

Mr Harris gave the following report:- As the most important part of its Local Development Framework (LDF), SODC has produced a draft "Core Strategy" document, which has been posted on the SODC website before any approval by the SODC Cabinet on 5th March. Of significance to Horspath is the unwelcome inclusion in this Core Strategy of a "Preferred Option" to build a "South of Oxford urban extension" in the Green Belt, which would extend all the way north from Grenoble Road and Blackbird Leys, as far into Garsington Parish as the south side of the Unipart storage building near Horspath. This would be totally contrary to the recommendation of Horspath Parish Council, which was made in response to the public consultation carried out by SODC in August 2008. In common with responses to SODC made by Garsington, Wheatley, The Baldons, and Sandford on Thames Parish Councils, Horspath Parish Council recommended to SODC that this urban extension was not necessary, and if it is built, it should be confined to a strip of additional housing, without any business or industry included, on the south side of Grenoble Road. The draft proposal to extend the urban extension into nearby Garsington would threaten to close the Green Belt gap which keeps Garsington separate from Cowley, and would put the future independence of Horspath from Oxford under threat. SODC will start the public consultation about a slightly revised version of its Core Strategy from 17th March until 1st May 09, and it will be very important that Horspath Parish Council responds appropriately. From the initial results of the Horspath Parish Plan Household Questionnaire published on www.horspath.org.uk the Parish Council is fully aware that 94% of the households in Horspath strongly support Horspath remaining as a village separated from Oxford by a strip of Green Belt fields, and it will respond accordingly to any proposals by SODC which conflict with this majority wish. The SODC Councillors for Horspath will also make representations. Mr Harris to arrange a meeting with Garsington & Wheatley Parish Council's to discuss how to respond. Horspath Parish Council will send their response in April 2009. Mr Harris also requested that the Clerk contact SODC to invite a Planning Officer to attend the April 2009 meeting to talk to Councillors in more detail.

Mrs Anne Purse (County Councillor)

Mrs Purse reported that the proposals for the Transform Oxford project are now considered to be a less preferred strategy. The road works in Headington are being carried out in stages over the next couple of years. The road works on the by-pass are partly related to repairs to the bridge and partly to the barriers installed. The traffic problem in these areas does not seem as bad lately.

43/09 CLERK UPDATE

Resident Parking/Driving on Village Green – A letter has been sent to the resident who is parking/driving on the Village Green. No reply received to date.

Property on the Village Green – A letter recently received from the resident's solicitors was circulated to all Councillors. It was agreed that the Clerk reply to the Solicitors stating that according to Parish Council records the land was registered in 1965 and that the Parish Council do not wish to enter into expensive legal proceedings over the exact title of the land but will do if necessary, therefore ask that the fence be removed without further delay.

Painting of Bus Shelter – Mrs Woodcock passed thanks to Mr Mark Tasker for painting the bus shelter. Mrs Woodcock also mentioned that she has asked Mr Richards to replace the plywood that has been pulled down from the roof and then paint with anti-graffiti paint.

Existing Bus Stop – No further correspondence has been received regarding installing a hard standing area at the existing bus stop at Gidley Way. The Clerk to contact Mr John Hammond.

44/09 REPORTS/UPDATES

Wildlife Conservation Area – On 22.2.09 the bats hibernating in the tunnel were visited for the last time this winter, and with only 20 remaining, there is ample proof that the other 35 recorded in there in January had already moved outside in response to the milder weather and availability of insect food. The heavy rainfall in February flooded the floor of the tunnel further inside than the 40 metre mark,

and raised the water level up to the overflow sluices in the frog pond just outside. Floating Duck Weed covered 100% of the water surface in early February, and so a skimmer has been constructed and used to remove it from 20% of the water surface, as this is recommended to encourage other pond plants to grow and oxygenate the water. Only a few frogs had arrived by their usual arrival date of March 1st. Two small trees which are leaning progressively over the circular path will be removed in March.

South East Plan – The Government Office for the South East has acknowledged on 3.3.09 twelve formal objections by Horspath Parish Council to parts of the Minister's proposed Changes to the South East Plan registered in October 2008. The Minister for Communities and Local Government is expected to publish the final version of the South East Plan this spring. The Minister's proposed changes to the Plan indicated a risk that even larger housing numbers might be imposed on our District, and that there may be no definite geographical limit set in the Plan to counter the outward expansion of the City of Oxford into the nearby Green Belt. Horspath Parish Council has therefore formally objected to all the Minister's proposals which might allow any more building in the nearby Green Belt, and has made it very clear to the Minister that Cowley must not be allowed to sprawl outwards to join up with Horspath. As the new Regional Spatial Strategy, the South East Plan will have greater legal authority over planning in Horspath than the Local Development Framework, which is the local planning policy under development by SODC, so Horspath will rely upon SODC to make the necessary legal challenge to the Minister, if the final South East Plan contains any policy which is unacceptable locally.

