

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Horspath Village Hall
on 1st September at 7.30pm.

Present: Mrs B Oakley (Chairman), Mr R Burgess, Mrs P Cook, Mrs H Franklin, Mr I Harris, Mr B Igoe, Mr P O'Brien, Mr E Parker, Mr J Underdown, Mrs H Kogel (Clerk).

Apologies Mr L Coolman, Mr G Walker.
Absent: Mr James-Lawrie (District Councillor), Mr Tim Bearder (County Councillor).
Public: 10

156/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

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

157/26 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS. - None.

158/26 EMERGENCY BUSINESS. – None.

159/26 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th August 2026 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

160/26 MATTERS ARISING.

154/26 AOB - (a) Mrs Oakley reported that the recent afternoon tea held on 19th August 2026 raised £592.00 + gift aid for Breast Cancer.

154/26 AOB (c) – Mr Underdown suggested that CCTV signs be installed in the village hall car park. Mrs Oakley will purchase the signs.

161/26 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

P26/S2003/ 26 Gidley Way, Horspath (Householder)
HH Proposed extension of the roof to form hip to gable including increasing the overall height and the insertion of three dormer windows. Erection of a rear extension and a front canopy entrance. – **Councillors have no objections and recommend that this application is approved.**

P26/S3472/ 84 Gidley Way, Horspath (Notification of Lawfulness of proposed use or development)
LDP Erection of a building containing a separate garage and swimming pool. – **Noted.**

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.

P26/S2630/ Land to North of the Green, Horspath (Full Application)
FUL Erection of bus shelter adjacent to existing bus stop. – **Granted.**

162/26 CLERK UPDATE.

Play Area Inspection – The Clerk will contact Playsafety as they have inspected the wrong play area.

SODC Tree Officer – HPC's insurance company have advised that they are waiting for a response from the third party insurance company.

John Beale, OCC – The Clerk will inform John Beale that Councillors agree to the three locations for the speed surveys to be carried out. Mr Beale will look into the possibility of “pedestrians walking” signs being installed on Cuddesdon Road and Gidley Way to Littleworth road.

Property on the Green – A copy of the recent reply from the resident has been circulated to all Councillors.

Lime Tree – Village Green – Councillors accepted the quotation of £440.00 to carry out the work authorised by SODC.

Sandy Lane – The Clerk circulated the reply received from the Freedom Group to a resident, although no reply has been received to the letter sent by HPC. The Clerk has emailed the Freedom Group to request a meeting but no reply received to date. Mrs Cook stated that the contractors have slowed down when using the lane.

Horspath Feast Dates – Councillors have now agreed to the Fair coming to Horspath for two days on 14th & 15th September 2026 as it was too short notice to change and all advertising materials have been printed. Mr Pettigrove has been informed that next year the Fair will be for one day only.

Parking at Gateley – The Clerk circulated an email received from Cllr Bearder and Mr Busby (SODC) regarding the parking at Gateley. Mr Igoe reported that the blue Nissan car has now been removed.

SODC Deep Clean – SODC will be carrying out a deep clean in Horspath from 29th October – 2nd November 2026. Councillors requested that Cuddesdon Road, Gidley Way, Butts Road, Church Road and all pavements around the village are included.

163/26 INCOME & EXPENDITURE V BUDGET & BANK RECONCILIATION. – Deferred until the September meeting.

164/26 EXTERNAL AUDIT 2025/26. – Deferred as not yet received.

165/26 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA.

The Clerk circulated the recent email received from Mr Harris. Mrs Oakley has arranged for a contractor to inspect the fallen tree tomorrow. The root ball is still there, but is on a slope and it is impossible for a contractor to access the area with machinery to fill the hole, so it would need to be done using wheelbarrows. Mrs Oakley requested that Councillors visit the Wildlife Conservation Area to look at the work required and discuss at the next meeting. Mr Burgess suggested that stakes are installed as a retaining wall and type 1 & 2 used for the paths. Mr Burgess suggested that a warden is appointed to carry out regular inspections of the conservation area and to keep the walkways clear. Mrs Oakley will contact Mr Judges to arrange for nettles to be cut back.

166/26 OLD PLAY AREA.

