

**HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 January 2009**  
**At 8pm in HORSPATH VILLAGE HALL.**

**Present:** Ms S Gray, Mr C Henderson, Mr D Horsley,  
Mrs A Julian, Mrs H Palmer, Mrs S  
Woodcock. Mrs H Kogel (Clerk).

**Apologies** Mr P Dobson, Mr M Harris,  
Mr A Hodgson (District  
Councillor), Mrs J Carr  
(District Councillor), Mrs A  
Purse (County Councillor).

**Public:** 3

**01/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Apologies were made for Mr Dobson, Mr Harris, Mr Hodgson, Mrs Carr and Mrs Purse.

**02/09 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**  
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December were agreed and signed as correct.

**03/09 MATTERS ARISING**  
There were no matters arising.

**04/09 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS** There were no applications to consider.

**05/09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**  
**P08/W1250/ No’s 25a, b & c Manor Farm Road, Horspath**  
**RET** Demolition of existing workshop and storage buildings. Erection of two new dwellings and conversion of existing barn to a dwelling. (Amendment to planning permission P05/W1145. replacement of four roof lights with two dormer windows on dwelling 2. Addition of storm porch on dwelling 2. Reduction in garage door on barn conversion. Revision of parking arrangements and retention of dwelling 1 as originally approved).  
**(Mrs Woodcock left the rooms while discussions and voting took place).**  
**Councillors agreed unanimously to recommend approval.**

**PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.**

**P08/W1156 39 Gidley Way, Horspath (Other)**  
Replace existing garage with new one. – **Granted.**

**06/09 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS. - No reports available.**

**07/09 CLERK UPDATE**

**Chequers Inn** – A letter has been received from TLT Solicitors requesting consent from the Parish Council to underlet the Chequers Inn Car Park as required under clause 2.3 of the lease to the pub tenant Mr Hoque. Councillors agreed that the Clerk write to TLT Solicitors to give consent.

**Manor Drive Footpath** – The Clerk has reported this to OCC and they will arrange for it to be cleaned.

**Property on the Green** – A letter has been received from the residents’ solicitors acknowledging the letter that was sent to Oliver James Estate Agents stating that a detailed reply will be sent in early January.

**Affordable Housing** – Anna Kennedy ORCC has emailed some provisional dates to meet with a representative from SODC and the Parish Council. The Clerk to confirm a date and time.

**Burial Ground** – The Clerk reported that a letter has been received from the resident who has installed a white marble headstone in the Burial Ground that states he has never received a copy of the Burial Ground Rules.

## **08/09 REPORTS/UPDATES**

**Wildlife Conservation Area** – The survey of the bats hibernating in the Horspath tunnel on December 14<sup>th</sup> 2008 resulted in a total of 47 bats examined and recorded, of which 40 were Natterer's, 5 were Daubenton's and 2 were only partially visible in cracks, and were therefore recorded in the general class Myotis. Most of the bats were inside the 'bat furniture' installed in recent years by our volunteers, so this count is a positive indication of a healthy bat population in the area, and shows that the bats like the 'bat furniture'. With only a limited number of volunteers available for any village nature conservation projects, the Wildlife Conservation Area volunteers diverted their attention to tree planting in the Bowley Field on 14th December, when 120 trees were planted according to a planting scheme approved by SODC and the Tree Nursery which supplied all the trees, stakes and wind shields free of charge. A line of three types of cherry trees was planted around the eastern edge of the new sports field, for improved landscape design and for nature conservation reasons, as all three types of cherry will produce fruit for the birds and will act as a partial green screen near the buildings, and provide some welcome shade along the path leading to the Burial Ground in hot summers. One of the types of cherry tree is particularly resistant to drought and heat, whereas the other two types will do well on our soil in normal weather. Along the north east edge of the Bowley Field, a line of beech trees were planted on the ground which is normally well drained, with oaks planted elsewhere in existing gaps further along this boundary. Near the existing mature trees at the west end of the Bowley Field, more oaks were planted, together with a few hornbeam trees, which have done well on this soil before. A total of 540 new trees have now been planted on this site, to more than compensate for the loss of the line of trees whose removal was necessary to expand the village's sports facilities.

**Parish Plan** – Further advice and assistance is being sought from SODC and ORCC on the next stage in the development of an Action Plan. Very few comments have so far been received on the statistics derived from the Parish Plan Questionnaire, or their significance, which are now posted on the Horspath website. However these statistics have already been found very useful in replying to government planning consultations, and in support of the plans to develop improved facilities for youth and for sport and recreation in the village.

