

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4 August 2009
At 8pm in HORSPATH VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Ms S Gray, Mr C Henderson, Mr D Horsley,
Mrs A Julian, Mrs H Palmer, Mr S Turnbull,
Mrs S Woodcock. Mrs H Kogel (Clerk).

Apologies Mr P Dobson, Mr M Harris,
Mrs J Carr (District
Councillor), Mr A Hodgson
(District Councillor), Mrs A
Purse (County Councillor).

Public: 9

141/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies were made on behalf of Mr Dobson, Mr Harris, Mrs Carr, Mr Hodgson and Mrs Purse.

142/09 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

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

120/09 Apologies for Absence to read:- Apologies were made on behalf of Mr Harris, Mrs Julian and Mrs Purse.

125/09 County & District Councillors (Mr Andrew Hodgson) to read:- 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.

127/09 Reports/Updates VHMC to read - An energy audit of the building will be carried out by *TV Energy* free of charge.

139/09 AOB (d) to read:- Mr Turnbull *questioned if* trials bikes being were being ridden up/down the railway track on Sunday. The minutes were then agreed and signed as correct.

143/09 MATTERS ARISING

125/09 – Mrs Janet Carr – Mr Dickerson OCC has carried out an inspection on the drains on the Village Green using cameras and all of them are in good working order. The drains will continue to be monitored. Mr & Mrs Aries are aware of the situation.

139/09 (e) – The blade for the strimmer has now been found so there is no need to purchase a new one. The overgrown grass area by the barrier has now been cut down and is looking much better.

144/09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

P09/W0081/ 61 Gidley Way, Horspath

LD Lawful development for property which has been used as accommodation as a dwelling for 10 years. – **Councillors agreed that there are No Strong Views on this application and will leave the decision to SODC to determine. It was noted that this application was refused approx 2 years ago.**

P09/W0664/ Horspath Service Station, Horspath

RET Part change of use of land at Horspath Service Station to provide car sales forecourt. – **Councillors agreed to recommend approval on this application on condition that the cars are strictly limited to the garage forecourt only.**

P09/W0638 Sand Hills, Windmill Lane, Wheatley

Construction of rear dormer windows and balcony, formation of new door and change of roof material to artificial slate. – **Councillors agreed to recommend approval on this application.**

P09/W0699 29 Manor Farm Road, Horspath

Demolition of existing garage and erection of new garage with attic storage. (See letter from Mr Heritage). – (Mrs Woodcock declared an interest, left the table and took no part in voting).

Mr Bob Walker commented that any building would be an improvement to the existing tin shed as long as the roof height is the same as next door.

Ms Caroline Woodcock stated that she will be objecting to the application due to the size and scale of the building. Even with the amendments the garage is a huge structure and is still over 5 metres tall and 1 metre from the boundary. The garage is very large and would encroach and be very over-bearing to her small garden area. Ms Woodcock would prefer to see a like for like replacement building. Ms Woodcock also commented that neighbours at 27a raised objections on the last applications but they are on holiday at the moment so will not be aware of this application.

Mr Heritage confirmed that existing planning permission for the garage expired on 8th January 2009.

Councillors voted in favour of recommending approval on this application, In Favour – 5, Against – 0, Abstentions – 1. (Mrs Woodcock took no part in voting).

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS. – Nothing to report.

145/09 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS. – No reports were available.

146/09 CLERK'S UPDATE.

Bus Stop at Gidley Way – Mr Hammond OCC apologised for the delay in laying the hard standing area, this has been due to the contractors dealing with other larger schemes. They hope to complete the hard standing by the middle of August 2009.

Horspath Nursery – A letter has been received from the Nursery stating that they no longer need to display a banner on the Village Green but thanked the Parish Council for granting permission. If the need arises in the future they will contact the Parish Council.

Affordable Housing – An email from Anna Kennedy was circulated to all Councillors regarding the possible two sites in Horspath for another phase of Affordable Housing. Councillors agreed that the Clerk reply to Anna Kennedy stating that the Parish Council would not support another phase of Affordable Housing until they were satisfied with the allocation process so that the details/local connections of all applicants are confirmed by the Parish Council as it is a very high priority to the Parish Council that the houses are allocated to village residents.

Photocopier – The Clerk reported that the cost of a new photocopier is between £200.00 - £250.00 which includes a cartridge. The cost to have a service carried out on the existing photocopier is £65.00 call out charge plus parts. Councillors agreed that the Clerk go ahead and purchase a new photocopier.

