

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Horspath Village Hall
on 4th March 2025 at 7.30pm.

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

Apologies Mrs H Franklin.

Absent: Mr Tim Bearder (County Councillor).

Public: 8

46/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

It was resolved to accept apologies from Mrs Franklin.

47/25 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS. – None.

48/25 EMERGENCY BUSINESS.

Mrs Oakley reported that the Post Office in Horspath village is closing on 28th March 2025. The Hub are trying to arrange for another Post Office to help, possibly Wheatley Post Office. Councillors agreed that the Clerk write to the Post Office and oppose their decision as it is an essential service for residents in the village.

Mrs Oakley informed Councillors and members of the public that Mr Bearder, County Councillor is distributing a leaflet around the village regarding HSPC. This will be discussed at the HSPC meeting on 6th March 2025. Mr Bearder has not attended a meeting of HPC since September 2023 and has not attended a HSPC meeting since January 2023.

49/25 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th February 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

50/25 MATTERS ARISING. – None.

51/25 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

P25/S0333/ 11 Cuddesdon Road, Horspath (Householder)
HH Single storey extension to rear/side. - **Horspath Parish Council have no objections and recommend that this planning application is approved.**

P25/S0534/ 3 Spring Lane, Horspath
DIS Discharge of conditions 3 (Joinery details) and 4 (Schedule of materials) on application refs: P23/S0786/HH & P23/S0787/LB (Demolition of existing porch and erection of new porch and utility space. New dormer over kitchen. Demolition of existing garage and replacement with new granny annexe. New entrance gates). - **Horspath Parish Council have no objections and recommend that this planning application is approved.**

P25/S0570/ 94 Gidley Way, Horspath
PDC Additional storey to a detached dwelling. - **Horspath Parish Council have no objections and recommend that this planning application is approved.**

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.

P24/S3959/ 18 Manor Drive, Horspath (Householder)
HH Demolition of existing rear extension, garage and left side wall, along with chimney.

Proposed front side extension. Proposed side extension with integral garage. Proposed rear side extension. Removal of roof and a proposed roof with increased ridge height.

– **Granted.**

- P24/S3806/ HH** **32 Spring Lane, Horspath (Householder)**
Removal of existing car port, canopy and conservatory, erection of two storey rear and side extension, addition of dormer to existing pitched roof. – **Granted.**
- P25/S0077/ LDP** **5 Cuddesdon Road, Horspath (Certificate of Lawful Development)**
Single storey side extension. Single storey rear extension. Roof extension. Porch extension. – **Application withdrawn by the applicant.**
- P25/S0011/ FUL** **Horspath Pre-School Nursery, Horspath (Full Application)**
Retention of existing pre-school porta cabin and the renewal of the temporary (3 year) planning permission for being sited within the grounds of Horspath Primary School.
– **Granted.**

52/25 CLERK UPDATE.

Play Area Inspections – The Clerk circulated a revised quotation from ODS. Mr Burgess suggested that the play area is closed until the new play area is installed.

Thames Water Portable Toilet – The toilet has now been collected.

Email Addresses – New email addresses are in the process of being set up.

Moles – Village Green – The Clerk circulated a copy of the report from Pest UK, and two emails received from residents.

Trees in the Conservation Area – One quotation has been received and waiting for a second quotation.

Beckley Parish Council – Mr Harris has signed the letter from Beckley Parish Council who are representing neighbouring parish councils, parish meetings and communities to oppose the Ms Susan Browns (Leader of Oxford City Council) proposal and do not wish to be part of an Oxford city-based unitary authority. Councillors also supported this letter.

53/25 UPGRADE OF VILLAGE HALL - Update.

Mr O'Brien met with SSE last week and discussed an alternative option for moving the power which will hopefully be a cheaper option. The drawings will be ready this week and can then go out for tender. A decision will need to be made on our strategy for tenders, possibly do it in sections. It is estimated that the Project Manager and Surveyor costs will be 26% of the total project. Mr Coolman stated that this is a huge amount of money for the two contractors, some of which will be required. Councillors agreed for Mr O'Brien and Mr Coolman to keep moving the project forward and update Councillors regularly.

