

**HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009**  
**At 8pm in HORSPATH VILLAGE HALL.**

**Present:** Mr P Dobson, Ms S Gray, Mr M Harris, Mr C Henderson, 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 A Hodgson (District Councillor), Mrs J Carr (District Councillor).

**Public:** 4

**101/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Apologies were made on behalf of Mr Hodgson and Mrs Carr.

**102/09 PRESENTATION ON THE NERC ACT 2006 - CYNTH NAPPER – Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum.**

Ms Napper gave her presentation on the NERC Act 2006 and explained to Councillors the purpose of the Act and the threats to Oxfordshire's Biodiversity. Ms Napper also explained the Parish Council's duties and responsibilities to conserve biodiversity. Further support and advice is available to Parish Council's through Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum. (The power point presentation was emailed to all Councillors).

Mrs Woodcock asked if Ms Napper knew of the way to treat Japanese Knotweed. Ms Napper stated that it has to be cut down and then each stem injected singly. It must then be bagged up and disposed of properly.

Mr Harris commented that there are some ancient hedgerows in the village that are being removed and replaced with leylandii and SODC are not taking any action. Ms Napper suggested that further contact should be made with SODC.

**103/09 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009 were amended on:

**84/09 – SODC's Core Strategy** - 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.*

**87/09 – Reports/Updates – HVSA - The Oxfordshire Football Association's Girls' and Women's Football development Officer** has agreed to coach 20 girls from Horspath School.

**97/09 – AOB (a)** - Mr Harris commented that it would be beneficial if they were to purchase land in Horspath to preserve as *conservation areas*.

**87/09 – Reports/Updates – HVSA** - Ms Gray asked that VHMC be placed under Reports/Updates on future *agendas*.

The minutes were then agreed and signed as correct.

**104/09 MATTERS ARISING**

**97/09 – AOB (d)** – Mr Turnbull commented that there should not be a road/footpath in the area on the Village Green. Mrs Purse reported that this area is not the responsibility of OCC. Mrs Woodcock stated that all three cottages have been granted easements and that the road/footpath maybe the responsibility of the Parish Council.

**105/09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**P09/W0415 Land to the rear of 41 Manor Drive, Horspath (Minor)**  
Erection of dwelling (amendment to P08/W0535/RM).

**Mr Horsley requested to speak but stated that he will not take part in voting. Councillors voted unanimously that this application be refused on the grounds that it is un-neighbourly and has increased in size by approx 50% compared to the previous approved application and that it will have a massive impact on the property at 20 Church Road Horspath, as well as the effects that it will have on the street scene. Also request that SODC refer to all comments made on previous applications whereby Horspath Parish Council has recommended refusal.**

#### **PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.**

**P05/W0914/ 43 Blenheim Road, Horspath**

**RET &** On the basis that the conditions and on-going requirements of the planning

**P06/W0673** permission are being complied John Bedford (SODC) is recommending that the enforcement investigation is closed.

#### **106/09 ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Vice Chairman – It was agreed to defer this position.**

**School Governor –** Councillors agreed for Mr Dobson to continue with this position.

**Village Hall Committee –** Councillors agreed for Mr Dobson, Ms Gray and Mrs Woodcock to continue with this position.

**Parochial Charities –** Councillors agreed for Mrs Lewis to continue with this position.

**Feast Money Collection –** Mr Pettifer sends a cheque directly to the Clerk.

**Stagecoach Sub Committee –** Councillors agreed for Mr Horsley and Mr Henderson to continue with this position.

#### **107/09 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.**

**Mr Andrew Hodgson (District Councillor) – A copy of the report sent by Mr Hodgson was circulated to all Councillors.**

A second application for a certificate of lawful development at 137 Cuddesdon Road, Horspath was refused a couple of weeks back and the enforcement notice to demolish the offending building is in the process of being redrafted by the SODC legal department and will be served before the end of June. If there are any waste issues that residents have in advance of the introduction of the new regime next week then they can call the hotline 03000 610 610. Most people will have received their sacks (the alternative for those who can't have bins) by the end of this week.

#### **Mrs Anne Purse (County Councillor)**

Mrs Purse reported that parts of the footpaths in College Way have been repaired. Mrs Purse will contact OCC to make arrangements for all of the holes in the road and footpaths are repaired.

Mrs Purse reported that Mr Peter Ronald (OCC) inspected the zigzag lines yesterday that have recently been put outside of the school. He has stated that there is a minimum and a maximum length that the lines have to be. Mr Horsley stated that the problem has been reduced since the people living in the cottage have moved out. Mr Horsley also asked if the bottom school gate could be closed off. This is not possible as the school need this entrance for the after school club. Mrs Purse stated that the school will need to decide on whether further action is needed with the lines. It was agreed that this area will continue to be monitored.

Mrs Purse reported that the recent traffic problems at the ring road were caused by a problem with the traffic lights. Mr Horsley stated that it has been much better recently.

