

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd February 2010
At 8pm in HORSPATH VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Mr P Dobson, Mr M Harris, Mr C Henderson, Mrs A Julian, Mrs H Palmer, Mr S Turnbull, Mrs S Woodcock, Mr A Hodgson (District Councillor), Mrs A Purse (County Councillor).

Apologies Ms S Gray, Mr D Horsley, Mrs J Carr (District Councillor).

Public: 2

21/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies were made on behalf of Ms Gray, Mr Horsley & Mrs Carr.

22/10 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th January 2010 were amended as follows:-

07/10 Reports/Updates - HVHMC – No meeting of the *HVHMC* had taken place in December, so there was nothing to report.

23/10 MATTERS ARISING

13/10 Horspath Methodist Church – Mrs Woodcock reported that the Methodist Church is due to hold a meeting on 8th February 2010.

24/10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS – There were no planning applications to be considered.

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS – There were no permissions/refusals/appeals.

25/10 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Mrs Ann Purse – County Councillor – Reported that OCC Highways department worked extremely hard during the recent snowfalls. OCC arranged visits to elderly people offering help where needed. The gritting lorries worked round the clock to try to ensure that all main roads were covered, however, there will never be enough staff/vehicles to ensure that all roads are gritted/cleared. Comments have been received stating that if more roads were cleared of the snow then more schools could have opened. There were also reports of buses getting stuck in villages. There was also a shortage of salt, OCC Highways took all salt from areas that were holding stock so there was no more that could have been done. The priorities were to try and keep all through routes open. Mrs Julian commented that none of the roads in the village were cleared at any time. Mr Dobson stated that Oxford City Council used their refuse crews to help clear routes. Mr Harris commented that it was a poor performance from OCC as some of the roads in Horspath were left in an unsafe position, particularly Gidley Way where there was an incident where funeral cars attempted to go up Gidley Way and slipped back down. Mr Dobson suggested that if grit was available then villagers would help out in spreading it on the roads. Mrs Purse will arrange for more salt bins to be delivered to the village. Mrs Woodcock suggested that they be located on every hill in the village, particularly Gidley Way and Church Road. Mrs Julian commented that farmers used to have a contract to help with gritting the roads, Mrs Purse will mention this option to OCC. Mrs Purse offered her help and assistance to the Council if needed and agreed to hold clinics in the future if required.

Mr Andrew Hodgson – District Councillor – Commented on the recent correspondence received from SODC – Referral of Planning Applications to the Planning Committee. The aim is to be more efficient and save time. Mr Henderson commented that Parish Council's will have to be careful in future when making comments on planning applications.

26/10 CLERK'S UPDATE.

Barclays Bank – The mandate forms have been returned again for further signatures.

Chicanes at Cuddesdon Road – No reply has been received to date from Malcolm Bowler.

Precept 2010/11 – SODC has confirmed the precept at £33,000.00.

Internal Auditor – Mr Brian Rollerson recommended Mr Phillip Hood to take over the Internal Auditor's role. He has sent through a letter stating fees and mileage charges. It was agreed that the Clerk sign and return the agreement.

Gidley Way – SODC has been informed about the high fence recently erected in Gidley Way. Mr Tom Allington will arrange for an inspection to take place.

27/10 REPORTS/UPDATES.

Wildlife Conservation Area – The trees which the Council determined were potential Health & Safety hazards were efficiently removed by a team from Robinson's Trees on 20th January. No damage was caused by this operation to the property of any Third Parties, and some minor damage caused by Robinson's use of vehicles on the grass has now been repaired. Some of the locks and chains on the gate to the bat hibernation tunnel have been renewed to protect these important species against unlawful interference. The water level in the tunnel and in the pond has been exceptionally high throughout January, and this has delayed some routine seasonal maintenance. During the recent period of snow cover, hundreds of local residents continued to visit the site, and the need for some path repairs will be re-assessed next month. The 110 free trees from SODC were delivered on 27th January, and will be planted by volunteers to fill in gaps in the existing tree planting scheme on the Village Hall site.

