

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd February 2009
At 8pm in HORSPATH VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Mr P Dobson, Ms S Gray, Mr M Harris, Mr D Horsley, Mrs A Julian, Mrs H Palmer, Mrs S Woodcock. Mrs H Kogel (Clerk), Mrs A Purse (County Councillor).

Apologies Mr C Henderson, Mr A Hodgson (District Councillor), Mrs J Carr (District Councillor).

Public: 2

18/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies were made for Mr Henderson, Mr Hodgson and Mrs Carr.

19/09 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th January 2009 were agreed and signed as correct.

20/09 MATTERS ARISING

07/09 Property on the Green – Mr Harris asked that the Clerk inform SODC and the Land Registry Office of the on-going dispute at this property. Mr Horsley stated that as no further reply has been received from the owners solicitors then the Clerk should write to the Solicitor stating that as no reply has been received, ask their client to remove the fence.

21/09 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS There were no applications to consider.

22/09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS - There were no planning applications to consider.

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.

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).
- **Granted.**

23/09 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

Mr Hodgson (District Councillor) asked that the following information be passed onto Councillors:-

137 Cuddesdon Road – Mr Hodgson has spoken to SODC regarding this property and the Enforcement Team is writing a report at the moment regarding the Certificate of Lawful Development. Once this has been checked by their legal team enforcement action will commence in approx four weeks.

New Waste Collection – Mr Hodgson also provided an update on the new waste collection service, but this is covered by the email circulated today from SODC.

Mrs Anne Purse (County Councillor)

Mrs Purse reminded Councillors and residents to keep a look out for the proposals in the Transform Oxford project. This project has some good points but there are some things included in it that need investigating as they may effect people travelling into town from the east side of Oxford. The public

must be aware of what is going on, the proposals are to pedestrianise the whole of Oxford city centre, with no buses permitted in Queen Street and reduced buses in High Street. If the proposals go ahead, shoppers using public transport will have to walk a long way into town from the drop off point. The Clerk will contact Mr Huw Jones at OCC for more details.

24/09 CLERK UPDATE

Bus Stop at Gidley Way – The Clerk has confirmed with Mr John Hammond at OCC that the Parish Council would like to go ahead and install a hard standing area at the existing bus stop on Gidley Way. The maximum cost to the Parish Council will be £301.00. Mr Hammond will contact Mrs Woodcock to arrange a site meeting to confirm the size of the hard standing area. Mr Hammond stated that they have sufficient funds available in their budget to carry out the work in the current financial year. Mrs Woodcock received a letter from Mrs Jean Wood thanking the Parish Council for the new bus stop.

Affordable Housing – Anna Kennedy ORCC has arranged a meeting on Thursday 5th February 2009 at 10am at SODC Council Offices. Mrs Woodcock, Mrs Palmer and Ms Gray to attend.

Confirmation of the Precept 2009/10 – SODC has confirmed the Precept for 2009/10.

Painting of the Bus Shelter – Two quotes have been received to paint the bus shelter. It was agreed that Mrs Woodcock will contact the successful contractor and arrange for the work to be carried out.

SODC – The New Waste Collection Service – The Clerk circulated details of the new waste collection service to all Councillors. SODC are holding presentations on 3, 4 & 5th March 2009 and have invited three representatives from the Parish Council to attend. It was agreed that Mrs Woodcock and Mr Dobson will attend on the 4th March.

25/09 REPORTS/UPDATES

Wildlife Conservation Area – The new petrol-driven hedge cutter has been regularly used to cut back vegetation growing over the paths. It does the work of about 10 volunteers using hand shears.

Volunteers worked on several days in January clearing up the accumulated cut vegetation, and the pond was successfully cleared of last summer's debris on the last day of the month, just before the snowy weather arrived. The total number of bats found hibernating in the tunnel on 18th January was 55, which is equal to the maximum number recorded last January. They will be monitored again in February.

Parish Plan – Nothing to report. To be removed from the agenda for the time being.

Acquiring ownership of the Horspath Bridge – Still waiting for the inspection of the Bridge by the County Council's bridge surveyor. To be removed from the agenda for the time being.

South East Plan – The government has still not published the final South East Plan, which will indicate its development policy governing Green Belt villages like Horspath, so there can be no response yet by SODC.