Mr Dobson asked Mrs Purse if she has contacted OCC regarding the future of the Nursery. Mrs Purse stated that if she remains in post she will take this matter up with OCC.

#### **108/09 CLERK UPDATE**

**Barclays Bank** – All forms have now been signed and returned to the Account Manager at Barclays. A receipt has been received for the £30,000.00 bond.

**Horspath Pre-School Nursery** – Has asked for permission to put a banner on the Village Green. Councillors agreed that a banner could be displayed for a period of 4 weeks on the fence by the shop/notice board as long as Mr Patel has no objections subject to it being a new banner.

**Bus Stop at Gidley Way** – The Clerk will contact John Hammond at OCC to find out when the hard standing area will be installed at the existing bus stop on Gidley Way.

## **109/09 REPORTS/UPDATES**

**Wildlife Conservation Area** – The pond is now swarming with tadpoles and other pond life, the irises and reeds are already supporting a wide range of emerging flies, and the whole site is a joy to visit, and is now visited daily by a large number of local residents. The Wilmslow 1500 trailer has been assembled and delivered to the Parish Council, and after the construction of a simple towing attachment, will be towed by the Ferguson tractor.

**South East Plan** – SODC is currently taking legal advice on the options for seeking a Judicial Review of the South East Plan, which imposes upon South Oxfordshire a very unwelcome 'review' of the boundaries of the Green Belt near the Baldons and Garsington, and conceivably by any broader extension of this policy, also near Horspath. South Oxfordshire does not wish to hand over any land in the Green Belt to the City Council for the development of an unnecessary urban extension, but the Government Office of the South East is attempting to force SODC to work with the City Council to permit the building of this urban extension in the Green Belt south of Oxford as part of a Strategic Development Area to be developed by a Joint Area Action Plan. SODC would ideally adopt another approach to this issue.

**HVSA** – One quote has been received to drain the sports field and was circulated to Councillors. Mr Goss is waiting for two other quotes to be submitted. Mr Harris stated that the Parish Council will need to consider what contribution can be given towards this project. This project is just for the sports field and does not include the drainage at the burial ground.

**Public Examination of Oxford City Council's Core Policy** - As Horspath was not mentioned in the City Council's consultation draft Core Policy documents as a possible location for the proposed urban extension in the Green Belt to be built within a Strategic Development Area south of Oxford, the Parish Council did not feel the need to pass any comments on it. However, Brasenose College has submitted a proposal to the Planning Inspector at this Examination in Public of this Core Strategy which specifically proposes extending the 'search area' for the urban extension into Horspath and Garsington, which would be seriously against the wishes of the majority of more than 95% of Horspath's residents who responded to a question on this issue in the 2008 Parish Plan Household Questionnaire. The schedule of meetings for the Examination in Public indicated that Brasenose College would be represented by Stansgate Planning consultants at this public hearing on 28th July. The Inspector has agreed that Horspath Parish Council will be permitted to be represented at this same hearing by Councillor Mr. M. J. Harris, who has agreed to represent the Council 'pro bono' and will keep the Council informed of developments. It is likely that Wheatley PC and Garsington PC will also find the need to send some direct representation, written or oral, to the Inspector, on this same matter - the South of Oxford SDA.

**Stagecoach** – Mr Horsley will look into purchasing Stagecoach shares.

**VHMC** – A meeting of the committee was held last night where it was decided that in future meetings will be held on a quarterly basis. Mr Dobson stated that the VHMC will be funding the painting of all external doors. Health and safety documents will all be reviewed. The priority at the moment is replacing the patio doors/emergency exits which have just been approved by the planning department. Ms Gray will contact all local organizations to inform them of future meeting dates. Mr Dobson expressed concern over the boiler and stated that we need to identify how we can apply for grant

funding to help with the cost of this project. Mr Harris stated that the Parish Council could apply to the Trust for Oxfordshire Environment, OCC and SODC Community Investment Fund for grant funding. Mr Dobson reported that there had been a discussion on keys to the village hall and it was decided that it was an un-necessary expense to change all of the locks as the keys are under control, but a list of key holders will be reviewed. Mr Harris stated that the reason for changing the locks was because it was possible that some of the key holders were unknown and there are some valuable items in the village hall.

#### **110/09 PLAY AREA UPDATE**

Mrs Woodcock and Mrs Julian attended a seminar with Mr Howie Watkins and looked at the play area in Barton. Mr Watkins has stated that he would like us to complete the existing play area in Horspath by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. Mrs Julian stated that the Parish Council has to consider the three quotes received for the play area and decide which one to go ahead with. Mr Harris stated that the fence around the existing play area was put in as a safety aspect as well as to keep dogs out of the play area as there had been several complaints. The quotes will be discussed at the end of the meeting when the public have left.

**111/09 BURIAL GROUND DRAINAGE** – Mr Turnbull and Mr Goss will meet to discuss the quotes received. Mr Turnbull will do some tests in the burial ground and investigate the drainage further to see how efficient the existing drainage pipes are and report at the next meeting.

