

**HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009**  
**At 8pm in HORSPATH VILLAGE HALL.**

**Present:** Mr P Dobson, Ms S Gray, Mr C Henderson,  
Mr D Horsley, Mrs H Palmer, Mr S Turnbull,  
Mrs S Woodcock. Mrs H Kogel (Clerk), Mrs J  
Carr (District Councillor), Mr A Hodgson  
(District Councillor).

**Apologies** Mr M Harris, Mrs A Julian,  
Mrs A Purse (County  
Councillor).

**Public:** 4

**120/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Apologies were made on behalf of Mr Harris, Mrs Julian and Mrs Purse.

**121/09 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009 were amended on:

**113/09 - Contribution from Horspath Parish Council towards the cost of draining the new sports field to read:-** 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.

**105/09 – Planning Applications – P09/W0415 Land to the rear of 41 Manor Drive, Horspath to read:-** 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.

**122/09 MATTERS ARISING**

**Village Green** - Mr Turnbull asked if a letter had been received from the owner of the property on The Green. The Clerk confirmed that no letter had been received to date.

**105/09 – Planning Applications – Land to rear of 41 Manor Drive, Horspath** – Mr Horsley reported that the planning application considered at the last Parish Council meeting has been refused by SODC and that the applicant has now lodged an appeal. It was agreed that Mrs Woodcock and Mr Harris will draft a letter to the Planning Inspectorate. Mr Hodgson stated that SODC had no hesitation in refusing the application as it is much bigger in size than what was previously approved.

**123/09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

<b>P09/W0559</b>	<b>Coopers Yard, Manor Farm Road, Horspath</b>	<b>(Minor)</b>
	Use of redundant agricultural building to form micro brewery. – <b>Councillors voted unanimously in favour of recommending approval.</b>	
<b>09/01353/ADV</b>	<b>Screwfix Direct Ltd</b>	
	Display of 2 x illuminated fascia boards and 2 x non-illuminated fascia signs. (Retrospective). – <b>Councillors agreed that there were No Strong Views on this application.</b>	
<b>P09/W0557/LD</b>	<b>The Glebe, 137 Cuddesdon Road, Horspath</b>	<b>(Other)</b>
	Erection of a timber building incidental to the main dwelling under Class E of GPDO 1995. – <b>Mr Hodgson reported that SODC has recently issued a demolition notice as this building is larger and is not ancillary to the main dwelling under the Permitted Development rights. Councillors voted unanimously to recommend refusal on this application as there are serious</b>	

**doubts that this appears to be an attempt to get around the technicalities of planning and the change of use for the outbuilding does not in any way change any of the Parish Council's previous objections or views.**

**PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.**

**P09/W0415 Land to the rear of 41 Manor Drive, Horspath (Minor)**

Erection of dwelling (amendment to P08/W0535/RM).

An appeal has been lodged with the First Secretary of State following the refusal of SODC to grant planning permission. Any further representations about the appeal should be made to the Planning Inspectorate by 13<sup>th</sup> August 2009. **(It was agreed under Matters arising that Mrs Woodcock & Mr Harris will draft a letter to be sent on behalf of the Parish Council).**

**124/09 CYCLE SPEEDWAY - Mr Geoff Gamage and Mr Robin Carter attended the meeting.**

Mrs Woodcock explained to Mr Gamage and Mr Carter that there have recently been some unacceptable incidents with Cycle Speedway members at the village hall area, such as, the gates being left open and the village hall doors being left open after the members have used the shower facilities. Mr Gamage stated that he had received notification that John Trinder was leaving but has never been informed about the new caretaker. As he does not have a key to the village hall, the arrangements that have always been in place is that John Trinder has locked up the village hall after they have left, and he assumed the same arrangements were still in on-going. With regards to the gates being left open, Mr Carter stated that there are only 4 people within Cycle Speedway that know the combination of the lock, and unless there are still people on site the gates are always locked.

Ms Gray suggested that a meeting should be held with Cycle Speedway to re-negotiate the lease with regards to what is and isn't permitted as well as fees. Mr Carter stated that the Chairman of Cycle Speedway has a copy of the existing lease. Mr Dobson stated that if this is the case then it needs to be reviewed and brought up to date, but if a copy cannot be found then a new lease will need to be negotiated, but measures to ensure that the village hall and surroundings are left secure at all times need to be put in place and Cycle Speedway need to adhere with the HVSA.