South East Plan - The legal case, successfully brought by SODC to challenge the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government's decision to include the proposed 'urban extension' in the 'South Oxford Strategic Development Area' (in the Green Belt) in the final version of the South East Plan, has still not been settled. As a result, various developers and landowners are hoping to find another means to expand the City of Oxford into the Green Belt. The City Council is proposing to continue to develop its own Core Strategy before the legal case about the South East Plan is settled, and Horspath Parish Council has informed the Planning Inspector who has taken over the Examination in Public, that this approach will be impractical. Mr. Harris will meet with the Inspector on 9th February.

HVSA – No meeting of the HVSA had taken place, so there was nothing to report.

HVHMC – Mr Dobson commented that no meeting has been held therefore no report is available, however he did mention that there has recently been a break in at the Village Hall. Mr Dobson commented that he has never received any correspondence relating to the Village Hall so is very concerned on where it is being posted to. Mr Turnbull suggested that a meeting is called very soon with the idea of reforming the VHMC. (Details to be advertised on the website and the village noticeboards). It was agreed that a meeting will be held on 16th February 2010 at 8pm in the Morgan Room asking for volunteers to join the VHMC.

28/10 TREE OUTSIDE VILLAGE STORES

Councillors agreed that there were no objections for the crown to be lifted to the legal height and the over-hanging branches in Mr Patel's garden to be removed.

29/10 PLAY AREA UPDATE.

Mrs Julian reported that the equipment has been ordered for the large play area. Mrs Julian will meet with the contractor this weekend to plan the site. Wren are in the process of issuing a contract on the small play area (which will need to be added to the Parish Council's insurance policy when completed). £45,000.00 is available but Wren will only pay for works carried out. It is estimated that the large play area should be completed in March and the small play area in April/May. Mrs Julian will be attending a course on inspecting play area's.

30/10 BURIAL GROUND DRAINAGE - Mr. Turnbull stated that there was no progress to report.

31/10 SCOUT HUT

Mr Ed Murray stated that the entire membership and revenue of HVSA is generated from the Cricket Club. HVSA wants to convert part of the Scout Hut into temporary changing room facilities until such time as property development takes place. As the Cricket Club now has two pitches more games will be played so additional changing room facilities are required.

Mr Dobson stated that he is happy to support this project, but asked what would happen if the Football Club come here? Mr Murray stated that the changing rooms will be a HVSA facility and will be available for any sports club to use.

Mr Turnbull asked who would cover the costs? Mr Murray stated that the principle funding will come from HVSA, 99% of which is generated by the Cricket Club. If the Parish Council would agree to initially pay for the materials, the VAT can be reclaimed and then the costs repaid back by HVSA. It is possible that grant funding may be available, but either way there will be no cost to the taxpayer. It is estimated that the cost will be between £5000 - £7500 for the materials and all labour will be carried out by volunteers.

Mr Murray explained that all equipment currently stored in the Scout Hut will remain there. The wall between the equipment storage and the changing rooms will be a fire resistant wall. The ladies cricket team in Horspath play at different times to the men's cricket so the changing facilities would not be a problem. The toilets will be unisex.

Mr Harris stated that he too supports the project, however the Scout Hut is covered on the Parish Council's insurance and to comply with that the building modifications will have to meet their requirements which will include building regulations. At the moment the Scout Hut is a dis-used building but when it becomes changing rooms it is classed as a public building so it will also need to comply with DDA Act. Mr Murray stated that the objective tonight was to get an indication of the acceptability of the project. If it goes ahead it will all be done on recommendations from a Building Inspector and advice will be taken on the DDA Act. All running and maintenance costs will be met by HVSA.

Mr Murray stated that at present the club room holds a maximum of 48 people, but an awning has been purchased to increase the area. The Cricket Club is a successful and growing club and in 2-3 years time will need to look at extending the club room facilities.

Mr Henderson stated that he supports the project on condition that as the Parish Council owns the building we will need to be satisfied that all building regulations are met and running/maintenance costs will be covered.

Councillors agreed in principle that HVSA take the project forward. Mrs Woodcock asked that Mr Murray keep the Parish Council informed on their progress.

32/10 WATER BOARD – Update from Mr Turnbull

Mr Turnbull reported that the plumber has carried out the work required. The upstairs tank has not been done as the plumber has stated that it is not a problem. Mrs Woodcock is to meet with Thames Water next week. Mr Turnbull stated that the water system for the sprinklers needs to be modified.