**112/09 PARISH COUNCIL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN 2008/09 – Report of Internal Audit.** – The Internal Auditor's report has not been received so this item is deferred to the next meeting.

#### **113/09 CONTRIBUTION FROM HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL TOWARDS THE COST OF DRAINING THE NEW SPORTS FIELD.**

Mr Horsley asked what percentage of grants is likely to be awarded. Mr Harris stated that grants will only be given when they know how much the Parish Council is contributing towards the project. The reason for the drainage of the sports field is so that football can be played there, and the Football Association will fund up to a maximum of 50% of the cost. At the moment the football clubs play at the Marathons and they have estimated that they will be able to raise £4,000.00 towards the project. Mr Dobson asked who will maintain the football field when it is up and running as in the past the football clubs have not wanted this responsibility, so we need to get a commitment from them. Mr Harris stated that the fees paid by the football teams will cover the cost of the maintenance. Mr Henderson stated that we need to know that the football teams will use the field as well as seeing a copy of their business plan which is not yet been done. Mrs Julian commented that tennis facilities have been mentioned in the past and there were three responses from the tennis advert recently displayed so this could be another option to consider.

Councillors agreed that it will provide an agreed sum of money over a period of time subject to a presentation of a business plan from the football club along with a future maintenance schedule.

#### **114/09 CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Clerks & Councils Direct – May 2009 Newsletter.\*
- b. Kompan Playful Living – Brochure. (Passed to Mrs Julian)
- c. Thames Valley Police – Open Day on 8.8.09 at Sulhamstead Nr Reading.\*#
- d. OCC – Home 2 School Newsletter Summer 2009.\*
- e. Playdale Playgrounds – Brochure. (Passed to Mrs Julian).
- f. Nicholsons Nurseries Ltd – Brochure. (Passed to Mrs Julian).

- g. Horspath Neighbourhood “Home” Watch – Donation Request. – **Councillors agreed to make a donation of £100.00. Mrs Woodcock reported that the NHW are now using the left hand side of the village notice board. Councillors agreed that they did not want to see more notices on the “Horspath” signs, but have no objections to signs on lamp posts or telegraph poles.**
- h. ORCC – News Bulletin May 2009. (Circulated by email).
- i. Letter from Mrs Barbara Lewis (Church Warden) – **Donation towards the repairs to the Church Wall. – Councillors agreed to make a donation of £250.00.**
- j. SODC – Opportunity to obtain funding for planting hedges and hedge trees. – **Councillors agreed to consider this option again later in the year.**
- k. CPRE – Campaign Briefing April 2009. – (Circulated by email).
- l. SODC – Minutes of the Standards Committee Meeting on 5.5.09.\*  
*\* original held by the Clerk, copy available on request.  
 # displayed on Village Hall & village notice boards*

#### 115/09 PAYMENTS

Chq	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
1897	PWLB	Loan Repayment for Burial Ground		2915.27
1898	Allianz Insurance	Insurance Cover for new Trailer		26.25
1899	Mrs Tasker	Bus Shelter Maint April/May 09		120.00
1900	Mr M Harris	Payment for purchase of trailer.	55.44	424.98
1901	Mr R Gray	Grass cutting Burial Ground		100.75
		Grass cutting Village Green		553.00
		Petrol/Diesel for Mower/Strimmer		41.50
1902	St Giles Church PCC	Donation towards Church wall repair		250.00
1903	Horspath Cricket Club	Diesel for mowing Bowley Field		52.00
1904	Horspath Neighbourhood Watch	Donation		100.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55.44</b>	<b>£4583.75</b>

#### 116/09 RECEIPTS.

Date	From Who Received	Details	Total £
9.5.09	Horspath Nursery	Rent for February 2009	240.00
			<b>£240.00</b>

#### 117/09 AOB

- a. Mr Turnbull reported that the footpath at Manor Drive has recently been patched over and the repairs have now become loose. Mrs Purse will report to OCC Highways Dept.  
 Mr Turnbull reported that people going to Cycle Speedway are causing a problem by parking by the tree and obstructing the access in the car park as well as not locking the gate when they leave. Mr Dobson commented that there are serious issues that need to be addressed with members of the Cycle Speedway team. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Mr Robin Carter and ask him to attend the next Parish Council meeting and ask that he brings a copy of the lease with him. It was also agreed that a new lock will be purchased for the gate.

#### Public:-

- b. Mr Gray reported that some of the paving slabs stacked by the bins that were removed from the path in the Burial Ground have gone missing.
- c. Mrs Tasker commented that when the grass is cut in the village the grass cuttings are left all over the road and asked why they can't be blown away. Mr Gray commented that this is caused by the side discharge on the mower.

**118/09 PLAY AREA QUOTES**

Councillors agreed to approve the quote from the recommended contractor - Trevor Stewart. Mrs Julian will liaise with the Clerk as to when to write and inform the contractor.

**119/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.**

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 16 June 2009 (To be confirmed)  
Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 7 July 2009.