Mr Horsley stated that there is a major issue regarding insurance with cars going up to Cycle Speedway on Sunday afternoons as it is a health & safety issue by the Play Area. There is also an issue with the volume of the PA system and the music that is played as it can be heard at the top of Gidley Way.

Mr Dobson stated that he had noted all of the concerns raised by the Parish Council and he will arrange a meeting with the VHMC and Cycle Speedway to discuss and resolve the issues.

**125/09 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**Mrs Janet Carr (District Councillor)**

Mrs Carr informed Councillors that she is aware of the recent flooding issues in the village and asked that she be kept informed of any further incidents.

Mrs Woodcock reported that she has recently met with Mike Dickerson (OCC) and Bill Morgan (OCC) who inspected all of the drains in the area and cannot find anything obviously wrong. There is concern on the drains that run underneath the garage into Oxford Road. Mr Dickerson will make further investigations into all old/new drains and report back to Mrs Woodcock.

Mr Dobson commented that the pipe work by the garage was damaged years ago when the garage was built, but there was a massive rainfall on that particular day. Mrs Woodcock commented that if the metal grid at the bottom of Shotover was more efficient, this would help. The drain cover by the shop was lifted and could not be put back down, and then a motorist drove over it causing damage to his car and as a result is now claiming from Thames Water.

Mrs Carr confirmed as Chair of Wheatley Parish Council that a response has been sent regarding Oxford Council's Core Strategy.

### **Mr Andrew Hodgson (District Councillor)**

Mr Hodgson commented that there were lots of negative comments at the APM regarding the new waste collection service, but from the schemes perspective there are 56,000 dwellings in South Oxfordshire and overall the new system has gone well with over 100 tonnes of food waste being recycled which is 15% of landfill waste. Mrs Carr stated that all waste has to be put in the bins allocated and not put into sacks. If anyone would like more or bigger bins these can be obtained from SODC. Mrs Palmer commented that people living up a lane are being missed on the collection days. Mr Hodgson stated that as a new contractor they are dealing with complaints very quickly. Mrs Woodcock commented on one resident of the village who lives up a lane at Bullingdon Green whose bins have not been collected. The contractor told the resident that they could not get up the lane without permission from Oxford City Council. The bins have now been replaced with sacks and the elderly resident is expected to carry the sacks approx 450 yards to the roadside. The resident has recently taken this complaint to Radio Oxford and to David Buckle SODC. Mrs Carr commented that if SODC is made aware of residents in circumstances like this, then an assisted collection can be arranged. Mr Hodgson reported that protecting the Greenbelt is an on-going issue and hopes for good news by 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

### **126/09 CLERK UPDATE**

**Bus Stop at Gidley Way** – The Clerk will continue to try and contact Mr John Hammond (OCC) regarding the existing bus stop on Gidley Way.

**Allianz Insurance** – The Clerk notified the insurance company about the possible flood damage in the village hall, but as there was no definite damage a claim could not be opened.

**Property on the Green** – A copy of the recent letter from the residents' solicitor was circulated to all Councillors.

**External Audit** – Is due to take place on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

**Photocopier** – The Clerk asked if it is possible to arrange a service on the photocopier as it is deteriorating. Councillors suggested that a price for a service and for a replacement be sought and discussed at the next meeting.

### **127/09 REPORTS/UPDATES**

**Wildlife Conservation Area** – There have been no volunteer working days in June, but some are planned in July to address some seasonal maintenance jobs. The trailer acquired by the Council for tree watering in the Bowley Field has now been equipped with 6 green dustbins to hold somewhat less than a total 480 litres of water, and more than twenty 2-litre plastic milk cartons are in it ready for dispensing the water to the trees as soon as the summer rains stop and the trees start drying out in any dry periods. A towing link has been designed and finished by Donald Grey and welded together by Stuart Howard, and is currently attached to the Council's Ferguson tractor tow bar. If this tractor is unavailable, the water trailer can be towed on a ball hitch behind a car.

**South East Plan** – As requested, I have read the Partial Review of the South East. Plan, with new recommendations for Policy H7 relating to the establishment of sites for Gypsies, Travellers, and Travelling Show People (GTTS). Horspath is not mentioned at this stage of the implementation of this policy, but I suggest that a response should be sent, if the Council agrees, along the lines of:

"Horspath Parish Council is not aware of any particular local needs for any sites for GTTS, and would ask that any decisions about the future locations of new sites for GTTS, whether as permanent sites or as transit sites, take into consideration the likely impact of these sites on the natural environment, especially on Sites of Special Scientific Interest and on any rural communities where housing for young families even with proven local connections is already in short supply."

