery would inevitably enter the catchment of Northfield Brook, and the loss in biodiversity would be unacceptable, and contrary to the policies for environmental protection in SODC's adopted Local Plan 2035 and contrary to the provisions for environmental protection outlined in the emerging South Oxfordshire & Vale of White Horse Joint Local Plan 2041, which takes into account the probability of greatly increased rainfall expected due to climate change, which will inevitably increase the flooding of this proposed meadow burial ground in Horspath. The high biodiversity of the land further downstream of the proposed meadow burial ground is well established by the records held by TVERC, and by two independent habitat surveys conducted within Horspath and Garsington Parishes, and as a result of sustainable agricultural being practiced by the local farmers under the Environmental Land Management scheme. Horspath Parish Council recognises that there is a need for Oxford City Council to expand its provision of cemeteries, but the proposed use of this field in Horspath as a cemetery would cause more harm to the environment than can be justified by that pressing need, and this Council feels that for SODC to grant Planning permission would furthermore be in breach of the regulations imposed by the Environment Agency for the protection of groundwater from pollution from cemeteries.

P24/S3039/ 5 Cuddesdon Road, Horspath (Full Application)
FUL Demolition of existing outbuildings. Erection of a new detached two and a half storey dwelling with bin and bike store for existing and new houses. New hard and soft landscaping. New amendment: - Contaminated land questionnaire received 23/10/24.
 - **Councillors have no strong views and agree to leave the decision to SODC.**

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.

P24/S2384/ The Queens Head, 26 Church Road, Horspath (Full Application)
FUL Erection of two 2-bed semi-detached self-build cottages adjacent to and within existing car park of a public house to provide separate on-site accommodation for the pub owners. Provision of private amenity space with off street car parking provided within existing car park. – **Planning application withdrawn by applicant.**

P24/S4227/ 59 Gidley Way, Horspath (Full Application)
FUL Proposed demolition of existing garage and erection of dwelling with internal and external associated works (bat report submitted 13 March 2024, emergence survey report submitted 3 June 2024 and energy statement received 10th June 2024). – **Granted.**

APP/Q3115/ 129 Cuddesdon Road, Horspath
D/24/3350941 Pool house, swimming pool and associated patio area (retrospective). – **An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against SODC's decision to refuse the above planning application.**

219/24 CLERK UPDATE.

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

Grant Application for new Play area – SODC has advised that we will be informed w/c 18/11/24.

Thames Water Portable Toilet – The toilet has still not been collected.

Christmas Tree Collection Point. – Horspath village has been registered as a collection point.

Trees on Village Green – The two trees have now been felled along with another tree on the recreation ground by the Hub.

Brambles on the Green – Mrs Oakley has been advised that work should not be carried out until the spring.

Vehicle Parking at Gateley – The owner of the vehicle is due to attend court on 15/11/24.

Bus Shelter Maintenance. – Mr Aries has agreed to continue with the maintenance until the end of November. Mrs Oakley will discuss the role with the new handyman.

College Way footpath to Shotover. – Mr Walker inspected the drains and confirmed that they are completely blocked. Mrs Oakley will report to OCC.

Trees at Church Road – The Clerk has written to the owner to request that the trees that are over-hanging the public footpath cut back. The property owner has contacted the Clerk stating that a plant in the garden has been cut back but the trees are not on his property. Mrs Oakley will contact the property owner.

Budget 2025/26 – The Clerk circulated the budget for 2025/2026 for discussion at the next meeting.

220/24 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES PAY AGREEMENT 2024/25.

Councillors agreed and approved the pay agreement for the Clerk.

221/24 NEW VILLAGE HALL - Update.

Mr O'Brien requested that a vote is taken on moving forward with extending and refurbishing the existing village hall. Councillors voted unanimously in favour.

Mr O'Brien stated that the next step to move forward is to submit a full planning application to SODC. A Design & Access Statement will be required in a reduced format at a cost of approximately £1500.00, and there may be a need for other surveys and assessments to be carried out which will incur additional costs. Councillors agreed unanimously for Mr O'Brien to submit a full planning application.

222/24 HVHMC.

