

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Horspath Village Hall
on 3rd February 2026 at 7.30pm.

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

Apologies Mr B Igoe.
Absent: Mr James-Lawrie (District Councillor), Mr Tim Bearder (County Councillor).
Public: 3

19/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

It was resolved to accept apologies from Mr Igoe. Mr James -Lawrie and Mr Bearder were absent from the meeting.

20/26 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS. - Mr Hookham declared an interest in planning application - P26/S0234/SCR - Land at Oxford Road, Horspath - Screening opinion request. The company that he works for has provided a quotation for the water supply at the site.

21/26 EMERGENCY BUSINESS. – None.

22/26 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th January 2026 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

23/26 MATTERS ARISING.

Mrs Cook reported that in January 2026, **Item 06/26 – Planning Permission, Refusals, Appeals - P25/S3471/LDP - Pony Pursuits** have recently been granted Lawful Development for:- Use of agricultural land to graze horses, provision of a mobile shelter and erection of stock proof perimeter fence. There is evidence that block of 3 stables, a single stable and a tack room have been built, which are not considered to be mobile. The Clerk will report to SODC Enforcement Department.

Mr O'Brien reported that he recently asked the Clerk for information on the enforcements in place in Horspath. One of the enforcements on a property in Horspath expired in 2021 but no further action has been taken by SODC. The Planning Officer has stated that the Planning Inspector has not yet dealt with this due to unprecedented workload. Mr O'Brien suggested that a letter of complaint should be sent to Adrian Duffield, SODC and Planning Officer Paul Bowers. Mr O'Brien stated that there is someone living in the adjoining property that has been built without planning permission. The Clerk will report to SODC Enforcement Department.

24/26 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

P25/S2872/ HH	Lower Acres, Sandy Lane, Horspath Removal of static caravan, demolition of lean to storage shed and construction of 4 bay garage with room over. - Councillors object to this application on the grounds that it is an over-development of the site with only a bridlepath for access. There has already been several developments at this location with no improvements made to the road.	(Householder)
P26/S0021/ FUL	Overview Stud, Sandy Lane, Horspath Construction of a two bedroom bungalow (retrospective). - Councillors object to this application on the grounds that it is an over-development of the site with only a bridlepath for access.	(Full Application)

P26/S0063/ 26 Manor Drive, Horspath (Householder)
HH Removal of existing circular front bay window and replacement with square bay window.
Removal of redundant chimney. Addition of solar panels to south facing garage roof.
- **Councillors have no objections to this application and recommend approval.**

P26/S0234/ Land at Oxford Road, Horspath
SCR Screening opinion request – Burial meadow. – **Councillors continue to object to this planning application. It was agreed that the Clerk send the draft letter that has been approved. The Clerk will also send the recent letter received from a resident regarding the flooding.**

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.

P25/S1133/ Erection of 4 no. dwelling houses. (Appeal)
PIP The appeal is allowed and planning permission is granted for residential development comprising a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 4 dwellings at Land adjacent to Oxford Road Horspath.

25/26 CLERK UPDATE.

Play Area Inspection – Waiting for a quotation from ODS for the repairs.

Property on the Green – The resident will contact HPC to arrange a meeting.

Traffic Surveys – One quotation received, more quotations to follow.

Installation of benches & picnic table – Mrs Oakley confirmed that Mr Smith will install the benches.

Abandoned Silver VW Car – SODC has served a notice on this vehicle. Mrs Oakley will pass details of another abandoned vehicle to the Clerk to report to SODC.

Rock Salt – The Clerk has contacted OCC to order additional salt.

Plaques for benches – Councillors approved for Mrs Oakley to purchase the plaques.

26/26 UPGRADE OF VILLAGE HALL.

Mr O'Brien reported that he recently met with the architect to measure the trees from the corner of the building. To minimize the impact of the BNG report some of the trees will be kept with a view to removing 8 trees, which will mean planting around 40 new trees. This will provide approximately 43 parking spaces. Mr O'Brien will ask the architect how many parking spaces SODC will require. Mr O'Brien circulated the revised plan provided by the architect. Mrs Oakley stated that the new trees could be planted along Oxford Road and they could be English Willow trees. Mr O'Brien stated that it is in our interest to keep as many existing trees as possible. Mrs Cook asked if existing trees could be replanted. Mr O'Brien will liaise with Rob Gray. Councillors agreed that the number of trees to be removed will be kept as low as possible and agreed for Mr O'Brien to go ahead and submit the plan.

