

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Horspath Village Hall
on 7th April 2026 at 7.30pm.

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

Apologies Mrs H Franklin, Mr P Hookham, Mr B Igoe.

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

Public: 10

54/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

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

55/26 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS. - None.

56/26 EMERGENCY BUSINESS. – None.

57/26 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Meeting held on Wednesday 24th March 2026 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

58/26 MATTERS ARISING. – None.

59/26 PLANNING APPLICATIONS. – None.

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.

P25/S2872/ Lower Acres, Sandy Lane, Horspath

(Householder)

HH Removal of static caravan, demolition of lean to storage shed and construction of 4 bay garage with room over. – **Granted.**

60/26 CLERK UPDATE.

Play Area Inspection – Waiting for the quotation to carry out repairs.

Property on the Green – It was agreed that the Clerk will write to the resident to arrange a meeting.

Meeting with OCC – Mrs Oakley and Mr O'Brien will attend a meeting with Jon Beale, OCC, on 9th April 2026 to discuss the chicane on Oxford Road and speed issues in the village. The problem with potholes will also be reported to Mr Beale.

Rock Salt – HPC has been added to the list for an order for next winter.

Plaques for benches – Mr Coolman will fit the plaques.

SODC Tree Officer – A planning application to remove the English Oak tree has been submitted.

Public Planning Consultations – Email from Mr Martin Harris to all Councillors.

Maintenance of village hall drains – Councillors accepted the quotation provided to carry out maintenance on the drains twice a year.

Appointment of Internal Auditor – Councillors agreed to accept the quotation from Eugenia Skelly.

SODC Enforcement Team – An email regarding a local enquiry circulated to all Councillors.

61/26 UPGRADE OF VILLAGE HALL.

Mr O'Brien stated that there no further update until more information is available on the new ruling on planning, which is due in April.

62/26 NEW BUS SHELTER. - Mr O'Brien stated that a planning application has been submitted to SODC.

63/26 CRICKET CLUB PLANS.

Mrs Oakley circulated the plans provided by the Cricket Club. They have also requested permission to place two separate benches around the cricket club in memory of two residents. Councillors agreed for the benches to be installed. Following a meeting with HPC and the Cricket Club last year, the Cricket Club were asked to remove the staging as it is a fire hazard and is blocking the fire exit. The plan includes a new seating area going from the score board to the Scout Hut, which is where the new disabled parking will be sited when the village hall is refurbished. An alternative would be to remove the staging and keep the tables on concrete rather than being raised which will also enable emergency access. Mr O'Brien stated that the Cricket Club can keep the seating, they were only asked to remove the staging as it is a fire hazard. Mr O'Brien stated that the new seating area is where the disabled parking has been allocated, so it's not possible to have both options. Mrs Cook stated that the staging should have been removed by now and the disabled parking is required. Mr Edwards stated that the Cricket Club intended to remove the decking area but the village hall plans have been delayed since the last meeting. Mrs Oakley stated that when the village hall was inspected by Fire Officer, the emergency exits were blocked which was a fire hazard. Mr Edwards stated that if they receive permission from HPC the nets would go behind the new seating structure, the score board will stay where it is and the scorers hut will be moved closer to the scout hut. Mr Edwards agreed that the existing staging will be removed. Councillors agreed that the awning was not mentioned in the Fire report so it can remain in place. Mr O'Brien gave a copy of the Village hall plans to Mr Hilland. Mr Hilland agreed that the Cricket Club will revise their drawings allowing access for wheelchairs and re-submit them to HPC.

64/26 BURIAL GROUND REGISTER.

Deferred until the next meeting as Mrs Oakley is in the process of updating the register.

65/26 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS. –

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

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

66/26 CORRESPONDENCE.

- a. Morland House Surgery. – March 2026 Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- b. NALC. – Events Newsletter – 3/3/26, 10/3/26, 17/3/26, 24/3/26. (Circulated via email).
- c. Bioabundance. – NPPF consultation response. – (Circulated via email).
- d. SODC. – Town & Parish Council Training – Presentation slides. – (Circulated via email).
- e. NALC – Chief Executive's Bulletin. – 5/3/26, 12/3/26, 19/3/26, 26/3/26, 2/4/26. – (Circulated via email).
- f. RSN. – Weekly News. – 4/3/26, 11/3/26, 18/3/26, 25/3/26, 1/4/26. - (Circulated via email).
- g. Community First Oxfordshire. – Surveys and consultations. – (Circulated via email).
- h. CPRE. – Protecting Oxfordshire's countryside: Campaigns, Consultations & Community Action. – (Circulated via email).