Mrs Oakley stated that a meeting has recently taken place with the Cricket Club to discuss the plans for the Village Hall. The Cricket Club have agreed in principle to the plans and to the cricket club being totally separate from the Village Hall and having their own utility bills. The Cricket Club has requested that as part of the plans, they want the existing toilet facilities replaced. Mr Harris asked why HPC should cover the cost of replacing the toilet facilities. Mrs Oakley stated that HPC is the landlord and they are tenants so the building needs to be in good repair, but further discussions will take place.

223/24 CHICANE – CUDDESDON ROAD/OXFORD ROAD.

Mrs Oakley referred to the recent email received from a resident who is a regular cyclist, regarding the chicane that he considers to be dangerous due to speeding vehicles and there should be a ride-through for cyclists at the side of the chicane. Mr Hamlet stated that there has recently been an accident at the chicane with a car hitting a property wall which has been knocked down. Councillors agreed that the Clerk contact the resident and advise him that his concerns should be reported to OCC. Mrs Oakley has requested that OCC clear the ride-through at the side of the chicane. Mr O'Brien stated that while driving regularly to Garsington he has not seen a single vehicle that drives at 20mph, and if the speed limit is not policed it will not be adhered to.

224/24 ROUTE 57 CYCLE ROUTE.

Mrs Oakley stated that several residents have sent emails to Sustrans regarding the cycle route. Mrs Oakley also sent an email personally raising several points against the proposed route and also the pedestrian crossing. Sustrans have stated that HPC gave permission for the proposed pedestrian crossing, which is not correct. Mrs Oakley stated that HPC agreed in principle subject to costings, location and the amount of land required. Sustrans also stated that HPC agreed to inform the residents about the meeting on 16th October 2024, which was also incorrect. Sustrans had informed HPC that they would be doing a leaflet drop to all households in the village. Mrs Oakley stated that from the first meeting that Sustrans held in the village, the cycle route had already been decided, and the proposed pedestrian crossing is located on a blind bend. Mr O'Brien stated that HPC agreed in principle subject to receiving a drawing showing the location of the pedestrian crossing so that we could see how much village green land was required. Mrs Franklin stated that Sustrans also said that there would be no cost to HPC. Mr O'Brien stated that Sustrans also said that they do not have a budget for this cycle route/pedestrian crossing. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to Sustrans and confirm the details of what HPC agreed at the last meeting.

225/24 CHEQUERS INN CAR PARK.

Councillors discussed a rent review and agreed unanimously that there will not be an increase in the rent for the car park.

226/24 NEW BUS SHELTER. - Councillors agreed that Mrs Oakley will obtain quotations for a new bus shelter.

227/24 VILLAGE MOWER. - Mrs Oakley is waiting for recommendations from Mr Gray.

228/24 REVIEW OF RISK ASSESSMENTS.

Following a review, Councillors approved the revised risk assessment document.

229/24 CYCLE SPEEDWAY – Draft Lease for signing now received.

Cycle Speedway have now instructed a Solicitor to deal with the lease and the details have been passed on to Blake Morgan Solicitors.

230/24 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

Mr Sam James-Lawrie (District Councillor) sent the following report –

- 1) The Councillor Community Grant is still active until midday of the 29th of November.
- 2) A director of a company that runs a Persian restaurant has been fined after a load of rubbish was found fly tipped in Shotover Country Park. Magistrates imposed a fine of £5,000 and Mr Khanloo was ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £2,000 and costs of £1,521.96. A nice success against fly tipping and I hope to see more in future.
- 3) SODC has issued a resounding vote of no confidence in Thames Water, unanimously calling for the 'failing' water provider to be brought back under public control. Thames Water's record in South Oxfordshire underscores the need for immediate action, council members said. So far in 2024, untreated sewage has been discharged into the River Thames or its tributaries from sewage treatment works operated by Thames Water for more than 15,500 hours. This pollution is symptomatic of deeper issues within the company, with nearly two-thirds of Thames Water's sewage treatment facilities reportedly out of compliance with regulatory permits. Beyond pollution concerns, Thames Water's infrastructure challenges are also significant. The company loses about a quarter of the region's public drinking water supply due to its leaks. It is also struggling to manage an £18 billion debt that has led credit agencies Standard & Poor's and Moody's to downgrade Thames Water's debt rating to "junk" status.

231/24 CORRESPONDENCE.