54/25 NEW BUS SHELTER.

Mrs Oakley stated that she has contacted 3 companies to provide a quotation to install the bus shelter, all of who do not want to provide a quotation. Mrs Oakley has now contacted a further two companies.

55/25 BRIDLEWAY NEXT TO HORSPATH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

Mrs Oakley stated that an email has been received from a lady who parks on the bridle path which leads to Hansons. Stagecoach has informed the lady she is not permitted to park on the bridle path. Councillors agreed that the bridle path is a public right of way and is the responsibility of OCC and should be kept clear for cyclists, walkers and horse-riders.

56/25 VILLAGE MOWER.

Mr Coolman stated that HPC has applied for a grant to HSPC to purchase a new mower. The new mower has been registered and is ready for delivery. Mr Coolman stated that the old mower and deck can be sold.

57/25 CYCLE SPEEDWAY – Draft Lease for signing now received.

Mr Clarke’s solicitor has now made contact with Blake Morgan solicitors.

58/25 HORSPATH PTA. – Request to use the Village Green for Summer Extravaganza.

Councillors agreed in principle that the Village Green can be used subject to receiving more details/plans for the event, a risk assessment being submitted and that the Village Green must be left tidy.

59/25 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

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

This is the first year in nine years that SODC has not had to borrow from its reserves, and have not cut services. With the new budget, funding will be made available to support the purchase of more affordable housing across South Oxfordshire. Having already committed £10 million to provide more safe, secure and compliant housing, purchased under the Local Authority Housing Funding (LAHF) schemes, the District Council has now committed to make a further £10 million available to support the council’s long-term ambitions to meet local housing need.

The councillor grant budget will increase by 50%, to £7,500 per Councillor, while the Capital and Revenue grant schemes for voluntary organisations will continue.

SODC has introduced a new payment system for the collection of green bins which is now a permit system. Mrs Cook stated that the cost has increased to £75 per bin. Mr James-Lawrie stated that the cost of the service pays for itself. The permit sticker has very strong adhesive so it can’t be removed, but if it is SODC will provide a new permit sticker.

Mr James-Lawrie emailed the details of the SODC CIL grant explaining why HPC was not successful. The top 3 projects covered the whole of the £750k available. The reason that HPC was not successful with the grant for a new play area was because it didn’t open up to other villages. The Clerk stated that details were included on the application stating that the play area would be open for use to other villages. Mr O’Brien asked how Berinsfield can justify £200k for a kitchen? Mr James-Lawrie will query this with SODC as it seems excessive. Mr James-Lawrie stated that the CIL grant was a success and will be running again. Mr Hookham asked if larger Parishes have been successful can they re-apply for another project, and when will smaller Parishes get an opportunity. Mr James-Lawrie stated that there have been a number of queries raised about why certain Parishes seem to get more money than others and the point system for the grant did not make sense. Mr James-Lawrie stated that play areas should have scored higher on the list of grants. Mr James-Lawrie stated that with the local government reform, any governing body can put forward their ideal Unitary, but will not be listened to until OCC make a decision. The two most likely options being South, Vale and West Berks or a whole County Unitary. We are still at the same place as January but formal plans are being drawn up to present our case for a smaller unitary.

60/25 CORRESPONDENCE.

- a. NALC – Chief Executive’s Bulletin. – 6/2/25, 13/2/25, 20/2/25, 27/2/25. – (Circulated via email).
- b. Breakthrough Communications. – February 2025 Bulletin. – (Circulated via email).
- c. SODC. – Enjoy a fun-filled February with free and low-cost activities for all ages. – (Circulated via email).
- d. RSN. - The Rural Bulletin. – 4/2/25, 11/2/25, 18/2/25, 25/2/25 – (Circulated via email).
- e. NALC. – Events Newsletter 4/2/25, 11/2/25, 18/2/25 (Circulated via email).
- f. SODC. – Changes coming this spring to garden waste service in South & Vale. – (Circulated via email).
- g. Bioabundance. – Future Flood. – (Circulated via email).
- h. TVP. –Police & Crime Bulletin January 2025. – (Circulated via email).
- i. Open Spaces Society. – January 2025 Updates. – (Circulated via email).