**Acquiring ownership of the Horspath Bridge** – The engineering inspection of the Bridge by the County Council's bridge surveyor is awaited.

**South East Plan** – SODC has publicly reconfirmed its opposition to the Minister's proposed changes to the draft South East Plan which would remove the legal protection of the Green Belt near Horspath from building developers. The final South East Plan may now be produced at any time, and proposed as new planning law, by the Secretary of State for the Communities and Local Government. It is expected that all villages likely to be affected by the proposed removal of the protection of the Green Belt will then seek specialist legal advice about the possibility for one last legal challenge - to seek a Judicial Review in the High Court. The Parish Council and the village defence group in Weston-on-the-Green are currently successfully using a Judicial Review to prevent an Eco Town being built all over their village, so Horspath may be able to learn from the use of this legal tactic by local solicitors, but it has been established by SODC's lawyers that there will only be a period of 60 days after the final South East Plan is published to complete all the legal paperwork to seek a Judicial Review if a Parish Council feels that this is the only legal course left to it. The estimated legal cost of seeking a Judicial Review is approximately £10,000, and it would therefore be wise for Horspath Parish Council to carry forward a contingency amount of £10,000 in its annual budget, which could be used at very short notice to engage a barrister for such a purpose at very short notice. **Councillors agreed that although**

they are aware of the possible need for a Judicial Review in the future, to justify allocating £10,000.00 in the 2009/2010 precept, more information, timings and the intentions of SODC would be required, therefore it was decided not to allocate any funds in the precept. (Mrs Palmer abstained).

**Stagecoach** – Mr Horsley to arrange a meeting with Montagu Evans.

**Bus Stop at Gidley Way** – Residents are very pleased with the new bus stop at Ways Barn which has now been installed. John Hammond OCC has obtained a quote of £602.00 to lay a hard standing area at the existing bus stop, of which the Parish Council would be required to pay half. Councillors agreed unanimously to go ahead with the quote and agreed the cost of £300.00. Clerk to inform John Hammond.

#### **09/09 PLAY AREA**

Mrs Julian reported that she has obtained two quotes for the play area to date and is also due to meet with another company recommended by Roger Davis at Rospa. Mrs Julian will complete and submit all application forms as well as a portfolio. Mr Howie Watkins has also been contacted and is very impressed with the proposed project. A decision on the grants applied for should be available by March 2009. Mrs Palmer passed thanks to Mrs Julian for her hard work with this project.

#### **10/09 BURIAL GROUND DRAINAGE – 3 Quotes received.**

The Clerk wrote to the two companies who had submitted quotes for the drainage in the Burial Ground asking them to re-quote on the specification provided. To date no further quotes have been received.

Mr Brookes commented that the two companies will not submit further quotes as it states in the minutes that White Horse Contractors have been recommended to carry out the work required. Mr Horsley and the Clerk corrected Mr Brookes' comment as it actually states in the minutes that "Councillors agreed after taking advice from Mr Goss that the preferred contractor would be White Horse Contractors". It was also agreed that the Clerk contact WHC asking them to review their quote. No decision was made to instruct WHC to carry out the work.

Councillors agreed that the Clerk contact the other two companies and ask them to re-quote as to the specification provided in time for the next meeting. It was also agreed that in future the financial details of any quotes received will not be published in the minutes. To be discussed again at the next meeting.

**11/09 FLOOD PLAN** - It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

#### **12/09 PRECEPT 2009/10**

Councillors agreed unanimously that the Precept for 09/10 would be set at £33,000.00. The Clerk to advise SODC. **There has been no increase in the precept, it remains the same as last year.**

#### **13/09 CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Communities & Local Government – Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power: Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity – A Consultation. – **(Passed to Mr Henderson).**
- b. Oxford City Council – Submission of Oxford Core Strategy DPD (Regulation 30). – **(Mr Harris advised that no reply is necessary from the Parish Council).**
- c. ERHA – Winter 2008 Newsletter.\*
- d. Wheatley Parish Council – December 08/January 09 Newsletter.\*
- e. Oxfordshire Business Education Alliance – Donation Request. – **It was agreed that no donation will be made on this occasion.**