- a. NALC. – Newsletter 2/10/24, 15/10/24. - (Circulated via email).
- b. RSN. - The Rural Bulletin. – 2/10/24, 8/10/24, 15/10/24, 22/10/24, 29/10/24. – (Circulated via email).
- c. RSN. - The Rural Funding Digest October 2024. – (Circulated via email).
- d. NALC – Chief Executive’s Bulletin. – 3/10/24, 25/10/24, 31/10/24. – (Circulated via email).
- e. SODC. – Council’s carbon emissions reduced by nearly half. – (Circulated via email).
- f. SODC. – Next steps in shaping our Districts’ future. – (Circulated via email).
- g. SODC. – “Innovative” and “ground breaking” plan published. – (Circulated via email).
- h. NALC. – Website 1/10/24, 7/10/24 – (Circulated via email).
- i. NALC. – Events 1/10/24, 8/10/24, 10/10/24, 22/10/24, 29/10/24. (Circulated via email).
- j. CPRE. – September 2024 Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- k. TVP. – Police & Crime bulletin September 2024. – (Circulated via email).
- l. SODC. – Free family friendly eco-fair to be held at Cornerstone, Didcot 2/11/24. – (Circulated via email).
- m. SODC. – Local young actors to join professional cast of Cinderella. – (Circulated via email).
- n. Open Spaces Society. – Please vote by 25th October 2024. – (Circulated via email).
- o. SODC. – Councils prevent rise in local homelessness despite an increase in demand on services. – (Circulated via email).
- p. Community First Oxfordshire. – Want to shape the future of support for small charities, community groups and social enterprises in Oxfordshire. – (Circulated via email).
- q. SODC. – Town & Parish Training slides. – (Circulated via email).
- r. SODC. – Get active, enjoy shows and Halloween fun this October half term. – (Circulated via email).
- s. Age UK. – Help us share the word about Homeshare. – (Circulated via email).
- t. OALC. – Subs, repaired link and congratulations. – (Circulated via email).
- u. Hope After Harm. – Donation for Christmas Fundraising Campaign. – (Circulated via email). –
Councillors agreed no donation on this occasion.
- v. OALC. – Training Survey. – (Circulated via email).
- w. OPFA. – AGM 21/10/24. – (Circulated via email).
- x. OCC. – EV Community Microhubs – October Update. – (Circulated via email).
- y. Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens Advice. – Request for financial support. – (Circulated via email). –
Councillors agreed a donation of £50.00.
- z. OALC. – September Update for Members. – (Circulated via email).
- aa. SODC. – Christmas Tree Collection. – (Circulated via email).
- bb. SODC. – CIL – Notification of payment. – (Circulated via email).
- cc. Open Spaces Society. – September Updates. – (Circulated via email).
- dd. SODC. – Have your say on our street trading policy. – (Circulated via email).
- ee. Wheatley Parish Council. – Oct/Nov Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- ff. Morland House Newsletter. – October 2024 Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- gg. Community First Oxfordshire. – AGM 23/10/24 Reminder. – (Circulated via email).
- hh. SODC. – Brown bin subscribers can have extra garden waste collected this autumn. – (Circulated via email).
- ii. SODC. – Have your say:- Councils propose updates to boost street trading and cut plastic waste. – (Circulated via email).
- jj. SODC. – Have your say on proposed changes to council tax premium for long-term empty properties. – (Circulated via email).
- kk. OCC. – Revised TTRO Temporary Road Closure – Horspath Driftway & Eastern Bypass Road NR & SN. – (Circulated via email).

- ll. Community First Oxfordshire. – Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- mm. Bioabundance. – Putting the UK on the wrong pathway could be catastrophic. – (Circulated via email).
- nn. Bioabundance. – Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Oxfordshire.– (Circulated via email).
- oo. SODC. – South News October 2024. – (Circulated via email).
- pp. SODC. – Community Enablement Funding News October 2024. – (Circulated via email).
- qq. Mr Kidd. – Sustrans Route 57 Plans Feedback & reply from Sustrans. – (Circulated via email). – **Noted.**
- rr. Horspath Cricket Club. – Horspath Recreation Ground Sign. – (Circulated via email). – **Councillors agreed to the sign on condition that it does not block the view when entering/exiting the car park.**
- ss. OCC. – School Applications for Reception September 2025. – # (Circulated via email).
- tt. Mrs Hoodless. – Email regarding burial ground. – (Circulated via email). – **Mrs Oakley stated she has asked the handyman to remove the excess soil from three graves in the burial ground.**
- uu. SODC. – First habitat bank created in South Oxfordshire. – (Circulated via email).
- vv. East West Rail. – Seeking your views on our proposals, confirmation on non-statutory consultation dates. – (Circulated via email).
- ww. Mr King. – 20mph speed limits. – (Circulated via email). – **Noted ref 223/24.**
- xx. Breakthrough Communications. – Communications & compliance newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- yy. SODC. – Colourful new bench for the winners of the Council’s waste trail competition. – (Circulated via email).
- zz. SODC. – Re-think waste with a trip to a local repair café. – (Circulated via email).
** original held by the Clerk, copy available on request.
displayed on Village Hall & village noticeboards.*

