

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Emergency Parish Council Meeting held at Horspath Village Hall
on 20th May 2025 at 7.30pm.

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

Apologies

Absent:

Public: 3

118/25 APPROVAL OF STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS & BANK RECONCILIATION 2024/2025

Councillors agreed and approved the statement of accounts and the bank reconciliation for 2024/2025.

119/24 NEW PLAY PARK.

Mrs Oakley reported that she attended a meeting with Creative Play with Mr Coolman to obtain the third quotation for the play area. Mr Coolman negotiated a substantial discount with Creative Play for the play park who also offer excellent aftercare of the equipment. Creative Play advised that it will take five weeks to build the equipment and five weeks for installation. To avoid waiting until the June meeting and have the play area installed before the school summer holidays, *Mrs Oakley stated that both herself and Mr Coolman over stepped the mark and she signed the order for the play area without approval of the full Council.* This is not the correct procedure and to correct this error, Mrs Oakley contacted Creative Play the following morning and put a hold on the order and called this emergency meeting to seek approval of full Council. Creative Play confirmed that there will not be any cancellation charges.

Mrs Cook asked why quotations were not sought for the larger play area that Councillors previously voted for. Mr Coolman stated that the planning application for the village hall show the play area at the size that has been quoted for. Mrs Oakley stated that if the play area was bigger there is a risk that a cricket ball could reach that area. Mr Coolman stated that a bigger play area is too close to the second cricket pitch. Mrs Cook asked why the Cricket Club are dominating the whole area when the second pitch could be moved. Mr Coolman stated that the Cricket Club already use that area. Mrs Cook stated that the proposed play area is tiny. Mr Coolman stated that the play area will be 18metres x 42metres.

Mrs Oakley stated that Councillors need to vote on the quotations received to date and if Councillors do not support the quotations received, the process of obtaining alternative quotations will need to start again. Mrs Cook stated that the quotation that Mr O'Brien had previously obtained for £50k for the equipment, we could have got a company to install the play area for £70k. Mrs Oakley stated that the play equipment that was in that quotation is not the same, and the quickest way to complete the play area is for the company who are supplying the equipment, install it. *Mrs Oakley stated that she did something very wrong and has accepted the very vocal emails that have been sent, most of which were vitriolic. Mr Coolman stated that the emails were quite venomous.*

Mr Hookham stated that it would be good to have the play area installed for the summer holidays, and there is an option to extend it in the future. A grant has been obtained from HSPC for the play area so we should move this project forward. Mr Coolman stated that the fencing also needs to be moved and cricket nets will need to be purchased.

Mr O'Brien stated that the measurements of the play area are not wrong on the planning application, the measurements show the larger play area. Mr O'Brien marked out the proposed area in time for the site meeting in February, which was later voted for. The existing play area measures 854 sq./m and the proposed new play area is 720 sq./m, so it is smaller than the existing area. Mr O'Brien stated that the bigger play area would have gone north of the lights, which he thinks has always been the issue and he also

believes that families in the village should have chosen the equipment. Mr O'Brien stated that the principle is that Councillors voted in favour of the larger play area. The Clerk confirmed that Councillors voted in favour of the larger play area. Mrs Oakley stated that more equipment can be added in the future if required. Mrs Franklin stated that if negotiations are needed with the Cricket Club, this need to be done at the end of the season. Mr Parker stated that the top play area could also be extended in the future. Mrs Cook stated that if we have a bigger play area now there will not be a need for more in the future. Mr Hamlet commented that as an Independent Advisor for HSPC, he will always support a grant application to HPC if it is for the benefit of the village. Mrs Cook stated that young families deserve the best play area in the village, and Councillors want the best. Mr Walker stated that there will be more money available in the future.

Mr Burgess proposed that HPC accept the quotation from Creative Play, seconded by Mr Walker.
In Favour – 6, Against – 2, Abstentions – 3.

Mrs Cook stated that Councillors who have an interest in the Cricket Club should declare an interest and not take part in voting. The two Councillors objected to the comment from Mrs Cook and confirmed that they do not have an interest in the Cricket Club. Mr Parker stated that he has abstained from voting as he has just been accused of having an interest in the Cricket Club and he doesn't want any doubt. Mrs Oakley stated that if the play area needs to be extended or work in the top play area is required in the future this will be considered.

120/24 AOB.

- a. Mr Coolman asked Councillors for a guide reserve price on the old mower which will be sold. John Bark has estimated a selling price of around £1,200 and the 2nd deck around £600. Councillors agreed a reserve price of £250 for the 2nd deck and £700 for the mower.
- b. Mr Hookham stated that in his opinion Councillors haven't voted against anything, we have voted for something, and that everyone will be happy with the result and if we can further grants in the future more can be done.
- c. A resident asked if the equipment in the plans for the play area has been finalised. Mrs Oakley confirmed that it has been finalised but more equipment will be considered in the future.

121/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 3rd June 2025 at 7.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....