

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th May 2009
At 8pm in HORSPATH VILLAGE HALL.

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

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

Public: 2

78/09 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr Harris proposed that Mrs Woodcock continue in the role of Chairman, seconded by Mr Horsley, In Favour – Unanimous. Mrs Woodcock agreed to accept this position but did mention that she may not have as much spare time in the future.

79/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies were made on behalf of Mr Henderson, Mr Dobson, Mr Hodgson and Mrs Carr.

80/09 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th April 2009 were amended on:

Item 63/09 County & District Councillors – SODC Core Strategy to read:- Mrs Carr reported that Wheatley Parish Council is very concerned with the proposals, and has arranged for *Mrs Patterson* (SODC) to come to the next Parish Council meeting.

Item 69/09 Repairs to Village Hall to read:- Mr Harris reported that the fire exit doors in the village hall are not suitable for wheel chair users, and as *owners* of the village hall it is the responsibility of the Parish Council to ensure that the village hall meets the DDA 1995 requirements.

Item 69/09 Repairs to Village Hall to read:- Mr Harris stated that the Parish Council has public liability insurance in place to protect the trustees, and as long as anyone who is hiring the village hall is aware that the fire exit doors are not up to DDA requirements and the fact that we have taken immediate advice from an official Fire Officer the Parish Council has taken reasonable action in obtaining quotes to rectify the problems then we *should* be covered against any liability.

Item 65/09 Reports/Updates Wildlife Area to read:- Sand and gravel *have* been delivered to the site, partly for use as a protective layer on the top surface on the three clay dams, to help a grass layer to establish and stabilize the dams, and also create a habitat for wolf spiders, and partly for future path repairs.

The minutes were then agreed and signed by the Chairman.

81/09 MATTERS ARISING

65/09 Stagecoach – The Clerk reported that today’s share price for Stagecoach shares is 137.75p. Shares can be purchased through Halifax Building Society by opening a share dealing account. Councillors agreed that Mr Horsley make other enquiries and gave permission for 100 shares to be purchased on behalf of the Parish Council.

82/09 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS – There were no applications to consider. This item will be removed from future agenda’s until there are applications to be considered.

83/09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS – There were no applications to be considered.

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.

P09/W0118 102 Highview, Gidley Way, Horspath

Single storey extension, alterations to form porch and erection of a conservatory.

– **Granted.**

84/09 SODC's CORE STRATEGY

Mr Harris circulated a copy of the Parish Council's response that has been sent to SODC. Mr Harris has spoken to the Planning Manager at SODC before submitting the response and she has agreed that Horspath Parish Council could recommend that a band of trees should be planted between Horspath and the proposed urban extension. The South East Plan should have been published months ago but probably will not be done so until the summer. The Clerk passed correspondence to Mr Harris regarding Oxford City Council's Core Strategy, and Mr Harris has advised that no response from the Parish Council is needed at the moment.

85/09 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

Mrs Anne Purse (County Councillor)

Mr Horsley commented to Mrs Purse on the new traffic system on the eastern bypass. The new system left cars queued back to Green Road roundabout this morning. The new feeder lane put in to go to Horspath is causing major problems, and also you are now unable to turn left out of Horspath Road onto the dual carriageway which is very dangerous and is also causing problems by BMW and Tesco. Mr Horsley recommended that the OCC Road Engineer comes to site and look at the chaos it is causing urgently. Mrs Purse was not aware that any changes were taking place as there has not been any consultation. Mrs Purse will contact OCC Highways.

Mrs Purse reported that the Queen Street transport measures have been called in. Buses will now continue to travel through Queen Street with the stops being moved to High Street. There are several other issues yet to be dealt with.

86/09 CLERK UPDATE

Chequers Inn – Mr Hoque has responded to the letter sent to him by the Clerk stating that the problem with the over flowing drain is the responsibility of Thames Water and has now been repaired. Arrangements will be made for the repairs to be carried out on the wall and he will make every effort to keep the car park free from litter but cannot be responsible for the public who throw the litter in the car park when passing by.

Barclays Bank – The Clerk, Mrs Woodcock and Mr Horsley met with the Account Manager of Barclays Bank to discuss the Parish Council's accounts. A separate account will be set up for the Stone Pit Charity and it was agreed that £30,000.00 would be transferred into a Bond account that will run for 6 months.

87/09 REPORTS/UPDATES

Wildlife Conservation Area – As agreed, the trailer for carrying the water to water the trees has now been ordered at a cost of £450.00. Mr Harris reported that 90% of the trees are ok but all do need watering.

South East Plan – Nothing to report.