Mrs Oakley received a quotation for £5,000 to remove all play equipment from the old play area and level the area, excluding the cost of a skip. Mr O’Brien agreed to inspect the area and report back. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact the Cricket Club to request that all of the old picnic tables at the back of the cricket pitch are removed.

167/26 UPGRADE OF VILLAGE HALL.

Mr O’Brien reported that he has contacted SODC on several occasions, but still no reply received regarding the decision on the planning application. Mr O’Brien will ask the architect to contact SODC.

168/26 NEW BUS SHELTER.

The architect has confirmed that planning permission has been granted, but no confirmation from SODC has been received.

169/26 MAINTENANCE OF ST GILES CHURCHYARD. – 1 quotation received.

A quotation from AJ Landscapes has been received for £245.00 to remove the brambles along the exterior wall that are overhanging a resident's garden. Councillors accepted the quotation, subject to Mrs Oakley liaising with Mr Lowe to check to see if the work is still required.

170/26 GRASS CUTTING RECREATION GROUND.

It was suggested at the last meeting that additional quotations are sought for grass cutting the recreation ground, Mutton field, two cricket pitches and the play areas. Councillors agreed that additional quotations are obtained.

171/26 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS. –

Report from Cllr James-Lawrie – (District Councillor) – No report available. Mrs Oakley stated that we have not received any correspondence from Cllr James-Lawrie for a long period of time.

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

172/26 CORRESPONDENCE.

- a. NALC – Chief Executive's Bulletin. – 6/8/26, 13/8/26, 20/8/26, 27/8/26. – (Circulated via email).
- b. RSN. – Weekly News. – 13/8/26, 21/8/26. – (Circulated via email).
- c. Clear Councils Insurance. – Your monthly business risk update. – (Circulated via email).
- d. SODC. – Mapping upgrade. – (Circulated via email).
- e. Breakthrough Communications. – August breakthrough bulletin. – (Circulated via email).
- f. SODC. – Planning Portal is evolving – What's changing from 3rd September 2026. – (Circulated via email).
– **Noted.**
- g. NALC. – Events. – 4/8/26, 12/8/26, 18/8/26 – (Circulated via email).
- h. OCC. – The latest news for your communities 13/8/26, 17/8/26, 27/8/26. – (Circulated via email).
- i. OPFA. – Managing greens spaces during drought conditions. – (Circulated via email).
- j. Bloxham Parish Council. – Member contribution. – (Circulated via email).
- k. OCC. – TTRO – Road closure on Gidley Way 29/10/26. – (Circulated via email).
- l. OALC. – Neighbourhood Plan survey. – (Circulated via email).
- m. OCC. – Spruce up your signs. – (Circulated via email).
- n. Mr Dunstan. – Email regarding noise from the village hall. – (Circulated via email). – **Mrs Oakley stated that Natalie Oakley has put forward a suggestion to use a company to ensure the village hall is closed down at 11pm, which would help keep the noise down. This will be discussed further at a meeting of HVHMC on 8th September 2026.**
- o. Cllr Camps-Walsh, Beckley & Stowood Parish Council. – Draft 2 – Letter and representation Re:- 3 Council/Greater Oxford. – (Circulated via email). – **Noted.**
- p. Morland House Surgery. – August newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- q. SODC. – Temporary interruption to planning alert system. – (Circulated via email).
- r. Community First Oxfordshire – AGM 8/10/26. – (Circulated via email).
- s. SODC. – Changes to planning committees and planning enforcement – Invitation to a town & Parish Council briefing on 10/9/26. – (Circulated via email).
- t. SODC. – Councils express concerns on coming government changes to planning process. – (Circulated via email).
- u. SODC. – Cash for community groups with Councillor grant scheme. – (Circulated via email). – **Mr Underdown suggested that HPC could apply for a grant, Mrs Oakley suggested that it could be for a grant for new tables for the village hall. It was agreed to defer this until after the HVHMC meeting.**