If this planning procedure follows the usual course, such a response may well ensure that Horspath is consulted further, and at an early stage, if any sites are proposed nearby.

**HVSA** – Report at next meeting.

**City Council's Core Strategy Examination In Public** - Horspath Parish Council will be represented by Mr. M. Harris at the afternoon session on 28th July to be chaired by the Inspector, to discuss the proposal by Brasenose College to build an urban extension to the City of Oxford in a Strategic Development Area to include the parishes of Horspath and Garsington. Written Statements of Case have been prepared and submitted, and the Statement by Horspath Parish Council is supported by similar statements by Wheatley PC, Garsington PC, the Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, and the Oxford Green Belt Network. SODC has submitted a very strong and well-founded Statement which in general planning terms competently dismisses the developers' and the City Council's case for discussing this urban extension in this City Council Hearing when the matter is already under review by SODC since it concerns only land in South Oxfordshire.

**Stagecoach** – Mr Horsley reported that he has been advised that it would be very complicated for HPC to purchase shares in Stagecoach, therefore recommended that no further action is taken.

**VHMC** – Mr Dobson is now in receipt of up to date information and plans on the new boiler system. Ms Gray and Mrs Woodcock will be applying for grant funding from SODC and the Trust for Oxfordshire to assist with this project. Three quotes will need to be obtained before the deadline for applications on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact three companies to submit quotes by 21<sup>st</sup> July 2009 so that they are in time for the deadline. When received the Clerk will open all quotes and report an average cost which will be used on the application. Ms Gray recommended that the Parish Council appoint someone to manage the project when it goes ahead. An energy audit of the building will be carried out by TV Energy free of charge. Mr Dobson raised concern on the security of the village hall and suggested that the main door and the cricket club door locks be changed and then re-issue keys to key holders. Mr Dobson will look into the costs of having only one master key that can be copied.

#### **128/09 PLAY AREA UPDATE**

Ms Gray gave an update on behalf of Mrs Julian. A grant for £46,000.00 has been secured for the teenagers facilities. Another grant for £45,000.00 has been secured for the refurbishment of the children's playground. Councillors agreed that both Mrs Woodcock and Mrs Julian will be the signatories on the account for the Wren grant. It was also agreed that Wren will pay the contractors on completion of the work. A cheque for £4950.00 has been raised to pay to Wren for the Parish Council's contribution to the total cost and hopefully the work will start in September 2009. Mr Horsley asked that when the Clerk sends the cheque request that the money be held in Wren's suspense account until the work commences.

#### **129/09 BURIAL GROUND DRAINAGE**

Mr Turnbull reported that he had met with Mr Goss to discuss the plans for the drainage. Mr Turnbull will report at the next meeting his suggestions/designs for the drainage.

#### **130/09 PARISH COUNCIL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN 2008/09 –**

**Report of Internal Audit.** – Councillors approved the Internal Audit report and agreed that the issues raised in the report would be addressed at the next meeting.

#### **131/09 2 THE GREEN**

Mrs Woodcock reported that the definitive map shows that the public footpath goes through the land of 2 The Green and cannot be closed off. The owner has put up a fence on his property but this does not affect the footpath. Councillors agreed to wait for further developments.

### 132/09 MOWER ANNUAL SERVICE

The cost for the service this year is £651.00 as opposed to £400.00 last year.

### 133/09 BINS FOR BURIAL GROUND

Mr Gray has requested bins for the burial ground. Mr Dobson stated that there is a Grundon bin that can be used so there is no need for additional bins. Four new recycling bins are in place but there is concern that people will contaminate the bins by putting the wrong type of waste in the bins. Mr Dobson will look into the situation.

**134/09 LOW BRIDGE SIGNS** - It was reported that two new signs are now in place.

### 135/09 PARISH COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SHOTOVER – Mr Harris reported:-

Oxford City Council has earlier this year cut the resources available to the Countryside Service, so that 1 Countryside Manger plus 2.5 full-time Countryside Rangers are now responsible for looking after no less than 29 different sites totaling more than 900 acres (including Shotover Country Park's 288 acres). Not only has the City Council withdrawn the Ranger's work in the Country Park at the weekends, when most visitors actually visit the Park, but a further Countryside Ranger's post is to be extinguished next year. This is not sensible. A large part of the Shotover Park and SSSI is included within the Parish of Horspath, and it is also this Parish Council's legitimate concern under the NERC Act, which Mrs.Cynth Napper from ONCF explained to the Parish Council very recently.