33/10 UPDATE ON VILLAGE HALL –NEW BOILER & HEATING SYSTEM.

Mr Turnbull has met the plumber and discussed the heating system. The radiators along with the piping will probably need to be replaced. Mrs Woodcock stated that there is no need to have radiators in the Doctor's room as this can be heated using freestanding heaters as and when needed. Mr Turnbull stated that the Village Hall will all need to be insulated. Mr Turnbull will report back at next meeting when the quote has been received.

34/10 HORSPATH SENIOR RESIDENTS CLUB – Donation Request.

Councillors agreed to make a donation of £50.00.

35/10 CORRESPONDENCE.

- a. SODC – Planning Services – Updated List of Settlement Categories 2009.*
- b. OPFA – The Playing Field Newsletter Winter 2010. – (Passed to Mrs Julian).
- c. Society of Local Council Clerks – “Setting Up & Managing Allotments” Course on 1.3.10.*
- d. Playsafety Ltd – Annual Play Area Inspection.* - **Clerk to arrange inspection.**
- e. SODC – Referral of Planning Applications to the Planning Committee.
- f. OCC – Local Transport Plan 3 (2011-2030), Consultation 4: Draft Policies. – (Passed to Mrs Woodcock).
- g. Clerks & Councils Direct – Newsletter January 2010.*
- h. OCC – Home 2 School Newsletter Spring 2010.*
- i. NHS Oxfordshire – Health News Issue 4 2009.*
- j. SODC – Additional Wallingford Consultation – South Oxfordshire Core Strategy. – (circulated via email).
- k. ORCC – January 2010 News Bulletin. – (Circulated via email).
- l. NALC – Local Council Awards 2010. – (Circulated via email).

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

displayed on Village Hall & village noticeboards

36/10 PAYMENTS.

Chq	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
1956	Mr Martin Harris	Expenses for South East Plan Stationery Materials/Locks for Conservation Area		38.45 107.81
1957	Mrs Tasker	Bus Shelter Maint Dec 09/Jan 10		120.00
1958	Robinson's Trees	Tree Felling in Conservation Area	109.38	734.38
1959	Southern Electric	Power supply to Scout Hut	2.91	22.21
1960	Southern Electric	CHEQUE CANCELLED		
1961	Southern Electric	Power supply for Xmas Tree	1.03	62.74
1962	H/P Parochial Charity	Donation		100.00
1963	SODC	Emptying Dog Bins	80.60	617.91
1964	Senior Residents Club	Donation		50.00
		TOTAL	£193.92	£1853.50

37/10 RECEIPTS

Date	From Who Received	Details	Total £
24.1.10	Southern Electric	Annual Rent for Sub-station	0.50
7.12.09	Barclays Bank	Interest Business Saver Acct 7.9.09-6.12.09	4.45
7.12.09	Barclays Bank	Interest Business Saver Acct upto 4.12.09	1.31
			£6.26

38/10 ANY OTHER BUSIUNESS

- a. Mr Turnbull reported that there was a generator outside Stagecoach in the hedge by the Marathons playing field. If Stagecoach is planning on making any alterations then they need to inform the Parish Council. Mrs Woodcock will check out and report at next meeting.
- b. Mrs Palmer reported that there are 15 allotments allocated, with 7 spare plots available.
- c. Mr Harris passed thanks to Mrs Palmer for her hard work with the website.
- d. Mrs Julian reported that Horspath Primary School are looking to raise money to provide play equipment for the reception age group. If the slide in the Village Hall play area is no longer required, would the Parish Council be prepared to donate it to the School. Councillors agreed to this request.

Mrs Julian stated that she will liaise with Mr Goss as there appears to be a lot of confusion at the moment on the Village Hall bookings. Mr Turnbull reported that Ray Jeffs needs to be kept up to date on what is going on in the Village Hall.

- e. Mrs Woodcock asked that the Clerk write to Ms Judy Tuckwell to thank her for donating the Christmas tree.

39/10. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 16th February 2010 (To be confirmed)

Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 2 March 2010.