HVSA – One of the contractors approached for a quotation on the drainage of the site has agreed to carry out a laser survey of the field and will then submit a quote to carry out the work. Mr Goss is due to meet with two other contractors later this week. The Oxfordshire Football Association's Girls' and Women's Football development Officer has agreed to coach 20 girls from Horspath School. Contact will also be made with Horspath School and other schools in the area for any other girls who may be interested. Ms Gray asked that VHMC be placed under Reports/Updates on future agendas.

Stagecoach – Reported under 81/09 – Matters Arising.

88/09 PLAY AREA UPDATE AND FUNDING

Mrs Julian reported that Horspath has been awarded £46,000.00 from Playbuilder. Mrs Julian and Mrs Woodcock will attend a meeting on 16th May 2009 in Barton to discuss future plans. Wren will meet on 14th May 2009 to consider the grant applications. Mrs Julian urged parents to write in to support the proposed project in Horspath. Mrs Julian has arranged for a 3rd quote to be submitted. Mrs Julian advised Councillors that a decision on the location of the bike park will have to be made as there has been an objection to the proposed location by the pump house. Mr Turnbull stated that he would like to see this area kept as a wildlife area and not turned into a brown field site and also commented that this facility will attract other youths into the village.

Mrs Julian stated that this facility is aimed at 8-14 year olds and will be managed by the parents of the children using the facility. If there are any problems then the area will be locked so that the youths cannot gain access. The idea is that the youths take responsibility for the facility. There will not be any structures put in, it will just be mud. Hedges/bushes will also be planted around this area.

Mr Horsley commented that the pump house site is the most suitable site within the village. It is owned by the Parish Council. Mr Harris commented that there is not another location in the village that could be used and controlled properly. Mrs Palmer asked if this location may cause an issue with children crossing the road. Mrs Julian stated that children are already crossing the road to use the cycle track.

Mr Horsley proposed that the Parish Council support the bike track in the field by the pump house and if there are any problems it will revert back to an area of woodland, seconded by Mrs Woodcock. In Favour – 6, Against -1.

89/09 BURIAL GROUND DRAINAGE - Nothing to report. Mr Turnbull suggested that the contractors that are coming to site to quote on the drainage for the new sports field also be asked to quote on the drainage for the Burial Ground. Mrs Woodcock and Mr Turnbull to meet at the Burial Ground to discuss the drainage and then contact Mr Goss for further advice.

90/09 PARISH COUNCIL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN 2008/09

Councillors approved the accounts and annual return for year ending 31.3.09. It was agreed that from 1st April 2009 separate bank accounts will be held for the Stonepit Charity and the Recreation Charity. Funds from the Recreation Charity can be used to cover the costs of grass cutting and any other village project/service. It was also agreed that the wording on the notes to the accounts would be changed from Community Assets to Parish Council Assets.

91/09 BUS SHELTER MAINTENANCE – To be discussed at the end of the meeting.

92/09 REPAIRS TO VILLAGE HALL/NECESSARY UPGRADE TO VILLAGE HALL

EMERGENCY EXITS – 3 quotations received. To be discussed at the end of the meeting.

Mrs Woodcock confirmed that the decorators and tilers have finished working in the kitchen. The new caretaker has now started and the contact board at the front of the village hall has been updated.

93/09 CONTRIBUTION FROM HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL TOWARDS THE COST OF DRAINING THE NEW SPORTS FIELD.

It was agreed that this item be deferred until the next meeting when quotes to carry out the work have been received.

94/09 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. CPRE Oxfordshire Campaign Briefing March 2009. – (Circulated by email).
- b. CPRE Oxfordshire Campaign Briefing March 2009. – (Circulated by email).
- c. South Oxfordshire's Sport & Activity Newsletter April 2009. – (Circulated by email).