- i. Clear Councils Insurance. – Important notice for our customers. – (Circulated via email).
- j. Oxford City Council. – Local Government Re-organisation for Oxfordshire & West Berkshire. – (Circulated via email).
- k. OCC. – The latest news for your community. – (Circulated via email).
- l. Age UK. – Latest issue of EngAGE magazine. – (Circulated via email).
- m. OCC. – Cutting back vegetation and weeds. – (Circulated via email). – **Mrs Oakley stated that Horspath will not be clearing vegetation from footpaths as this is the responsibility of OCC.**
- n. North Oxfordshire Resident Action. – Common sense planning – add up the impacts before it's too late. – (Circulated via email).
- O. Ms Madden-Waite. – Email regarding the mess in the Bowley Field. – (Circulated via email). – **Mrs Oakley reported that the litter was collected by volunteers during the litter picking event.**
- p. Planning Portal. – Information regarding Planning Portal's service fee. – (Circulated via email).
- q. SODC. – South Oxfordshire Community Governance Review. – (Circulated via email).
- r. OCC. – Local Government Reorganisation – One Oxfordshire. – (Circulated via email).
- s. SODC. – March edition of South News. – (Circulated via email).
- t. ONH. – Planning for good. – (Circulated via email).
- u. Michael Tyce. – A letter from Mr Pennycook. – (Circulated via email).
- v. OCC. – Flood Project Funding – Expression of interest – OCC Priority Action Flood Projects 2026/2027. – (Circulated via email).
- w. Shotover Preservation Society. – Events coming soon. – (Circulated via email).
- x. Didcot Town Council. – Mayor Making 2026. – (Circulated via email).
- y. Ginette Camps-Walsh. – Presenting Petition to No 10 – Last opportunity to sign. – (Circulated via email).
- z. OALC. – February Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- aa. Matthew Barber, TVP. – My local update for you – March 2026. – (Circulated via email).
- bb. SODC. – Communities invited to get moving with Everyone Active Grant. – (Circulated via email).
- cc. SODC. – Hop into Easter with fun for all of the family. – (Circulated via email).
- dd. NALC. – We've launched a new toolkit to help you engage with MP's and parliamentarians. – (Circulated via email).
- ee. Bioabundance. – New book on moving beyond superficial solutions to polycrisis – The Nature Delusion. – (Circulated via email).
- ff. OCC. – The latest news for your communities. – (Circulated via email).
- gg. CPRE. – Shaping Oxfordshire's Future – Planning Battles, Policy Wins & Spring Events. – (Circulated via email).
- hh. SODC. – Culture & Heritage Network Event returns to Cornerhouse. – (Circulated via email).
- ii. SODC. – Town & Parish Council Forum 21/4/26 – Upcoming changes to Planning and Land Charge systems. – (Circulated via email).
- jj. SODC. – Leaders reflect on the close of the Government's LGR Consultation for Oxfordshire & West Berkshire. – (Circulated via email).
- kk. Open Spaces Society. – Consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework. – (Circulated via email).
- ll. North Oxfordshire Resident Action. – Combating Overdevelopment. – (Circulated via email).
- mm. Age UK Oxfordshire. – Together we can support more people living with illness or disability. – (Circulated via email).
- nn. OALC. – March 2026 Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- oo. Ginette Camps-Walsh, Beckley & Stowood Parish Council. – Submission & Petition from Oxfordshire Green Belt Parishes to Government Consultation on LGR for Oxfordshire. – (Circulated via email).

** original held by the Clerk, copy available on request.*

displayed on Village Hall & village noticeboards.

67/26 PAYMENTS.

Paid by	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Home Office March 2026		30.00
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Salary 24/2/26 – 24/3/26		1635.22
BACS	Shield Maintenance	Emptying Dog Hygiene Bins (10026)	16.68	100.10
BACS	Nest	Employee pension contribution 2.4.26		98.30
BACS	Nest	Employee pension contribution 3.3.26		98.30
BACS	OPFA	Annual Subscription		50.00
BACS	ONPA	Annual Subscription		25.00
BACS	Community First Oxfordshire	Annual subscription		70.00
BACS	Mrs Oakley	2 x Plaques	5.32	35.40
BACS	HMRC	Employer Contributions		1376.02
BACS	AJ Young Landscapes	Maintenance of Churchyard March		120.00
BACS	Oxford Duplication Centre	Printing of village scrapbook	36.60	219.60
BACS	Mr Rob Gray	Grass cutting Burial Ground 31/1/26 – 26.3.26		65.00
		Grass cutting Play Area 26.3.26		10.00
BACS	AJ Young Landscapes	Maintenance of Churchyard December		120.00
BACS	Outside Help	Email Address fee (27.3.26)	1.10	6.62
BACS	Mr Rob Gray	BNG Survey		1668.00
		TOTAL	£59.70	£5727.56

Bank balances as of 2.4.26 – £50,089.32

HORSPATH RECREATION CHARITY.