- j. Mr Judges. – Electricity Pylon. – (Circulated via email). – **Mrs Oakley has reported the pylon but it has not yet been fixed.**
- k. TVP. – Launches anti-social behaviour campaign. – (Circulated via email).
- l. OCC. – Response following the formal consultation on the proposal by OCC to designate certain streets as traffic sensitive (Summer 2025). – (Circulated via email).
- m. TVP. - £200,000 available for local crime prevention schemes. – (Circulated via email).
- n. OALC, - January 2025 Update for Councils. – (Circulated via email).
- o. Ms Westlake. – Email regarding bike sheds. – (Circulated via email). – **Councillors agreed that priority is with refurbishing the village hall and installing a new play area, so there are no plans to install bike sheds.**
- p. Wheatley Parish Council. – Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- q. Morland House Surgery. – February 2025 Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- r. SODC. – Have your say on how we provide homes to those in most need. – (Circulated via email).
- s. Home Start Oxford. – Volunteering & Funding Opportunities. – (Circulated via email). – **Councillors agreed that no donation will be made.**
- t. OALC. – Final call for responses to Government consultation on strengthening the standards and conduct framework for Local Authorities in England. – (Circulated via email).
- u. Mr R Bailey. – Support of lithium-ion batteries campaign. – (Circulated via email).
- v. OALC. – Upcoming training opportunities for Councillors & Clerks. – (Circulated via email).
- w. SODC. – Update from the latest South Council meeting. – (Circulated via email).
- x. RSN. - The Rural Funding Digest February 2025. – (Circulated via email).
- y. Bioabundance. – Energy efficiency in homes. – (Circulated via email).
- z. SODC. – South Oxfordshire considers options for new Unitary Authority. – (Circulated via email).
- aa. Bioabundance. – Land use framework consultation. – (Circulated via email).
- bb. Bioabundance. – Join the rally on 4th March to support our case. – (Circulated via email).
- cc. SODC. – South News February 2025. – (Circulated via email).
- dd. Clear Councils Insurance. – Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- ee. TVP. – Key Individual Network sign up. – (Circulated via email).
- ff. Gigaclear. – Street works update. – (Circulated via email).
- gg. OCC. – Oxford Greenways Project – Public engagement on initial proposals. – (Circulated via email).
- hh. Ms Milton. – Email regarding mole traps on the Village Green. – (Circulated via email). – **Mrs Oakley stated that the issue with moles on the village green has been discussed at the December & January meeting and no comments were received from residents until now. Two moles were caught and the traps have now been removed.**
- ii. SODC. – Councils offer help to bring empty homes into use. – (Circulated via email).
- jj. SODC. – Have your say on our charity collections policy. – (Circulated via email).
- kk. SODC. – Changes to planning application submission costs. – (Circulated via email).
- ll. Community First Oxfordshire. – February 2025 Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- mm. CPRE Oxfordshire. – February 2025 Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- nn. SODC. – Help shape new rules for charity collections in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. – (Circulated via email).
- oo. SODC. – Community groups to benefit from over £1.4 million grants this year. – (Circulated via email).
- pp. Bioabundance. – Housing or planet. – (Circulated via email).
- qq. Bioabundance. – Community Assets training programme. – (Circulated via email).
- rr. Bioabundance. – The people’s commission on the water sector. – (Circulated via email).
- ss. TVP. – Police & Crime Bulletin February 2025. – (Circulated via email).

- tt. Bioabundance. – Future flood. – (Circulated via email).
 uu. Bioabundance. – Bob Colenutt’s talk. – (Circulated via email).
 vv. SODC. – Local area energy plans for Oxfordshire. – (Circulated via email).
 ww. Oxford Preservation Trust. – OPT Awards open for entries soon. – (Circulated via email).
 * *original held by the Clerk, copy available on request.*
 # *displayed on Village Hall & village noticeboards.*

61/25 PAYMENTS.

