

**HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Horspath Village Hall**  
**on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Mrs B Oakley (Chairman), Mrs P Cook (Vice Chairman), Mrs H Franklin, Mr B Igoe, Mr P O'Brien, Mr E Parker, Mr G Walker, Mrs H Kogel (Clerk).

**Apologies** Mr R Burgess, Mr L Coolman, Mr I Harris.

**Absent:** Mr P Hookham, Mr James-Lawrie (District Councillor), Mr Tim Bearder (County Councillor).

**Public:** 4

**241/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

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

**242/25 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS. – None.**

**243/25 EMERGENCY BUSINESS.**

Mrs Oakley asked for assistance with moving the new benches/picnic table.

**244/25 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL.**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were amended on item **239/25 AOB – Item b** to read:- Mr O'Brien stated that the Chief Executive of SODC has previously stated that he does not *want* people to return to the office to work. The Minutes were then agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**245/25 MATTERS ARISING. – None.**

**246/25 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

**P25/S3471/ Pony Pursuits, 11 Sandy Lane, Horspath**

**LDP** The land is deemed agricultural and has been used for the grazing of animals for as long as previous owners can remember. They would like to graze equines on the land and to provide a mobile shelter and a safe stock proof perimeter fence. – **Noted.**

**PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.**

**P25/S2280/ 94 Gidley Way, Horspath**

**(Householder)**

**HH** Erection of additional storey to bungalow, replacement single-storey rear extension, part two-storey, part single-storey front extension, relocation of vehicle access. – **Refused.**

**P25/S0763/ 10 Manor Drive, Horspath**

**(Householder)**

**HH** Erection of single oak garage for parking of a vehicle, proposed hard standing to driveway and external LED lights to structure (Retrospective). – **Appeal is allowed and planning permission is granted.**

**247/25 CLERK UPDATE.**

**Play Area Inspection** – Further emails have been sent to ODS as no reply has been received to date.

**Property on the Green** – Mrs Oakley reported that the resident who has offered to remove the bricks has asked for some assistance as the ground is very wet. Mr Walker agreed to help.

**Manor Drive** – An inspector from OCC Highways was due to inspect the road surface in November. The Clerk will request an update.

**Bus Service 46** – The Clerk has written to Oxford Bus Company to request that a stop at Cowley Retail Park is added to the bus route.

**Simple Survey Surveyors.** – Email from Mr Harris. Councillors stated that planning permission for the wall is not required. Mrs Oakley will visit the site.

**Gigaclear** – Mrs Oakley reported that Gigaclear originally wanted to dig a trench from the Chequers to the Hub, but due to past history permission wasn't granted so they are now using the pavement.

**Annual CIL Declaration.** – The Clerk will complete the declaration and return to SODC.

#### **248/25 BUDGET 2026/2027.**

Councillors approved the budget for 2025/2026.

#### **249/25 PRECEPT 2026/2027.**

The Clerk circulated the draft Precept for consideration before approving at the January 2026 meeting.

#### **250/25 UPGRADE OF VILLAGE HALL.**

Mr O'Brien will circulate to all Councillors an email received today from the architect. The architect has received several emails from the Planning Department at SODC requesting an update.

#### **251/25 PURCHASE OF NEW BENCHES.**

The benches and picnic table have now been delivered and will be stored in the village hall until they are installed in the play area. Mr Walker will liaise with a resident with regards to installation. The Clerk will write to the two residents who kindly offered to sponsor the purchase of the benches and inform them of the cost. Mr Parker stated that the residents may want plaques to be attached to the benches.

#### **252/25 NEW BUS SHELTER.**

Mrs Oakley is still waiting to receive the quotations.

#### **253/25 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS. –**

**Report from Cllr James-Lawrie – (District Councillor) – (Report sent by email) –**

I am delighted to confirm that we the SODC have submitted our Local Government Re-organisation proposal for two unitary councils for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire to the Government. This is the councils preferred option and we believe it hits all criteria the Central Government is looking for.

Last year we ran a new CIL grant which proved to be successful and I am very pleased to say we are running it again this year starting in January, the details will be coming out closer to the start but I can say the amount is again £750,000. I recommend everyone who wishes to apply to please do.

The Councillors grant is still open closing on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December at midday, I look forward to seeing those applied and will do my best to fairly allocate money to any and all projects.

In November the Council has taken on the powers of the DVLA allowing us to now collect:

Untaxed Vehicles – New, Uninsured Vehicles – New, Abandoned Vehicles – Current. We expect to have the new powers active by Summer 2026.

**Cllr Bearder – (County Councillor) –** No report available.

Mrs Oakley stated that Mr Bearder has circulated a leaflet to properties near Gateley suggesting that the grass area at Gateley be converted into a play area or wildlife area. Mrs Cook stated that a play area is not

required and Horspath already has a wildlife area. Mrs Cook's suggestion was for a parking area for permit parking only for the residents in the area. Mr Igoe also stated that a parking area would be preferred. Mr O'Brien stated that the area is big enough for a car parking area and still leave a grass area.