- d. SODC – Update: Sustainable Community Strategy, Community Engagement Strategy and Town & Parish Council Forum. – (Circulated at April 2009 meeting).
- e. Thames Valley Police Authority Bulletin – March 2009. – (Circulated at April 2009 meeting.)
- f. Oxford City Council – Proposed Changes to the Submission Core Strategy Oxford Core Strategy (2026). – **(Mr Harris advised that no response is required at the moment).**
- g. Experience Playdale – Introductory Brochure. – (Passed to Mrs Julian).
- h. ORCC – Annual Membership Confirmation.*
- i. ORCC – Calor Oxfordshire Villages of the Year Competition.*
- j. Information Commissioner’s Office – Freedom of Information Act CD.*
- k. Wheatley Parish Council – Newsletter April/May 2009.*
- l. Age Concern – Communities for Our Age Poster.#
- m. Equality & Human Rights Commission – Public Sector Duties.*
- n. OPFA – Newsletter Spring 2009. – (Passed to Mrs Julian).
- o. Horspath Pre-School Nursery – Grants & Funding for Horspath Pre-School. – **Mr Harris commented that the Parish Council are not permitted to make donations to the school under section 137. Mr Horsley commented that as the Parish Council owns the portacabin, a donation could be made to cover the cost of improvements to the building but suggested that a meeting be arranged with OCC Education Department, the Head teacher of the School, the Head teacher of the Nursery and the School Governors to discuss the future of the Nursery as the portacabin used for the Nursery needs to be replaced and that cost needs to covered by OCC. At present the situation is a private nursery located in the grounds of a state school, when the nursery should be part of the early years of the school. Mrs Purse will speak to the Education Dept and explain the situation but commented that the Nursery will have to agree to this change.**
- p. John Howell MP – Request to Arrange a Meeting. – **Councillors suggested a meeting after the South East Plan has been published.**
- q. SODC – European Parliamentary & County Council Elections – 4 June 2009 – Notice of Election.*#
- r. SODC – Agenda for the Meeting of the Standards Committee Meeting on 5.5.09.*
- s. BDO Stoy Hayward – Annual Return and Audit Info 2008/09.*
- * original held by the Clerk, copy available on request.
displayed on Village Hall & village notice boards*

95/09 PAYMENTS

Chq	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
1891	Southern Electric	Power to Xmas Tree	1.80	38.91
1892	Southern Electric	Power to Scout Hut	2.53	19.53
1893	Allianz Insurance PLC	Annual Parish Council Policy		2703.94
1894	Mr Martin Harris	Unclaimed Expenses from Aug/07		92.69
1895	P & R Roofing	Repairs to guttering at Village Hall	9.75	74.75
1896	Mr M Harris	Photocopying & Stationery	3.33	64.25
		TOTAL	£17.41	£2994.07

96/09 RECEIPTS.

Date	From Who Received	Details	Total £
1.4.08	SODC	1 st Inst Precept	16,500.00
			£16,500.00

97/09 AOB

- a. Mr Harris reported that Shotover Preservation Society will hold their Annual Meeting in Horspath Village Hall on Friday 26th June 09.

Mr Harris also reported that he is a member of the Oxford Preservation Trust, and they have asked him what Horspath would like to see from their organization. Mr Harris commented that it would be beneficial if they were to purchase land in Horspath to preserve as conservation areas. Mr Harris commented that the Parish Council can always depend on their organization for support on planning issues. Any other suggestions should be passed to Mr Harris who will forward them on to OPT. Mr Turnbull asked if they could carry out a survey on the Green Belt. Mr Harris commented that Mr Ivan Wright has suggested that an Ecology Survey would be helpful to preserve the Green Belt.

- b. Mrs Julian reported that a meeting will be held on 11.5.09 in the Methodist Church to discuss the village fete which will be held on 27th June 2009.

Public:-

- c. Mrs Lewis passed a letter to Mrs Woodcock from the Church asking for a donation towards the cost of repairing the church wall. Mr Harris commented that the quote to carry out the repairs appears to be very expensive. Mrs Lewis agreed to obtain further quotes. It was agreed that as this letter was too late to be included on the agenda it will be discussed at the next meeting.
- d. Mrs Tasker reported that an elderly resident in the village who is in a wheelchair is struggling to get around as there are so many potholes in the footpaths around the Village Green. Mr Horsley commented that the area around the Village Green is owned by the Parish Council so we have a duty to maintain the road/footpath. Mrs Purse commented that she is in contact with OCC Highways Dept on a regular basis about the potholes so she will mention this area and find out who is responsible for maintaining it.
- e. Mrs Lewis commented that ivy is hanging over the wall from Manor Cottage going onto the footpath on Church Road.

The meeting was closed and members of the public left the room.

98/09 (91/09) BUS SHELTER MAINTENANCE

Councillors agreed that as there has not been any increase in payment to Mrs Tasker over the last 2 -3 years, the payment would be increased to £120.00 (paid in 6 instalments throughout the year).

99/09 (92/09) REPAIRS TO VILLAGE HALL/NECESSARY UPGRADE TO VILLAGE HALL EMERGENCY EXITS – 3 quotations received.

Three quotes have been received to carry out the above work in the Village Hall. Councillors agreed to accept the quotation from Mr Hamlet. The Clerk to inform Mr Hamlet.

100/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 19 May 2009 (To be confirmed)

Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 2 June 2009.