Paid by	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
BACS	Shield Maintenance	Emptying Dog Hygiene Bins (8562)	15.47	92.82
BACS	Edward Hawes	Hedge cutting	57.00	342.00
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Home Office February 2025		30.00
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Salary 24/1/25 – 24/2/25		1563.37
BACS	HMRC	Nest Pension contribution (7.2.25)		90.90
BACS	OALC	Annual Subscription	55.60	333.59
BACS	O’Brien Building Services	Materials for plumbing repairs at the Village Hall		30.48
BACS	Cotswold Tree Surgery	Removal of 2 x tree stumps		250.00
BACS	Pest UK	Mole removal on Village Green	50.00	300.00
BACS	Community First Oxfordshire	Annual Subscription		70.00
BACS	HMRC	Employer Contributions		927.34
		TOTAL	178.07	4030.50

Bank balances as of 30.1.25 – £38,661.91

HORSPATH RECREATION CHARITY.

Paid by	To Whom Paid	Details	Total £
BACS	SSE	Power supply to Christmas tree	104.29
		TOTAL	104.29

62/25 RECEIPTS.

Date	Received from	Details	Total £
11.2.25	Homewood Funeral Directors	Burial	500.00
24.2.25	Horspath Nursery	Annual rent for porta-cabin	240.00
		TOTAL	740.00

63/25 AOB.

- a. Mr Hookham stated that there are several large potholes in the village and in Manor Drive. Mrs Oakley has reported numerous potholes in the village to Fix-My-Street, and others which date back to August 2024 that still haven’t been repaired. Mr O’Brien suggested that HPC should mark all potholes and carry out the repairs and then notify OCC. Mrs Oakley stated that HPC cannot repair the potholes for insurance purposes. Mrs Oakley will make a list of all potholes and report to Fix-My-Street again.

Public:-

- b. Mr Masters, Councillor for Wheatley Parish Council and the Conservative candidate for OCC. Mr Masters agrees that representation from the County Councillor at meetings is important and if he is successful in the

election he will attend monthly meetings, or if he is not able, he will send a monthly report. Mr Masters stated that Mr Bearder has not attended Beckley, Cuddesdon or Wheatley Parish Council meetings for several months.

Mrs Oakley stated that the standard of workmanship on repairing potholes around the village is very poor and cannot be avoided by motorists. The contractors repair one pothole but not others close by. Emptying the drains around the village is also an issue.

- c. Mrs Gray asked about the cost to SSE for the electricity supply on the village green. The Clerk stated that this is for a quarter and also standing charges. Mr Burgess will do a meter reading and pass the details to the Clerk.

Mrs Gray asked if Mr Gray can have a key to the refuse bins at the village hall. Mrs Oakley stated that they have requested more keys from Biffa but have not been received. Mr Hookham stated that he maybe able to access spare keys.

- d. Mrs Walker stated that the storm drains by her property have been emptied but not the drains further down. Mrs Oakley will report the drains to Fix-My-Street.

- e. Mrs Milton stated that she was very sad to hear that Pest UK were using mole traps and that recent Minutes stated that quotations were being sought for the moles on the Village Green but did not include details of what action would be taken. Signs could have been put up warning residents of uneven surfaces due to the mole hills. Mrs Oakley stated that Councillors voted in favour of removing the moles after receiving complaints from residents. Mrs Milton stated that if you use mole traps, the moles are more likely to come back. Mrs Oakley stated that there were horrendous remarks posted about HPC on social media regarding the moles. Mrs Cook stated that attacks on Councillors on social media is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Mr Coolman stated that residents should attend meetings rather than comment on social media. Mrs Milton asked if other methods can be considered in the future as moles should not be removed. Mrs Oakley stated that all Councillors are volunteers and are doing their best for the village, and HPC is responsible for the Village Green. Mr Walker stated that there was an issue with moles on the Village Green around 5 years ago and there has been no significant mole damage since then. Mr O'Brien stated that if there is another problem with moles in the future, HPC will ask volunteers to deal with them. A resident stated that moles are part of nature. Mrs Milton stated that she would volunteer to deal with the moles in the future.

64/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 18th March 2025 (To be confirmed).

Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 8th April 2025 at 7.30pm. ****Note change of date****

Horspath Stone Pit Charity Meeting – Thursday 6th March 2025.

Signed.....

Date.....