## **254/25 CORRESPONDENCE.**

- a. SODC. – Council launches “Winter campaign” to help residents stay warm, well and connected. – (Circulated via email).
- b. NALC – Chief Executive's Bulletin. – 30/10/25, 6/11/25, 13/11/25, 20/11/25, 27/11/25. – (Circulated via email).
- c. RSN. – Weekly News. – 5/11/25, 12/11/25, 19/11/25, 26/11/25. - (Circulated via email).
- d. NALC. – Events Newsletter – 4/11/25, 11/11/25, 18/11/25. (Circulated via email).
- e. SODC. – Breaking the cycle of homelessness. – (Circulated via email).
- f. Open Spaces Society. – Campaigning successes/Updates from our local correspondents. – (Circulated via email).
- g. Capstone Properties Ltd. – Isis Business Centre, Pony Road, Oxford – Strip of land on East side. – (Circulated via email). – **Trustees agreed that Mrs Oakley will meet with Capstone Properties on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025.**
- h. Age UK. – Latest issue of EngAGE magazine. – (Circulated via email).
- i. Mr Evans. – Pedestrians and traffic lights on Gidley Way. – (Circulated via email). – **Mrs Oakley spoke with Gigaclear to request a pedestrian access on the grass verge but they were not able to accommodate this. Gigaclear stated that there are very few pedestrians passing by but he would ensure that they were safe.**
- j. OCC. – Highways Asset Response Team (HART). – (Circulated via email). – **Mrs Oakley will attend a meeting with HART.**
- k. OCC. – Primary School applications. – (Circulated via email)#.
- l. SODC. – Partnership action tackles anti-social behaviour and protects the vulnerable. – (Circulated via email).
- m. Morland House Surgery. – November 2025 newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- n. Mr Martin Harris. – Horspath Parish Council's Wildlife Conservation Area recently confirmed in its status as an important Local Wildlife site and is shown on the Local Habitat Map.
- o. SODC. – South News November 2025. – (Circulated via email).
- p. SODC. – Have your say on street cleaning in your town/parish. – (Circulated via email). – **Mrs Oakley stated that this is in addition to HART.**
- q. SODC. – Over £700,000 of funding approved for new community & youth centre in Thame. – (Circulated via email).
- r. OALC. – NALC Committee Elections & Proper Practices Consultation. – (Circulated via email).
- s. GummerLeathes. – South Oxford Science Village. – (Circulated via email). – **The Clerk will request a meeting with Mrs Oakley in the new year and also request that Horspath Parish Council are kept up to date.**
- t. OCC. – Your invitation for November Community Climate Adaptation Workshops. – (Circulated via email).
- u. OCC. – TTRO – Emergency temporary road closure, Littleworth, road running through Littleworth. – (Circulated via email).
- v. Age UK Oxfordshire. – Winter Appeal: Together for our neighbours. – (Circulated via email).
- w. SODC. – Five out of seven Councils back the two-unitary proposal for Council reorganisation. – (Circulated via email).

- x. CPRE. – Standing firm for Oxfordshire’s countryside. – (Circulated via email).
  - y. Gambit Insurance. – Free winter risk assessment template for charity buildings. – (Circulated via email).
  - z. SODC. – Visit Southern Oxfordshire launches campaign to boost festive trade. – (Circulated via email).
  - aa. SODC. – Local Government reorganisation special edition of Vale News. – (Circulated via email).
  - bb. ONH. – Another new NPPF: Are you ready for more planning changes in 2026. – (Circulated via email).
  - cc. OCC. – National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction Survey 2025-2026 – Public Representatives. – (Circulated via email).
  - dd. NALC. – Voting is now open for our 2025 Governance Elections. – (Circulated via email).
  - ee. East West Rail. – Keeping you connected – Launch of “You said, we did” report 2025. – (Circulated via email).
  - ff. OCC. – TTRO – Emergency temporary road closure, Spring Road, Horspath. – (Circulated via email).
  - gg. Ginette Camps-Walsh, Chair Beckley & Stowood Parish Council. – Importance of campaigning together to oppose Greater Oxford – LGR – Surrey decision and response from Ministry. – (Circulated via email).
  - hh. Elsfield Residents Group. – Presentation, Q&A’s from the UA meeting at the Merry Bells on 27/10/25. – (Circulated via email).
  - ii. SODC. – A win-win for SO Lottery supporters and local organisations. – (Circulated via email).
  - jj. TVP. – My local update for you – November 2025. – (Circulated via email).
  - kk. SODC. – Let us know how we can improve South News. – (Circulated via email).
  - ll. SODC. – Household rubbish can only be collected if bin lids are fully closed. – (Circulated via email).
  - mm. Bioabundance. – Ask your MP Olly Glover to sign new parliamentary motion. – (Circulated via email).
  - nn. Mr Harris. – Blocked drains at the bottom of Gidley Way. – (Circulated via email). – **The Clerk has reported to Fix-My-Street.**
  - oo. SODC. – New studios open at the Didcot Wave. – (Circulated via email).
  - pp. SODC. – Councils announce preferred candidate for new Chief Executive. – (Circulated via email).
  - qq. SODC. – Bathing water quality at Wallingford improves. – (Circulated via email).
  - rr. SODC – Town/Parish Councillor allowances. – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for South Oxfordshire Parish & Town Councils. – (Circulated via email).
  - ss. Community First Oxfordshire. – November newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- \* original held by the Clerk, copy available on request.*
- # displayed on Village Hall & village noticeboards.*

