

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th April 2010
At 8pm in HORSPATH VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Mr M Harris, Mr C Henderson, Mrs H Palmer, Mr S Turnbull, Mrs S Woodcock, Mrs A Purse (County Councillor). **Apologies** Mr P Dobson, Ms S Gray, Mr D Horsley, Mrs A Julian, Mrs J Carr (District Councillor), Mr A Hodgson (District Councillor).
Public: 15

58/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies were made on behalf of Mr Dobson, Ms Gray, Mr Horsley, Mrs Julian Mrs Carr and Mr Hodgson.

59/10 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd March 2010 were amended as follows:-

60/10 Burial Ground Drainage – Mr Turnbull will draw up some plans of his suggestions for the drainage. The minutes were then agreed and signed by the Chairman.

61/10 MATTERS ARISING

42/10 (28/10) /10 - TREE OUTSIDE VILLAGE STORES

The Clerk will ask Mr McGregor to return the forms and if possible they will be completed by a member of the Parish Council.

62/10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P10/W0342 20 Gidley Way, Horspath (Other)

Demolition of existing extension and construction of new single storey pitch roof extension and new sun room with pitched roof. Includes side porch. – **Councillors agreed that there were No Strong Views on this application.**

P10/W0249 31 Manor Farm Road, Horspath (Other)

Two storey rear extension and replacing outbuildings with new detached garage and store.

Mr John Madden expressed concern on vehicular access to the piece of land at that back. Mr Tom Shepherd confirmed that the access is big enough for a refuse bin.

Mrs Woodcock stated that two letters from residents have been sent to SODC, one in favour and 1 against this planning application. There is concern that the store at the back of the house may be converted into a hair salon which would affect Mr Madden's access. Mrs Shepherd confirmed that the store will not be converted to a hair salon.

Councillors agreed that there were No Strong Views on this application but ask SODC to take note of the neighbours concerns.

P10/W0390/ 46 Butts Road, Horspath (Other)

LB Repair and insulation of main house roof. Extend ridge and roof of modern rear extension and replace roof window in main house roof. – **Councillors agreed that there were No Strong Views on this application.**

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS – None to report.

63/10 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Mrs Ann Purse – County Councillor – Reported that following the recent snow falls, OCC Highways do not automatically clear up the remaining grit on the roads. Mrs Purse has asked that the cycle track be cleared.

Mrs Purse urged any residents that have had damage caused to their vehicles by potholes in the road to put in a claim to OCC. The new contract started on 1/4/10 so hope to see an improvement in response and repairs.

OCC is taking part in a pilot study – single conversation which will look at getting the infrastructure in place for future developments. Mrs Purse to circulate more information.

64/10 CLERK'S UPDATE.

Barclays Bank – Confirmation has now been received that the new mandate is now in place.

Property on the Village Green – The Clerk has written to the resident of the Village Green stating that it is their responsibility to deal with the drains located at their property.

Dog Hygiene Bins – SODC has stated that any additional dog bins must be purchased and erected by the Parish Council. SODC will then arrange for the bins to be emptied on a regular basis.

Horspath Grass Verges at Gateley – The new contractor – Verdant will arrange for a Supervisor to inspect the damage and to arrange for the necessary repairs to be carried out. They will also ask the refuse drivers to stop driving on this area.

Mower Insurance Policy – Councillors agreed that the Clerk amend the mower insurance to fully comprehensive.

65/10 REPORTS/UPDATES.

Wildlife Conservation Area – Local volunteers have now cleared away all the debris from the gravel paths. The pond was cleaned out of floating debris shortly before the frogs arrived to mate in early March, and two very significant leaks in the clay dams maintaining the wetlands have been plugged with quick-drying concrete. At least 35 clumps of spawn were deposited into the frog breeding pond in mid-March, ensuring that a large brood of new tadpoles will emerge in April. The tops of the clay dams are currently being covered with a layer of gravel to make them more resistant to foot traffic of all kinds in wet weather.

Several challenging volunteer projects have been identified for the coming spring and summer months:

1. Creation of a set of regular steps over the 20 degree slope at the top of the steps and ramp on the north side of the circular path, for which timber and gravel will be ordered.
2. Clearance of the felled timber from above the tunnel entrance.
3. Creation of a drainage trench above the tunnel entrance, to divert water currently entering the roof structure of the tunnel.
4. Creation of a drainage trench at the top of the ramp near the Butts Road entrance to prevent floodwater eroding the gravel path.
5. Re-surface with more gravel those parts of the circular path where the mud is again showing through after a lot of wear and tear. Councillors authorized Mr Harris to purchase the timber and gravel up to a cost of around £250.00.