Holiday Dates – The Clerk will be away on holiday from 12 – 24th August 2009.

147/09 REPORTS/UPDATES.

Wildlife Conservation Area – No report available.

South East Plan - Mr Harris represented Horspath Parish Council at the Examination in Public (EiP) of Oxford City Council's Core Strategy, which was held in Oxford Town Hall during the last two weeks of July under the chairmanship of a senior Planning Inspector, Mr. David Fenton. Mr. Harris made clear in his submissions for Horspath that the Green Belt near Horspath was far too narrow to be suitable as part of the site for the Strategic Development Area in which the City Council wishes to establish a minimum of 4,000 new houses, as well as an unspecified area for business, retail, commercial and industrial developments. He stated that the vast majority of the residents of Horspath do not want their village to be physically joined up to Oxford City, which would in any case, be contrary to the central government's

Planning Policy Guidance 2 (PPG2) and the regional spatial strategy policy C04 in the South East Plan. The Inspector will have made his own private visit to look at the village and assess its rural character and landscape for himself.

The Inspector asked no questions about Horspath's position expressed in the submitted documents, and said that he would not discuss the legality or otherwise of the policy set out in the SEP for this Strategic Development Area for 4,000 houses, nor would he discuss the fine details of how the proportions of land for housing and employment in this development would be determined within it. To some extent, this reduced the scope for any heated debate, but it ensured that nothing prejudicial to Horspath's interests could be placed on public record in this Examination by the land developers represented there, who wish to build a large urban extension to Oxford in the Green Belt near Horspath.

The inclusion of the "South Oxford Strategic Development Area" (SDA) in the South East Plan was confirmed by the Minister for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) when this Plan became law earlier this year. However, there are now underway three separate, but related, legal challenges to the Secretary of State over the inadequacy and unlawfulness of the process by which the South East Plan became law - from SODC, from the Oxfordshire CPRE, and from the University of Oxford. The thrust of all three legal challenges is that the South East Plan did not include a detailed evaluation of all the environmental impacts of all the available alternatives to building a Strategic Development Area for 4,000 houses in the Green Belt "south of Oxford", and that there was no adequate "strategic environmental impact assessment" made in the published Plan of all these alternatives to building in the Oxford Green Belt. All three parties have requested that the South Oxford Strategic Development Area should be struck out of the South East Plan, which would then totally relieve the pressure on Green Belt villages like Horspath and Garsington. One cannot predict with any certainty the outcome of such a High Court case, but the DCLG appears to want to avoid being seen to lose this case to SODC, CPRE, and Oxford University just before a General Election, as it would clearly unravel a lot of the commercial and political dreams of various government supporters. The merits of the three cases seem very strong, so we will now have to wait until they come to court later this year, and see how the government will attempt to delay or even avoid defeat over this issue. Meanwhile, Horspath Parish Council and SODC must continue to oppose any large-scale building developments which might be harmful for Horspath."

The Management of Shotover – Following the report from Mr Harris, Councillors agreed to ask Mr Harris to write to Oxford City Council on behalf of the Parish Council regarding the decision to downgrade its management of Shotover Country Park and SSSI. Mrs Julian also suggested that the views of Shotover Wildlife Group also be included.

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 should respond to this correspondence as advised in July 2009. Councillors agreed that the Clerk send a reply as advised by Mr Harris.

Stagecoach – Nothing to report.

HVSA/VHMC – Following the last meeting VHMC met with representatives from Cycle Speedway to discuss the recent issues that have caused concern. There is a lease in place but no-one appears to have a copy so a User Agreement for the site was discussed which will include the security of the Village Hall and access through the gates. Cycle Speedway have now been given a key to the Village Hall so they can ensure that it is all locked up before they leave the premises. The 5-bar gate has a combination lock which should only be available to a limited number of people with the combination being changed periodically. Cycle Speedway has stated that they will consider joining the HVSA. At present Cycle Speedway pay for the use of the toilets but the charging system needs to be revised. Parking is an issue, and sometimes even the over-flow car park is full so they need to drive up to the Cycle Speedway track but they have agreed they will not do this unless it is absolutely essential. They have also agreed to revert back to the previous speakers for the PA system and not to play the music. Mr Dobson will draw up the User Agreement and continue to monitor the situation. Mr Henderson suggested that the User Agreement should include a condition that Cycle Speedway joins HVSA. Mrs Woodcock reported that

the old lock has gone missing so a new one has been purchased. Mr Horsley commented that the issue of the gates being left open is not as much of a problem as the cars driving up and down the side of the play area where children are playing. Mr Walker suggested that the gate at the side of the play area be closed off which would stop the children from coming out on the side that the cars drive up to Cycle Speedway. Mrs Woodcock suggested that this could be considered when the play area refurbishment is under way.