It would be appropriate for the Parish Council to draft a letter to the City Council to express its concern at these unwelcome reductions in the resources available to the Countryside Service and to remind the City Council of its management responsibilities for Shotover, both as a Park and as a SSSI.

**Councillors agreed that it was not necessary for the Parish Council to write to Oxford City Council and that Mr Harris is able to write as an individual.**

### 136/09 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. CPRE – Oxfordshire Campaign Briefing June 2009.\* (Circulated by email).
- b. United Sustainable Energy Agency - Articles on Energy Saving.\* (Circulated via email).
- c. Letter from Mr P Aries, The Green, Horspath - Floods. – **Noted.**
- d. Letter from Mr P Dungey, Horspath – Student Funding. – **Councillors agreed that it is not permitted to make donations to individuals.**
- e. ORCC – Invitation to attend an Information & Training Event on Rural Affordable Housing in the Vale of White Horse and SODC on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at Denman College, Marcham.\*
- f. Clerks & Councils Direct – Newsletter July 2009.\*
- g. Thames Valley Police – Police Pledging.\* (Leaflets available at meeting).
- h. Letter from the Treasurer of St Giles Church – Thank you for donation.\*
- i. Nicholson's Plants Forestry Landscapes – Introductory Letter on Duty of Care Tree Surveys.\*
- j. ORCC – Strategic Plan 2009-2011.\*
- k. NHS Oxfordshire – Flu Friends.\*#
- l. ORCC – Spring/Summer Review 2009.\*
- m. NHS Oxfordshire –Health News.\*
- n. Open Spaces Society – AGM on 30.6.09.\*
- o. SODC- Gypsies, Travellers & Travelling Show People Consultation.
- p. South East England Partnership Board –Formal Submission of Partial Review to the South East RSS in relation to: Somewhere to Live: Planning for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People in the South East. – – Mr Harris suggested that the Council makes the following reply:- "**Horspath Parish Council is not aware of any particular local needs for any sites for GTTS, and would ask that any decisions about the future locations of new sites for GTTS, whether as permanent sites or as**

transit sites, take into consideration the likely impact of these sites on the natural environment, especially on Sites of Special Scientific Interest and on any rural communities where housing for young families even with proven local connections is already in short supply."

q. OCC – Revised Bus Strategy. – (Passed to Mrs Woodcock).

r. Wheatley Parish Council –Newsletter June/July 2009.\*

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

*# displayed on Village Hall & village notice boards*

#### 137/09 PAYMENTS

Chq	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
1905	Allianz Insurance	Renewal of Tractor & Trailer Insurance.		193.77
1906	Horspath Cricket Club	Diesel for cutting Bowley Field		39.00
1907	Open Spaces Society	Annual Subscription		40.00
1908	Mr D Gray	Management of Burial Ground - Apr, May, June 2009		250.00
1909	BR Consulting Ltd	Internal Audit Report		181.50
1910	Mrs H Kogel	Salary Apr, May, June 2009 Home Office Allowance Stationery		1062.18 90.00 128.59
1911	Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd	Contribution to Horspath's Play Area		4,950.00
1912	N J Talboys	Repairs to sink in Village Hall	7.50	57.50
1913	J J Bark	Mower Service	84.93	651.11
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£92.43</b>	<b>£7643.65</b>

#### 138/09 RECEIPTS.

Date	From Who Received	Details	Total £
30.6.09	Southern Electric	Refund of over-payment for power to Xmas Tree lights.	54.92
30.6.09	HM Customs & Excise	Vat Repayment	2,136.84
			<b>£2191.76</b>

#### 139/09 AOB

- Mr Henderson reported that the problem experienced last year with vehicle warning sirens operating during the night is happening again. It was agreed that the Clerk contact Yutaka.
- Mr Dobson asked if the Parish Council is willing to make a contribution of £120.00 towards the School/Church Fete that was held to cover the cost of hiring the village hall. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting.
- Mrs Palmer reported that the allotments are going ahead. The applicants are having to pay for the land to be ploughed.
- Mr Turnbull questioned if trials bikes being were being ridden up/down the railway track on Sunday.
- Mr Horsley asked if Rob Gray could cut down the overgrown area (approx 3-4 metres) by the barrier as soon as possible. It was agreed for Rob Gray to purchase a new blade for the strimmer as the last one has gone missing.

#### 140/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 21 July 2009 (To be confirmed)

Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 4 August 2009.