South East Plan – The Inspector will resume the Examination in Public after the election.

HVSA – No meeting of the HVSA had taken place, so there was nothing to report. Mr Harris circulated the plan of the site that has recently been updated.

HVHMC – A new lease proposal has been submitted to the Parish Council but was not available to circulate until the meeting, therefore will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr Murray stated that issues with HVHMC and the Parish Council need to be resolved. The new lease proposal is a very brief document that HVHMC considers to be acceptable

Mr Henderson stated that the new lease should state that HVHMC is responsible for the Scout Hut.

Mr Murray stated that a definitive proposal will be submitted in time for the Parish Council meeting in June 2010. .

66/10 METHODIST CHURCH – Letter from Martin Wellings – To date a letter has not been received from Mr Wellings.

67/10 USE OF PARISH COUNCIL MOWERS.

Mrs Woodcock reported that at the last meeting Councillors agreed that Cricket Club volunteers should have the use if required of the Parish Council mowers. Mrs Woodcock confirmed that the mowers are capable to carry out the extra grass cutting but will take longer than the last mower. Mr Harris commented that the Caroni mower is also available if required.

Mr Murray stated that the Torro mower is needed to use in areas that are difficult to get to with other mowers. The problem with the Caroni mower is that it takes approx 45 minutes to change the decks, but will be useful at certain times. Mr Harris stated that this will incur additional running/maintenance costs to the Parish Council. Councillors agreed to the use of the mowers for one season and then it will be reviewed. Mr Harris suggested that Cricket Club volunteers keep a log of the hours of useage of the mower.

68/10 DR'S SURGERY – Fitting of grills to the windows.

Mrs Woodcock reported that the Doctor's room has been broken into on several occasions. The cost of the damage caused is paid for by the Parish Council as it is not paid for by the insurance. If window bars were fitted to the window this would stop this from happening. It was agreed that Mrs Woodcock obtain a quote for the work.

69/10 PLAY AREA UPDATE.

Mrs Woodcock reported that progress on the play area is coming along very well considering the state of the land. Landscaping and planting will take place in the near future. Work on the existing play area is expected to start on 15th May 2010. Notices will be displayed to inform people that the play area is closed whilst refurbishment takes place.

70/10 GRASS AREAS TO BE CUT BY ROB GRAY.

Mr Murray has agreed that Cricket Club volunteers will cut the grass in the dog training area. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Rob Gray informing him to no longer cut this area but to continue with the other areas in the village as previously agreed.

71/10 BURIAL GROUND DRAINAGE.

No further progress to date.

72/10 POLICY & ACTION OVER PROPOSED WIND TURBINE(S).

Mr Harris commented that there is not much that the Parish Council can do until a planning application is received. PFR will soon be submitting a planning application to Oxford City Council for a monitoring mast. It is highly likely that Oxford City Council will approve the application as they are set to benefit from it. It was agreed that Mr Harris will draft a letter to Oxford City Council requesting that the Parish Council is kept informed about any future planning applications that are submitted.

73/10 UPDATE ON VILLAGE HALL –NEW BOILER & HEATING SYSTEM.

Mr Turnbull reported that one quotation has been received. There has been a slight hold up getting quotations for the asbestos removal. Mr Turnbull is hopeful that work will commence in August 2010.

74/10 CORRESPONDENCE.

- a. CPRE Oxfordshire Campaign Briefing: February 2010.* – Circulated via email.
- b. Mr Harris – Opportunity to use a grant to upgrade Broadband in rural areas. – (Circulated via email).
- c. SODC – Community Investment Fund – Opening 16th April 2010.* - (Circulated via email).
- d. S/Oxon Community Safety Partnership – Safer Communities Evening 30.3.10.* - (Circulated via email).
- e. BDO LLP – Audit Briefing Winter 2010.*