## 255/25 PAYMENTS.

Paid by	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Home Office November 2025 Stationery		30.00 74.97
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Salary 24/10/25 – 24/11/25		1635.22
BACS	HMRC	Employer Contributions		1376.02
BACS	Shield Maintenance	Emptying Dog Hygiene Bins (9580)	16.68	100.10
BACS	Clear Council Insurance	Additional premium for new play area		318.76
DD	Nest	Employee pension contribution		231.43
DD	Outside Help	Email address fee (6.11.25)	1.10	6.62
BACS	Citizens Advice Oxfordshire	Donation (Section 137)		50.00
BACS	Farol	Mower Parts	1.52	9.12
BACS	Mr R Burgess	Printer Cartridge		18.89

BACS	Mrs H Franklin	Postcrete for new dog bin		7.98
BACS	Mrs P Cook	Plants for planters		44.81
BACS	Recycled Furniture	Benches & picnic table for play area	310.50	1863.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£329.80</b>	<b>£5,766.92</b>

**Bank balances as of 27.11.25 – £68,716.68**

#### **HORSPATH RECREATION CHARITY**

<b>Paid by</b>	<b>To Whom Paid</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Total £</b>
BACS	SSE	Electric supply to Village Green		50.76
		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£50.76</b>

**256/25 RECEIPTS. – None.**

#### **257/25 AOB.**

- a. Mrs Oakley passed thanks to the Bennett family for offering to put up the Christmas tree.
- b. Mr O'Brien asked if there is any update from Sustrans. The Clerk confirmed that no further correspondence has been received.
- c. Mr Walker asked if Mr Surman could carry out another repair to the Village Green as further damage has been caused by a lorry. Mrs Oakley will contact Mr Surman. Mr Walker stated that better signage for warning of the low bridge is required as this problem is happening more frequently. The low bridge signs need to be installed from Stagecoach. The Clerk will contact OCC.
- d. Mr Igoe has been asked by a few residents why the meal voucher scheme has stopped in December. Mrs Oakley stated that the pub is very busy in December and has a number of private parties. Mr Parker stated that it is a shame that some residents think the meal voucher scheme has become an entitlement. Mr O'Brien stated that he has spoken with a representative of the pub who has said on average around 110 people per month, with only one person leaving a tip for the waitress. There has been occasions when residents have been rude to the waitresses which is very poor. Mrs Oakley stated that a note has been put on the vouchers with regards to tips.
- e. Mr O'Brien stated that although there is an enforcement notice in place, the buildings are still in place at 84 Gidley Way.

**Public:-**

- f. Mrs Walker reported that the Mole Pub has put a banner up on the Village Green advertising a Christmas market, but the banner from their summer event has not been taken down. Mrs Oakley will remove the banner.
- g. A resident asked what is happening at the wood yard on Sandy Lane as there is a lot of construction vehicles arriving at the site. Mrs Cook stated that there a wooden structure being erected. Mrs Cook and Mr O'Brien will visit the site. The Clerk will inform the Planning Department at SODC.
- h. Mrs Brown reported that the lighting in the over-flow car park does not work and the area is very un-even and dark.
- i. Mr Hamlet suggested that a letter is sent to Mr Martin Harris to thank him for all of the work that he has done with the Wildlife Area that is now on an official map and is totally protected and also for his help on other projects.

Mr Hamlet asked that a traffic survey is requested from OCC as the traffic in the village has doubled. Since Garsington closed people started to come through Horspath and have continued to do so. In Garsington, all

speed humps are intact, no potholes, white lines/arrows in place, but the speed humps in Cuddesdon Road are damaged and there are several large potholes and no white lines in the village.

Mr Hamlet stated that it seems that the village hall is grinding to a halt despite Mr O’Brien’s hard work and suggested that HPC looks at an alternative plan. Mr Hamlet suggested that the Scout Hut is renovated to changing rooms for the Cricket Club and then convert their changing rooms and use within the village hall footprint. This would save a lot of money by just renovating and not extending and would not need planning permission. There would also not be a need to move the electricity pole. It was agreed that this will be an Agenda item at the January meeting. Mr Hamlet stated that the project needs to be pushed forward.

**258/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.**

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025 (To be confirmed).

Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....