- f. SODC – Town & Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999, SODC 01/2008 – The period for objection on this order has now expired and the Council confirmed the Order on 2.12.08.
- g. SODC – Best Value Performance Indicators. – **(Mrs Woodcock & Mrs Palmer to complete).**
- h. Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment – Newsletter.\*
- i. ORCC – Autumn/Winter Newsletter.\*
- j. Victim Support – Donation Request.–**It was agreed that no donation will be made on this occasion.**
- k. NHS - NHS Dentistry in England.#
- l. NHS Oxfordshire – Winter 2008 Health Newsletter.\*
- m. OCC – Local Village/Town Web Pages. – **It was agreed that the Clerk will pass on Mrs Palmer’s contact details.**
- n. Thame & District Citizens Advice Centre – Thank you for donation letter.\*
- o. Rural Services Network – Opportunity to Join the Rural Services Network. – **It was decided that the Parish Council will not join this scheme.**
- p. The Ramblers – Thame & Wheatley Group Walks Programme.\*#
- q. SODC – Sports Facility Development in South Oxfordshire. – **Mr Harris has replied on behalf of the Parish Council.**
- r. PCSO Ken Cooney – Local Police Routine Monthly Update.\* (Circulated by email).  
*\* original held by the Clerk, copy available on request.*  
*# displayed on Village Hall & village notice boards*

#### 14/09 PAYMENTS

Chq	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
1860	N C Designs	Consultancy Fee for V/Hall Heating	240.63	1615.63
1861	TVE	Engine Oil for KM90	2.87	22.02
1862	Buildbase	Materials for Bowley Field	3.49	26.76
1863	Mr D Gray	Managing Burial Ground Oct/Nov/Dec 08		250.00
1864	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Salary Oct/Nov/Dec 08 Expenses Oct/Nov/Dec 08 Postage/Stationery	4.47	1062.18 90.00 68.93
1865	Mrs Angela Julian	Cost of Hiring Methodist Church Travelling Cost/Refreshments		22.50 9.34
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£251.46</b>	<b>£3167.36</b>

**\*\* The Clerk commented that the cheque for NC Design has been raised and signed but will not be sent until authorisation from Mr Dobson has been received.**

#### 15/09 RECEIPTS.

Date	From Who Received	Details	Total £
6.12.08	Burial Ground	Headstone fee.	100.00
19.12.08	Punch Taverns	Annual rent for Chequers Car Park up to 24th December 2008	200.00
10.12.08	Barclays Bank	Interest on Step Saver acct from 8.9.08 – 7.12.08	25.54
10.12.08	Gillhuber Logistik	Reimbursement for damage to Village Green	100.00
			<b>£425.54</b>

**\*\* The Clerk to check with Punch Taverns that the recent cheque for Annual Rent is correct.**

## **16/09 AOB**

- a. Mrs Julian reported that she has had a complaint from a resident about the safety of the footpath outside the Village Hall stating that the footpath is too narrow and suggesting that the Parish Council consider installing a crossing to the Cycle Track. Mrs Woodcock stated that a zebra crossing cannot be installed as there is not enough distance either side to meet the highway requirements. Mrs Woodcock requested that the resident put the complaint in writing to the Clerk.  
Mrs Julian also reported that Mrs Knight – The Head teacher from Horspath Primary School resigned and left her position at Christmas 2008. Ms Emma Coalman has been appointed to Acting Head teacher for the next year.
- b. Mrs Woodcock asked Mrs Tasker to keep her informed of any potholes in the footpaths.

### **Public:**

- c. Mr Turnbull asked if there was an update on the allotments. Mrs Palmer agreed to contact the Glebe Land Manager for an update.  
Mr Turnbull asked if anything was planned for the land situated by the Pumping House. Mrs Woodcock reported that there has recently been a traffic accident at this location where a car went through the hedge. Mr Turnbull stated that he would have liked to turn the area into either an orchard or a wildlife area which would be good for future planning proposals. Mrs Julian stated that she had recently looked at the land which is approx 10m x 40m and very overgrown, with a view to turning it into a BMX track as the land is out of the way from residents and has a gate that could be locked. At this stage it is only being discussed. Mr Turnbull recommended that it be used as a wildlife area as it is at the side of the railway track.
- d. Mrs Tasker commented that if the Landlord of the Chequers Inn now has the lease on the car park, could they be asked to clean it up.  
Mrs Tasker reported that vehicles are driving over the Village Green by the Xmas Tree area. Mrs Woodcock asked Councillors to keep a look out.

## **17/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.**

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 20 January 2009 (To be confirmed)  
Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009.