HVSA - The Committee of the Horspath Village Sports Association met on 25.2.2009, and it was decided to make the drainage of the new sports field the priority for Phase 1 of the HVSA Plan, with funding to be sought for the development of boys', girls', men's and women's football, as well for securing a home base in the village for the existing Horspath Boys (soon to become Horspath Youth Football Club) and Horspath Men's Football Club. It was recognised that a Development Plan is required for submission to the Football Association, and that funding from a variety of local sources will be required. A decision was taken to advertise on the village notice boards and on the website for tennis players in Horspath to come forward and form a Horspath Tennis Club as a means to gain support for applying for grants to build two hard tennis courts.

Stagecoach – Mr Horsley and Mr Henderson met with the Managing Director of Stagecoach who stated that it was their wish to stay at the Horspath Road site and will be looking at agreeing a long lease. They accepted the principle that if a new lease was agreed for 60 years then the remaining 12 years would stay at the current rate of £1300.00 pa and then a new rate set for the next 48 years. The total cost for the 60 years would then be averaged out to give a new annual rent cost. The new lease cost would be decided by the District Auditor. The Managing Director asked that if they were able to acquire the adjoining fields would the Parish Council support their plans to extend the site. Mr Horsley commented that it would be unlikely that the Parish Council would support this. Mr Horsley advised the Clerk to set up a separate account for the Stonepit Charity.

45/09 PLAY AREA UPDATE AND FUNDING

Mrs Julian has now submitted the two grant applications – Playbuilder and Wren, both of which have confirmed receipt. Wren has stated that their grant funding also requires 3rd party funding. Mrs Julian asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to be the 3rd party, which if accepted would have to donate £4950.00 to the project. Councillors agreed to cover this cost. The Clerk will write to Wren confirming that the Parish Council is willing to contribute the 3rd party funding. Mrs Woodcock thanked Mrs Julian for her hard work with this project.

46/09 BURIAL GROUND DRAINAGE

Mrs Woodcock reported that she had met with Roger from McKenna's on site to discuss the drainage. He recommended that the first lot of drainage is installed outside the wall of the Burial Ground on Mr Walker's land down and through the hedge by the kissing gate into the ditch along the Oxford Road. As well as this he suggested that a land drain inside the Burial Ground joining at the same point. Mrs Woodcock has asked Roger to submit a quote for the work as recommended. Roger commented that an additional cost of approx £2000.00 would be incurred if the Parish Council required the spoil to be taken away and disposed of, or, if there was somewhere it could be stored this would obviously save the Parish Council money. Mr Harris commented that it could go along the side of Oxford Road in the wildlife area of the Bowley Field.

Mrs Woodcock reported that she has received a quote for £800.00 - £900.00 to remove the mole hills in the burial ground. It was agreed as before to review the situation when the mowing season starts.

47/09 DOOR TO BOILER ROOM, VILLAGE HALL

The door has now been done. Whilst the work was being carried out, it was discovered that there is no hot water and that there is a loose wire that is not connected to the boiler. Mr Dobson to contact Mr Goss to see who installed the boiler.

48/09 REPAIRS TO VILLAGE HALL

Mrs Woodcock arranged for Mr Hackett to repair the guttering outside of the village hall. The cost is £63.25. Mrs Woodcock commented that discussions need to take place to define who, Parish Council or VHMC covers the cost of works carried out.

49/09 TREE OUTSIDE VILLAGE STORES

Mrs Woodcock reported that she has had a request for some of the branches on the tree outside of the Village Stores to be cut back. Before this work can be done permission from SODC is needed as the tree is covered by a TPO. If permission is obtained then the cost would need to be covered by the resident who has asked for this work to be done.

50/09 AFFORDABLE HOUSING MEETING

Mrs Woodcock and Mrs Palmer attended a meeting at SODC to discuss Affordable Housing. Mrs Woodcock reported that SODC were horrified at the past allocation process. Mrs Woodcock has an allocation guide book which confirms that there were lots of procedures that were not adhered to when allocating the houses in the past. A notice should be displayed of village notice boards when a property becomes vacant. Mrs Woodcock advised SODC that if the Parish Council cannot be involved in the final allocation process then the Parish Council would not support a third phase. Mr Horsley proposed that SODC should be notified that the Parish Council will not support a third phase of affordable housing unless there are guarantees that the Parish Council will be involved in the final selection process such that the families that identified themselves in the ORCC Housing Needs Survey are prioritized.