Paid By	Received from	Details	Total £
BACS	SSE	Electricity supply to Village Green	84.90
BACS	Mr Bob Surman	Repairs to Village Green	160.00
BACS	Mr Rob Gray	Grass cutting village green 4/3/26-26/3/26	240.00
		Diesel	49.30
		TOTAL	£534.20

68/26 RECEIPTS.

Date	Received from	Details	Total £
2.4.26	SODC	1 st Instalment of Precept	27,500.00
24.3.26	HVHMC	Transfer of money owed	2814.73
2.3.26	Barclays Bank	Interest	150.97
25.3.26	Mr Powell	Headstone	160.00
20.3.26	Homeward Funerals	1 x internment	160.00
		TOTAL	£30,785.70

RECEIPTS – HORSPATH RECREATION CHARITY.

Date	Received from	Details	Total £
25.3.26	S T Properties	Quarterly rent for Chequers Car Park	712.50
		TOTAL	£712.50

69/26 AOB.

- a. Mr O'Brien stated that it has previously been mentioned that a meeting is required with the Cricket Club to discuss the lease. Mr Parker stated that the lease needs to be drafted, but we need to know what both HPC and the Cricket Club want included in the lease and then decide what needs amending. It was agreed that the Cricket Club will send details of their requirements and then a meeting will be arranged.

Public:-

- b. Mrs Gray asked for an update on planning permission for the refurbishment of the village hall. Mr O'Brien stated that SODC will not register the planning application until all information is available. Mrs Oakley stated that when the play area was installed it took away some of the area that had been allocated for parking spaces. Mr O'Brien stated that due to this it may mean that 22 trees have to be removed which will require 118 new trees to be planted. It's a complicated situation but HPC is hopeful that the new planning ruling due in April will allow us to move forward. Mrs Oakley passed thank to Rob Gray for grass cutting.
- c. Mr Hamlet asked how much money has been allocated to the Conservation Area as no maintenance has been carried out on the bat tunnel for approx. 22 years. HPC has not had access to the bat tunnel so the condition inside is unknown.
- Mr Hamlet stated that Mr O'Brien and Mr Coolman have worked hard on the village hall project but it's not going forward. Mr Hamlet asked if residents were consulted on the refurbishment of the village hall. Mr Coolman stated that a public meeting was held and residents were in favour. Mr Hamlet asked if the village hall is used enough to warrant a refurbishment and suggested that the Scout Hut is changed into toilets and changing rooms for the Cricket Club. Mr Coolman stated that the refurbishment will include separating the Cricket Club. Mr Parker stated that he has no doubt that a refurbishment of the Village Hall is needed. The bookings are very good but there is scope for more with new kitchen facilities. Mr Hamlet suggested employing a legal team to challenge SODC. Mr O'Brien stated that the service from SODC is appalling with staff working from home, all emails sent receive an automated reply which takes around 10 days to reply. Mr O'Brien stated that the new ruling from the Government will simplify planning, so we have to wait for more information.
- d. Mr Hilland asked if some of the items in the old play area can be removed. Councillors agreed that the items can be removed. Mrs Oakley stated that Nuneham Courtney Parish Council were going to take three of the items, but have not made any further contact. Councillors also agreed for the Cricket Club to put up a small picket fence.
- e. Mr Edwards stated that the "Horspath Village" sign on Oxford Road and Hill Farm is missing, as well as the bus stop signs and flags.
- f. Mr Dobson asked if a planning application for the village hall has been submitted for consideration. Mr O'Brien stated that the plans have been submitted but have not yet been registered. Minor details can be changed on the plans before they are registered, but structurally they will not change.
- g. A resident reported that several cameras have appeared on a building at Tanners Yard on Sandy Lane, pointing both up and down the lane. It was agreed that the Clerk will report to the Police.

70/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 21st April 2026 (To be confirmed).
Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 7.30pm.
Horspath Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 22nd April 2026.

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