- f. OALC – March Edition of Updates.* - (Circulated via email).
- g. ORCC – News Bulletin March 2010.* - (Circulated via email).
- h. SODC – Charges for Emptying of Dog Bins.*
- i. Thames Valley Police – Parish Council Meeting to Discuss Neighbourhood Policing & Your Neighbourhood Action Group.* - (Circulated via email).
- j. SODC – Register of Electors 1st December 2009.*
- k. St John Ambulance – Donation Request. – **No donation on this occasion.**
- l. South West Counties Allotment Associations – Allotment Survey. – **Mrs Palmer completed.**
- m. Thames Valley Police – Community Policing Awards.*
- n. Grafton Merchanting GB – Introductory Letter.*
- o. ORCC – Annual Membership - £30.00.* - **Annual membership to be renewed.**
- p. Thames Valley Police – Draw the Line Recruitment Campaign.*#
- q. OPFA – Survey. – **(Passed to Mrs Julian to complete).**
- r. Shotover Wildlife – Spring 2010 Newsletter.* - **Passed to Mr Harris.**
- s. OCC – Local Transport Plan 3 (2011-2030) Newsletter.*
- t. Wheatley Windmill Preservation Society – Celebration Weekend 8 & 8 May 2010.

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

displayed on Village Hall & village noticeboards

75/10 PAYMENTS.

Chq	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
1969	Mrs Tasker	Bus Shelter Maintenance Feb/Mar 10		120.00
1970	Mr D Gray	Burial Grd Management Jan, Feb, Mar 10		125.00
1971	Howard Engineering	Supply/fit top bar & lock to height barrier		549.90
1972	Mrs H Kogel	Salary Jan, Feb, March 10		1138.29
		Office Allowance Jan, Feb, March 10		90.00
		Postage & Stationery	7.98	98.38
		Additional Hours for 2 meetings		92.14
1973	CBI (Oxon) Ltd	Suppy/fit new valves in Village Hall	35.00	235.00
1974	SODC	Emptying Dog Bins	34.85	267.18
1975	Executive Security	New locks & keys	55.51	372.74
1976	Mr D Gray	Christmas Tree Lights		19.98
		Mower Battery		47.95
		TOTAL	£133.34	£3156.56

*****Cricket Club, Mrs Woodcock, Mr Jeffs have new key for the barrier. It was agreed that Mr Gray and both Grave Diggers will also be issued with a key.*****

76/10 RECEIPTS

Date	From Who Received	Details	Total £
25.2.10	Stagecoach	Rent for Period 4 & Period 1	650.00
5.2.10	Environment Agency	Annual Rent for Borehole	150.00
8.3.10	Barclays Bank	Business Saver Acct Interest 7.12.09 – 7.3.10	1.34
8.3.10	Barclays Bank	Business Saver Acct Interest 7.12.09 – 7.3.10	9.60
12.3.10	SODC	Refund of Invoice Error paid on chq 1963	617.91
		TOTAL	£1428.85

77/10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Mr Henderson asked if any reply has been received from Anna Kennedy regarding Affordable Housing. The Clerk confirmed that no reply has been received to date.
- b. Mrs Woodcock and Mr Turnbull will meet to try and locate the water leak found by Cycle Speedway. Mr Murray stated that there will be a mini digger on site this Thursday so if the leak is found the digger can be used to excavate the area and then the pipes be repaired.
- c. Mrs Woodcock asked if the Grundon bins can be moved the other side of the 5-bar gate. Mrs Palmer suggested that one of the recycling bins be returned to Verdant.
- d. Mrs Woodcock reported that there are approximately 8 drain covers that have been stolen from Gidley Way.

Public:

- e. Members of the Dog Show have left an old waste bin on the field. People are putting rubbish in the bin and then it is being thrown around. Mr Murray agreed to empty and dispose of the bin.
- f. Mrs Heritage reported a problem with cars parking on pavements which causes a problem with pushchairs. Mrs Purse suggested that this problem be reported to PCSO Ken Cooney and also that the Clerk obtains parking on pavement stickers.
- g. Mrs Gray commented that is rubble and old lampposts that have been left in the overflow car park. Mrs Woodcock stated that Cycle Speedway has been asked to dispose of the rubble that they left there and Norman Woodcock will dispose of the old lampposts.
- h. Mr Gray commented that he is very disappointed in the Parish Council's decision to allow the Cricket Club volunteers to use the Torro mower as it is 7 years old. Mr Gray has spent a lot of time maintaining the mower and feels that this is the wrong decision.
- i. Mrs Millar reported that there is a litter problem from Oxford Road up to BMW. Mrs Millar is willing to litter pick this area if the Parish Council can provide equipment to do so. Mrs Woodcock agreed to look into purchasing litter picking sticks. Mr Harris suggested that a complaint can always be made to SODC. It was also agreed that the Clerk write to Stagecoach asking them to keep the front of the premises litter free.

78/10. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 20 April 2010 (To be confirmed)

Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 4 May 2010.