- v. Open Spaces Society. – June updates. – (Circulated via email).
 - w. SODC. – Cookery & Culture pop-ups at Cornerstone. – (Circulated via email).
 - x. Open Spaces Society. – Members’ Day 19/9/26. – (Circulated via email).
 - y. Matthew Barber, TVP. – My update for you – August 2026. – (Circulated via email).
 - z. Age UK Oxfordshire. – Build your confidence supporting people with welfare benefits. – (Circulated via email).
 - aa. Oxfordshire Mind. – Your local mental health charity – Donation request. – (Circulated via email).
 - bb. Cllr Tim Bearder. – Local Government Reorganisation. – (Circulated via email).
 - cc. Breakthrough Communications. – Events bulletin. – (Circulated via email).
 - dd. NALC. – Star Council awards 2026/2027 – Councillor of the year. – (Circulated via email).
 - ee. SODC. – Equalities Roadshow to visit towns across South & Vale. – (Circulated via email).
 - ff. SODC. – Fully refurbished changing rooms and a new gym area – Thame Leisure Centre’s major make-over is complete. – (Circulated via email).
 - gg. SODC. – South News August edition. – (Circulated via email).
 - hh. OCC. – Electric blanket testing 2025/26. – (Circulated via email).
 - ii. SODC. – Something new is brewing at Cornerstone. – (Circulated via email).
 - jj. Cllr Tim Bearder. – August 2026 update. – (Circulated via email). – **Noted.**
 - kk. ONH. – Planning for good. – (Circulated via email).
- * original held by the Clerk, copy available on request.*
displayed on village website & noticeboards.

173/26 PAYMENTS.

Paid by	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Home Office August 2026		30.00
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Salary 24/7/26 – 24/8/26		1635.43
BACS	Shield Maintenance	Emptying Dog Hygiene Bins (10671)	20.80	124.80
BACS	Playsafety Ltd	Inspection of Play Area	17.40	104.40
BACS	AJ Landscapes	Maintenance of St Giles Churchyard August		120.00
BACS	AJ Landscapes	Remove weeds/vegetation in burial ground		330.00
BACS	Tetbury Accounting	Payroll fees 2025/2026	56.00	336.00
BACS	Mrs Beverley Oakley	New pad lock for barrier		8.59
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	New printer	14.32	85.95
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	New computer	220.12	1320.72
BACS	Nest	Employee pension contribution 10.8.26		256.83
BACS	Outside Help	Email Address fee (3.8.26)	1.36	8.16
Transfer	HSPC	Repayment of VAT for play area gates		539.60
		Repayment of VAT for play area		23,999.98
		Repayment of un-spent grant for play area		3686.95
		TOTAL	330.00	32,587.41

Bank balances as of 27.8.26 – £57,434.81

Councillors also approved a payment of £20.00 to Mrs Oakley for key cutting.

HORSPATH RECREATION CHARITY.

Paid By	Received from	Details	Total £
BACS	AJ Landscapes	Remove weeds/vegetation from Village Green	375.00

BACS	SSE	Electricity to village green	52.67
		TOTAL	£427.67

174/26 RECEIPTS. – None.

175/26 AOB.

- a. Mr Parker asked if there will be an Agenda for the HVHMC meeting. Mrs Oakley will arrange for an Agenda to be circulated.
- b. Mr Igoe reported that he has received complaints about the wording used on the meal vouchers as they now state “Eat in only”. Mrs Oakley stated that the pub is no longer doing takeaways. Mr Igoe suggested that this wording is retracted as some people prefer to eat at home. Councillors agreed that this is a matter for HSPC and the vouchers have now been printed so the wording will not change. Mrs Oakley stated that 97 vouchers were given out in one day.

Public:-

- c. Mrs Dobson asked the name of the contractor who cut the grass at the school. Mrs Oakley will ask the Headteacher for contact details.
- d. Mrs Brown expressed concern with Thames Water repairs and the village bus service. There is now another 3 days with no bus service on Gidley Way, and this is the 3/4th time it has happened. Mr Parker stated that the bus service is re-routed around the village and HPC cannot do anything about it. Mrs Brown suggested that HPC write to Thames Water copying in Wheatley PC and Garsington PC. The most recent water leak started on Wednesday and was still leaking on Friday and this is during a hosepipe ban. Mrs Oakley stated that there are traffic lights on Cuddesdon Road where Thames Water are repairing a water leak that has been running for 4 weeks. Garsington also has the same problem with Thames Water. Mrs Oakley stated that HPC will write to Thames Water but she does not expect any further action.

176/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 15th September 2026 (To be confirmed).

Horspath Stone Pit Charity Meeting – Wednesday 30th September 2026.

Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 6th October 2026 at 7.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....