148/09 PLAY AREA UPDATE

Mrs Julian has drawn up a design of the play area. A meeting has recently taken place with the construction company and the children. The contractor will submit a quote to repair the horse in the play area rather than dispose of it. The grant from Playbuild has to have been used by 31.3.10. The two play areas for the different age groups are set apart but this cannot be helped. Planning permission for the change of use of the land needs to be obtained for the bike area. Mr Dominic Lamb from SODC has been consulted and is happy for it to go ahead. For this area it is more of a labour need than a financial cost.

149/09 BURIAL GROUND DRAINAGE

To be discussed at the next meeting. Mrs Woodcock advised Mr Turnbull to liaise with Mr Ed Murray regarding the drainage.

150/09 VILLAGE HALL – QUOTES RECEIVED FOR NEW BOILER & HEATING SYSTEM & LETTER/QUOTE FOR REMOVAL OF ASBESTOS. (To be discussed at end of meeting).

151/09 PARISH COUNCIL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN 2008/09 – Report of Internal Audit. – It was agreed that this will be discussed at the next meeting as a report of the External Audit has not yet been received.

152/09 MAINTENANCE OF THE RECREATION GROUND

Mrs Woodcock reported that the Ferguson tractor has broken down and it is thought that the cost to repair it will be too much. The Cricket Club has volunteers that are prepared to keep the area tidy but they need the equipment to do so. If the grass is not mowed on a regular basis it will undo the hard work that has taken place over the past 18 months.

Mr Henderson asked of the long term plan for the area and for whose benefit the grass is being mowed. Mrs Woodcock stated that it will eventually be for the cricket and football clubs to use. Mr Henderson then asked that when the area is established, who will pay for the maintenance of the area. The terms on which the land is rented out will be either that the clubs maintain the area or that they will cover the cost to maintain the area. Mrs Woodcock stated that the Parish Council cannot do without a tractor as it is also used in other places in the village such as the Conservation Area. Mr Horsley suggested that Isis Accord, SODC and OCC be contacted to submit quotes to mow the area in question on a fortnightly basis until the end of the mowing season. Mr Walker commented that at the moment there is no cost to the Parish Council to mow this area as the volunteers are willing to carry out the work, but they need a tractor to pull the mower. The recreation ground and the cricket pitch areas are immaculate.

153/09 REMOVAL OF BOWLEY FIELD BARRIERS

The barriers have already been removed, so no need to discuss.

154/09 DONATION TOWARDS THE SCHOOL/CHURCH FETE TO COVER THE COST OF HIRING THE VILLAGE HALL

Mr Horsley proposed that the Parish Council make a donation of £100.00 to go towards the school/church fete. It was also agreed that the Clerk write to the Senior Residents Club stating that if

they decide to hold a Christmas Bazaar this year the Parish Council will also contribute £100.00 towards the event.

155/09 CORRESPONDENCE.

- a.. Park Leisure Ltd – Brochure. – (Passed to Mrs Julian).
- b. OPFA - The Playing Field Newsletter. – (Passed to Mrs Julian).
- c. S & C Slater – Introductory Letter ref Low Maintenance Grass Surfaces. – (Passed to Mrs Julian).
- d. Wheatley Park School – Donation Request. – **Councillors agreed to make a donation of £150.00.**
- e. Wheatley Parish Council – Copy of Letter to County Councillor Hudspeth.
- f. SODC – Standards Committee – Code of Conduct Questionnaire. – Completed by The Clerk.
- g. OCC – Oxfordshire Highways Annual Report 2008/09.*
- h. ERHA – The Bulletin Newsletter Summer 2009.*
- i. ORCC – Oxfordshire Rural Services Directory. – (Circulated via email).
- j. SODC – Sports & Activity Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- k. SODC – Free Tree Scheme. – (Passed to Mr Harris to complete).
- l. National Energy Centre – Newsletter. – (Circulated by email).
- m. ORCC – News Bulletin July 2009. – (Circulated by email).