The final plans for the government's "Eco-towns" are still not announced, so the proposal for one in Oxfordshire near Bicester remains undetermined. This may have some relevance for the total numbers of houses to be imposed upon Central Oxfordshire by GOSE, and may therefore affect Horspath indirectly. Oxford City Council's draft Core Strategy for its Local Development Framework (the LDF supersedes the last Local Plan) has required some revision by the examining Inspector, presumably because of some inadequacy in its content. SODC's own draft Core Strategy for its LDF is under development, and at GOSE's insistence, it will unfortunately include the option for building a "mixed use urban extension to Oxford City" on SODC Green Belt land "south of Oxford", in the large area near to Horspath, on which SODC has already consulted Horspath Parish Council - essentially an area of about 1,000 acres extending from Garsington parish southwards to Nuneham Courtney. Nuneham Courtney has not recently had a functioning Parish Council, so the Baldons Parish Council may be asked to represent that village.

On Sunday 19th April, the Oxfordshire CPRE will hold a public rally on Shotover, with a mass walk down the local section of the "Green Belt Way" footpath to Horspath Village Hall for a meeting over tea and biscuits, to raise public awareness of the on-going campaign to defend this sector of the Oxford Green Belt from building development. It is hoped that this event will be covered by regional TV, and the tea and biscuits meeting in the Village Hall will be open to anyone in Horspath to attend. Let's hope it's a fine day, and that the (non-political) invited VIP actually makes it as far as Horspath this year!

Stagecoach – Mr Horsley and Mr Henderson will attend a meeting on Monday 9th February with a representative from Montagu Evans and Martin Stevens the Managing Director of Stagecoach to discuss the future plans for the site. Councillors agreed that if asked by Stagecoach, the Parish Council would not be prepared to sell the site to them. The preferred option would be to issue a new 21 year lease to Stagecoach. Mr Horsley and Mr Henderson will discuss the possible options with Stagecoach and then report back to the Parish Council. Before any final decisions are made a public meeting will be held.

26/09 FINANCIAL DISCUSSIONS - Motion from Mrs S Woodcock – All future discussions concerning the financial aspect of the Precept and of estimates received will be discussed at the end of the meeting when the public will be asked to leave.

Councillors re-affirmed the standing orders for financial discussions.

27/09 PLAY AREA

Mrs Julian reported that she is hoping to submit the proposals to Play builder and Wren within the next week. Mr Horsley stated that Mrs Julian is able to claim back any expenses incurred.

28/09 BURIAL GROUND DRAINAGE

A site meeting was held with Mr Tim Davis who recommended that before any expense is paid out on drainage, the Parish Council should start with clearing out the ditches all around the site and then carry out further tests. Mr Davis recommended a contractor to clear the ditches. It was agreed that Mrs Woodcock will contact the contractors and arrange a meeting to obtain further advice and a quote.

29/09 FLOOD PLAN - It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

30/09 DOOR TO BOILER ROOM, VILLAGE HALL

Mrs Woodcock explained that due to hygiene reasons a separate area is required in the kitchen to store cleaning equipment. Two quotes have been received, one is to build a section in the kitchen using a studded wall, and the other is to build an area in the boiler room with a door leading into it from the kitchen. Councillors agreed that this is a cost that will be covered by the Parish Council and not the Village Hall. The quotes will be opened and considered at the end of the meeting.

31/09 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. South Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership – Community Safety Strategy 2008-2011.*
- b. Mr Coolman – Mole Infestation at the Burial Ground. – **Mrs Woodcock has contacted 2 people for advice. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Mr Coolman stating that it will be reviewed if it is still a problem when the mowing season starts.**
- c. SODC – Changes to Local Plan Policies from 20.11.09.* (Circulated by email).
- d. Earth Anchors Ltd – Brochure.*
- e. Clerks & Councils Direct January 2009.*
- f. Clerks & Councils Direct Supplier Guide & Yearbook.*

- g. OCC – Oxfordshire Campaign against Domestic Abuse 2008/09.*#
- h. Thames Valley Police – Police Station Front Counter Opening Times Leaflet. – **Noted.**
- i. Rospa – Play Safety – Annual Play Area Check. – **Clerk to arrange inspection.**
- j. SODC – Register of Electors December 2008.*
- k. Wickstead Playscapes – Brochure. (Passed to Mrs Julian).
- l. OCC – Home2School Newsletter Spring 2009.*
- m. OPFA – The Playing Field Newsletter. (Passed to Mrs Julian).
- n. ORCC – News Bulletin January 2009.* (Circulated by email).
- o. South Oxfordshire Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers – Donation Request. – **No donation on this occasion.**
- p. Letter from Mrs Barbara Lewis re: The Village Green. – **Mr Horsley confirmed that the vehicle is still parked on the Village Green. There are also track lines all around that area. The owner obviously does not use his garage entrance or the Church car park for parking. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to the resident asking that he does not park on the Village Green and warn him that he is causing criminal damage. The Clerk will also write to Mrs Lewis. Mr Horsley commented that the only way to stop parking on the Village Green is to install bollards around the whole area.**
- q. Thames Valley Police Authority – Bulletin December 08 & January 09.- (Circulated by email).
- r. Wheatley & Chalgrove Neighbourhood Update – January 2009. – (Circulated by email).
** original held by the Clerk, copy available on request.
 # displayed on Village Hall & village notice boards*