51/09 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Thame & District Citizens Advice Bureau – Donation Request.-**Donation already made in Oct 2008.**
- b. SODC – Oakley Wood Redevelopment. – **Noted.**
- c. Wheatley Park School – Invitation to the Official Opening of English & Media Centre on 27.2.09. – (Circulated by email).
- d. SODC – What's Special about Rural South Oxfordshire? – Invitation to a Workshop. – **Mr Harris to attend.**
- e. OGBN – Subscription Renewal - £15.00. – **Subscription renewed.**

- f. BDO Stoy Hayward – Local Council Briefing Spring 2009.*
- g. Wheatley Parish Council – Newsletter Feb/March 2009.*
- h. SODC – South Oxfordshire Core Strategy – Preferred Options. – **See report above 42/09.**
- i. ORCC – Annual Evaluation of Oxfordshire Rural Community Council – Questionnaire. – **(Passed to Mr Harris to complete).**
- j. SODC – Electronic Consultation on Planning Applications. – **Mr Horsley commented that by changing to electronic consultations he will be required to print copies of the plans for neighbours to see.**
- k. John Howell MP – Dates for Local Surgeries.*#
- l. SODC – Standards Committee Feedback January 2009.
- m. SODC – Minutes of a Standards Committee Meeting held on 19.1.09.*
- n. Thames Valley Police – Community Policing Awards 2009 Posters.*#
** original held by the Clerk, copy available on request.
 # displayed on Village Hall & village notice boards*

52/09 PAYMENTS

Chq	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
1871	Buildbase	Materials for Conservation Area	0.76	5.80
1872	OGBN	Annual Subscription		15.00
1873	P & R Roofing Ltd	Repairs to guttering at Village Hall	8.25	63.25
1874	ORCC	Set of Information Sheets		25.00
		TOTAL	9.01	109.05

53/09 RECEIPTS.

Date	From Who Received	Details	Total £
20.2.09	Environment Agency	Annual Rent for Borehole	150.00
			£150.00

54/09 AOB

- a. Mr Henderson asked who is responsible for public footpaths. Mrs Palmer stated that the contact details for Oxfordshire County Council are listed on the village website.
- b. Mr Harris reported that CPRE are holding a meeting in the Village Hall on 19th April 2009 and have asked to use the sound system. It was agreed that a charge of £45.00 will be made for the use of this facility.
- c. Mr Harris commented that it is the joint responsibility of the Parish Council and HVMC to meet the DDA 1995 requirements for the village hall. Mr Harris agreed to obtain more information on the requirements for exit doors and for grants that may be available. It was agreed that the Clerk will order a set of statutory requirements at a cost of £25.00.
- d. Mr Turnbull reported that he had recently found and disposed of a syringe that was found on the cycle path in Horspath.
- e. Mr Dobson stated that he would like a copy of the agreement for the Village Hall. Mr Dobson commented that arrangements need to be made to stop the post for the village hall being sent to Mr Mayling.
- f. Mrs Palmer reported that she has recently received a complaint from a resident in Butts Road about dog fouling and was asked if the Parish Council could write to the owners of the dogs. Mrs Woodcock asked that the dog owner's names be forwarded to the Council.
- g. Mr Horsley asked Mrs Purse for her assistance with the parking problem along Church Road at peak school times. OCC has recently installed yellow checked lines outside of the school but has left a space where two cars were parked when installing the lines. The problem with these lines is that it has

just moved the parking problem further down Church Road where the road is much narrower. This causes a problem whereby cars have to reverse down the narrow road with parked cars at the side where children are walking to school. Mrs Julian commented that the bottom gate that has been installed also causes a problem. The suggestion is that the yellow lines are removed and a barrier be installed outside of the gate. Mrs Purse will arrange a site meeting with Mr Peter Ronald from OCC.

Public:

h. Mrs Tasker commented that parents are parking on the paths by the school causing obstruction.

55/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 17 March 2009 (To be confirmed)
Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 7th April 2009.

The members of the public left the room.

56/09 GUTTERING AROUND THE VILLAGE HALL

It was agreed that Mr Dobson will consider the quotes received and make a decision.