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

displayed on Village Hall & village noticeboards

156/09 PAYMENTS.

Chq	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
1914	Mrs Tasker	Bus Shelter Maintenance June/July 09		120.00
1915	Southern Electric	Power to Scout Hut	2.52	19.81
1916	Horspath Cricket Club	Diesel for mowing Bowley Field		25.35
1917	Mr Martin Harris	Dustbins for Watering	7.49	73.43
		Tow bar	6.75	51.75
1918	Mr M Harris	Photocopying costs		10.00
1919	Mr Rob Gray	Grass Cutting Burial Ground		133.00
		Grass Cutting Village Green		425.00
		Strimming Oxford Road & Path		24.00
		Diesel/Oil/Strimming Line Costs		63.14
1920	Wheatley Park School	Donation		150.00
1921	St Giles Church PCC	Donation		100.00
		TOTAL	£16.76	£1195.48

157/09 RECEIPTS

Date	From Who Received	Details	Total £
8.6.09	Barclays Bank	Interest Business Premium Acct 2/3/09 – 7/6/09	7.86
8.6.09	Barclays Bank	Interest Business Reserve Acct up to 5/6/09	1.31
			£9.17

158/09 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Mrs Julian mentioned the recent complaint from Ms Dixon who had recently rented the village hall for a wedding reception. Councillors agreed that this complaint be forwarded onto the VHMC to deal with.
- b. Mr Turnbull mentioned that he had recently seen approx 8 males with alcohol jump over the fence onto the Oxford Road.

- c. Mrs Palmer reported that she has received a complaint from a resident at Gidley Way complaining about the cars parked on the grass at Gateley. It was agreed that Mrs Palmer refer the resident to SODC as it is their land.
- d. Ms Gray reported that while completing the grant applications for the Village Hall heating system to SODC, she has been asked for proof that the Parish Council owns the Village Hall. At present the land and the Village Hall is not registered at all, so it needs to be registered to the Parish Council. Mrs Palmer agreed to find out the procedure to do this and report back.
Ms Gray commented that Mrs Palmer has recently scanned a lot of important documents on her behalf and suggested that all important documents are scanned in future. Mr Turnbull offered to scan any necessary documents.

Public:

- e. Mrs Dandridge reported that the bridge over the ditch outside of the Bowley Field has collapsed. The Clerk to report to Mrs Purse.
- f. Mrs Tasker reported that 2 chairs from the Village Hall used for the dog show were left outside in the car park
The grass in the gutters at the bottom of Manor Drive/Spring Lane needs cutting. Clerk to notify OCC Highways.
The sign at the bottom of Gidley Way is broken and needs repairing. Clerk to inform OCC Highways.
The tree branches under the bridge need cutting back. Clerk to inform OCC Highways.
- g. Mrs Gray commented that Robert is aware of the problem with grass cuttings and is working hard to get the grass off of the paths.
- h. Mr Gray asked if the Council has collated the cost of grass cutting as opposed to buying another tractor. Mr Gray stated that it would be more beneficial if the Parish Council purchased another Ferguson tractor as several items of Ferguson equipment has already been purchased.

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

159/09 VILLAGE HALL – QUOTES RECEIVED FOR NEW BOILER & HEATING SYSTEM & LETTER/QUOTE FOR REMOVAL OF ASBESTOS.

Mrs Woodcock confirmed that 3 quotes have been received for the new heating system. Grant applications have been submitted but it is unlikely that the Parish Council will be awarded a grant and if we are successful it is likely that it will only be for a small amount. Decisions on the grants should be available by the end of September. Mrs Woodcock commented that as well as the quotes received, there are lots of other costs involved in this project that have not yet been confirmed. It is a possibility that if we are not successful with grant applications, the money could be raised in the precept next year or a loan could be sought from PWLB.

Mr Horsley raised concern that the Parish Council is considering spending £40,000.00 on a building that only generates approx £3,000.00 per year. The decision to spend this money will have to be decided by the village. Mr Horsley asked why we can't just replace the boiler instead of having a complete new system. Ms Gray suggested that a small committee be formed to discuss all options available. Councillors agreed that Ms Gray, Mr Henderson and Mr Turnbull will form the committee and report back to the Parish Council.

160/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 18 August 2009 (To be confirmed)
Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 1 September 2009.