32/09 PAYMENTS

Chq	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
1866	SODC	Emptying Dog Hygiene Bins	17.36	133.07
1867	New Leaf Tree Surgery	Removing damaged branches from trees in Conservation Area	18.00	138.00
1868	Mrs Tasker	Bus Shelter Maint Dec 08/Jan 09		113.30
1869	Southern Electric	Power supply to Scout Hut	2.88	22.58
1870	Mr D Gray	Tree for Burial Ground	1.82	13.99
		Burial/Ground Rules Encapsulated		5.00
		Maintenance on Village Mower	7.69	58.98
		TOTAL	£47.75	£484.92

33/09 RECEIPTS.

Date	From Who Received	Details	Total £
11.12.08	TLT Solicitors	Rent for the new lease up to December 2008	519.80
8.12.08	Barclays Bank	Interest on Business Prem Acct from 8.9.08 – 7.12.08	75.50
23.1.09	Scottish & Southern Energy	Annual Rent for Sub Station	0.50
			£595.80

34/09 AOB

- a. Mrs Julian commented that the state of the footpath in the burial ground is shocking. Mrs Woodcock stated that this would be repaired as advised by Mr Tim Davis.
- b. Mr Harris gave an update on the HVSA – On 16.1.09, representatives of Horspath Boys' Football Club, Horspath Men's Football Club, Horspath Cricket Club, and two Parish Councillor members of the HVSA Committee met with advisers on grant funding from the Football Association, The

Oxfordshire Football Association, and the Football Foundation. There is clearly an opportunity for the HVSA to apply for major grant funding to drain the new sports field to enable both Horspath Football Clubs and Horspath Cricket Club to benefit from this proposed improvement to the land. This field drainage would be the first phase of the improvement to the village's sports facilities, especially for younger people, and for girls and women as well as for men and boys. The HVSA Site Plan can be viewed on the Horspath website: www.horspath.org.uk. As soon as the prospects of acquiring the support of the Football Foundation are known, other charitable sources, including local Councils, will be approached for grant contributions. Horspath Cricket Club has already launched its own fund-raising initiative via its own website (www.horspathcricketclub.co.uk) to raise money to pay for the 2nd cricket square. Although the results of the Horspath Parish Plan Household Questionnaire indicate very strong support for tennis in Horspath, there is currently no core of local tennis players identified who will be prepared to run a Horspath Tennis Club, so any Horspath tennis players interested to help to run the Tennis should contact the Chairman of the Parish Council, who is also the Secretary of the HVSA.

Mr Dobson asked how sustainable is the football club. Mr Harris stated that it is actually two football clubs – mens and boys. They will be holding their own meeting and will report back to HVSA. Mr Horsley and Mr Harris will continue to monitor the situation. Mrs Julian suggested that HVSA advertise for anyone who would be interested in running a tennis club. Mrs Woodcock advised HVSA to hold a meeting asap.

- c. Mr Harris reminded Councillors of the CPRE event being held on 19th April at Shotover. MP John Howell has offered to attend and address the public. It was agreed that the Parish Council will supply the refreshments.
- d. Mr Dobson reported that there is a car parking in front of a bus stop along Gidley Way, which means when the bus arrives it blocks Butts Road. Mrs Woodcock asked if a registration number could be obtained and then it can be passed onto PCSO Ken Cooney.
- e. Mr Horsley commented to Anne Purse that the road works in London Road, Headington are a disgrace. They have been going on for 4 months now and just to add to the horrendous traffic problems that it is causing Highways have now closed two lanes of the Eastern Bypass. Mrs Purse stated that OCC are widening pavements hoping to reduce the amount of cars on the road as well as strengthening the bridge over the eastern bypass.

Public

- f. Mrs Tasker reported that there are other residents driving over the Village Green causing damage. Mrs Woodcock will inspect the area in question and report back at the next meeting.

35/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 17 February 2009 (To be confirmed)
Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 3rd March 2009.

The members of the public left the room.

36/09 DOOR TO BOILER ROOM, VILLAGE HALL

Mrs Woodcock opened the 2 quotes received, and Councillors agreed that as the contractors had recommended different options Mrs Woodcock would ask them both to re-quote. When new quotes received, Mrs Woodcock to arrange for the work to be carried out.