27/26 NEW BUS SHELTER.

Mrs Oakley stated that planning permission is required for the bus shelter. Mr O'Brien will ask the architect to draw the plans and submit to SODC. Mr Coolman agreed to over-see the project.

28/26 VILLAGE HALL DRAINAGE & GUTTERS.

Mrs Oakley reported that Mr Surman will clean out the gutters around the village hall. The drainage company who recently carried out the repairs to the blocked drains have reported that the drain pipes are badly corroded and close to collapse. Mr Hookham will obtain a plan from Thames Water to see who is responsible for the drain pipes, and will also check the manholes on the grass verge. Mr Coolman suggested

that a maintenance plan is purchased to prevent the drains from blocking again. The Clerk will request a quotation.

29/26 **GRAFITTI – Quotations.**

Mrs Oakley passed thanks to Anthony Absolum and Bob Surman who have cleaned the graffiti of the base of the bridge and will also do the bus shelter.

30/26 **DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS. –**

Report from Cllr James-Lawrie – (District Councillor) – No report available.

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

31/26 **CORRESPONDENCE.**

- a. NALC. – Events Newsletter – 13/1/26, 20/1/26. (Circulated via email).
- b. ONPA. – January 2026 Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- c. SODC. – Car park fees changes strike balance amid financial pressure. – (Circulated via email).
- d. Bioabundance. – SESRO – One more thing. – (Circulated via email).
- e. Bioabundance. – SESRO – Not fit for purpose. – (Circulated via email).
- f. Bioabundance. – South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) – Statutory consultation feedback form. – (Circulated via email).
- g. OCC. – The latest news for your communities. – (Circulated via email).
- h. Action for Carers Oxfordshire. – Your latest care matters magazine. – (Circulated via email).
- i. OCC. – Free home upgrades to beat the chill. – (Circulated via email).
- j. SODC. – Pollutant levels fall by half at a site previously identified as having air quality issues. – (Circulated via email).
- k. SODC. – Councils remove themselves from “unacceptable” X social media platform. – (Circulated via email).
- l. NALC – Chief Executive’s Bulletin. – 15/1/26, 22/1/26, 29/1/26. – (Circulated via email).
- m. RSN. – Weekly News. – 14/1/26, 21/1/26, 28/1/26. - (Circulated via email).
- n. SODC. – SODC submits response to Thames Water reservoir consultation. – (Circulated via email).
- o. Morland House Surgery. – January 2026 Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- p. SODC. – Fine imposed on taxi driver for working illegally at Henley Regatta. – (Circulated via email).
- q. SODC. – Planning Training 26/2/26 & 3/3/26. – (Circulated via email).
- r. SODC. – Have your say on our Taxi Licensing Policy. – (Circulated via email).
- s. Chilworth House Upper School. – Free gardening services. – (Circulated via email). - **The Clerk will check to see if individual properties are included and also look to putting an advert in the village magazine.**
- t. SODC. – From payments to emissions – tell us what you think about proposed taxi policy updates. – (Circulated via email).
- u. ONPA. – AGM 24/1/26. – (Circulated via email).
- v. SODC. – January 2026 edition of South News. – (Circulated via email).
- w. CPRE. – Protecting Oxfordshire’s Countryside:- Wins, threats and ways to act. – (Circulated via email).
- x. SODC. – Councils lead the way in disability representation. – (Circulated via email).
- y. Matthew Barber TVP. – My local update for you January 2026. – (Circulated via email).
- z. Shotover Preservation Society. – Dates for your diaries. – (Circulated via email).
- aa. Freddie Van Mierlo MP. – Governments Water White Paper – A response from Freddie Van Mierlo MP. – (Circulated via email).