232/24 PAYMENTS.

Paid by	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
BACS	Outside Help	Email Address Fee 3.11.24 (1814)	1.18	7.06
BACS	Inty Ltd	Email Address Fee 3.10.24	1.18	7.06
BACS	Shield Maintenance	Emptying Dog Hygiene Bins (8132)	15.47	92.82
	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Home Office October 2024		30.00
		Stationery & Postage		38.89
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Salary 24/9/24 – 24/10/24		1497.91
BACS	HMRC	Employer Contributions (May, June, July 2024)		949.46
BACS	Mrs Paula Cook	Plants for flower tubs		35.77
		TOTAL	17.83	2658.97

Bank balances as of 31.10.24 - £52,533.82

Councillors authorised payment to Cotswold Tree Surgery upon receipt of invoice. Mrs Oakley stated that Cotswold Tree Surgery also cut the over-hanging branch on the willow tree.

233/24 RECEIPTS.

Date	Received from	Details	Total £
22.10.24	SODC	CIL Payment	9717.58
30.9.24	HMRC	VAT repayment	4168.64
		TOTAL	13,886.22

234/24 AOB.

- a. Mrs Oakley stated that the handyman will look at the fallen oak tree in the Conservation Area.

- b. Mr O’Brien reported that he has recently spoke to the Stagecoach representative regarding the new sub-station who has confirmed that the sub-station will be going ahead and HPC should receive a proposal in the near future. Mr O’Brien is waiting for confirmation that the sub-station is exclusively for Stagecoach’s use.
- c. Mr Walker reported that there is graffiti on the top left hand side under the bridge. Mrs Oakley will ask the Handyman, Mr Webb to remove the graffiti.
- d. Mrs Oakley stated that Mrs Bennett and family will be putting the Christmas tree up on 30th November 2024. The Clerk will arrange delivery with Mr Pettigrove.
Mrs Oakley reported on behalf of Mr Parker that Mr Patel from the Village shop is claiming that the grass area outside of the shop is his land. Mrs Oakley has the Land Registry document which clearly shows that the land is Village Green and belongs to HPC. Mr Walker stated that Mr Patel is also claiming that the land where the smoking shelter is located is also his land. Mrs Oakley stated that this area is part of the Chequers Inn car park.
Mr Parker also requested that the plans for the refurbishment of the Village Hall are presented to the village at the next HPC meeting.
Mrs Oakley requested that the Clerk write to the resident on the Green to update him on the subsidence claim as recently advised by HPC’s insurance company.

Public:-

- e. Mr Hamlet asked for an update on the Poors Land. Mrs Oakley stated that somebody who is interested in the land has approached Mr Dobson, the only Trustee of Horspath Parochial Charity, but no further action has been taken. Mr Hamlet stated that the Poors Land is being managed by one person, and it has now gone back to scrub land, when previously it was good agricultural land and could be rented out to generate money for the village. Mr Hamlet stated that there has been no income from this land for the last 20 years. Mrs Cook stated that there is a lot of wildlife in the Poors Land. Mr Hamlet stated that HSPC awarded a grant to register the land, and the applicant also used the grant to insure the land, and the village is entitled to a return on it.
- f. Mr Aries reported fly-tipping at the top of Cuddesdon Road. Mrs Oakley will report to Fix-My-street.
- g. Mrs Oakley has also reported the pavement at Manor Farm Road to Fix-My-Street.

235/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 19th November 2024 (To be confirmed).
Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 7.30pm.

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