- bb. Daisy. – Email regarding camping in village park. – (Circulated via email). – **Councillors agreed that no camping is permitted.**
- cc. Beckley & Stowood Parish Council. – The threat of the Grey Belt to your Parish – Real & immediate. – (Circulated via email).
- dd. Sedgewick. – Email regarding insurance claim on the Green. – (Circulated via email). – **The Clerk will contact the Tree Officer at SODC.**
- ee. Mr Whelan. – Flood water on road approaching Horspath. – (Circulated via email). – **It was agreed that the Clerk will send this letter to the Planning Department at SODC.**
- ff. OCC. – Annual Community Emergency Plan Survey & GDPR Consent. – (Circulated via email).
- gg. SODC. – Asset of Community Value – five-year expiry notice – Horspath Sports Ground. – (Circulated via email). – **Noted.**
- hh. Shotover Preservation Society. – Shotover Conservation Target Area. – (Circulated via email).
- ii. SODC. – Town & Parish Councils and Local Government Reorganisation. – (Circulated via email).
- jj. SODC. – £2M boost for South leisure facilities. – (Circulated via email).
- kk. CPRE. – Rooftop renewables – turn the warm homes plan into action. – (Circulated via email).
- ll. SODC. – Great British Spring Clean 2026. – (Circulated via email). – **Mrs Oakley will organise a litter picking event in the village on Saturday 14th March 2026.**
- mm. SODC. – Neighbourhood Planning Event – Virtual session available 2/2/26. – (Circulated via email). – **Mr Harris attended on behalf of HPC. The Clerk circulated the email received from Mr Harris.**
- nn. OCC. – Temporary Road Closure Blenheim Road Horspath 12/3/26–16/3/26. – (Circulated via email).
- oo. CPRE. – The threat of the Grey Belt to your Parish – Real & immediate. – (Circulated via email).
** original held by the Clerk, copy available on request.*
displayed on Village Hall & village noticeboards.

32/26 PAYMENTS.

Paid by	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Home Office January 2026		30.00
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Salary 24/12/25 – 24/1/26		1635.22
BACS	Shield Maintenance	Emptying Dog Hygiene Bins (9795)	16.68	100.10
BACS	Edward Hawes	Hedge cutting	80.00	480.00
BACS	Mr Leigh Smith	Padlocks for play area	14.08	84.50
BACS	Wheatley Park School	Prize giving donation (Sec 137)		150.00
BACS	Totally Drainage Ltd	Clear blocked drains at Village Hall	484.10	2904.60
		TOTAL	£594.86	£5384.42

Bank balances as of 29.1.26 – £57,374.87

33/26 RECEIPTS.

Date	Received from	Details	Total £
27.1.26	MA Stevens	Sponsorship of a bench	432.00
		TOTAL	£432.00

34/26 AOB.

- a. Mrs Oakley has now received the plans from the Cricket Club which will be circulated to all Councillors. The Cricket Club are looking to remove the white awning and would like to install artificial grass on the wicket area of the second pitch. Councillors agreed that this will be an Agenda item for the March meeting.

Mrs Oakley reported that she has the village history book written by Miss Callard. It is a beautiful, special book that needs to be preserved. Mrs Oakley has received requests from residents to look at the book, but this request has been refused as there is a photocopy of the book available to residents. Mrs Oakley suggested that the original book is copied again, and suggested that the original book is stored at St Luke's Church, Oxfordshire Archive. Mrs Cook suggested that a cabinet is made to store the book so that it can be on display to the village. Mr Coolman stated that if the book is stored in the archives it can still be viewed by residents but suggested that a digital copy could be made. Mr Parker suggested that OUP maybe able to provide a digital copy. Mr Peter Dobson stated that a digital copy has been done around 5 years ago. The Clerk stated that she has no knowledge of this but will check the files and also with the printers. Mrs Oakley reported that Mr Hookham has agreed to be the second "Super User" to report potholes around the village. Mr Hookham stated that he is willing to identify, mark and report the potholes, but he would rather not carry out any Admin tasks.

Public:-

- b. Mrs Walker requested a copy of "nn" in correspondence – TTRO road closure at Blenheim Road. The Clerk will email the details.

35/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 17th February 2026 (To be confirmed).
Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 7.30pm.

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