

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd November 2010
At 8pm in HORSPATH VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Mr C Henderson, Mr D Horsley, Mr M Harris, Mrs H Palmer, Mr S Turnbull, Mrs S Woodcock, Mrs J Carr (District Councillor), Mr A Hodgson (District Councillor), Mrs A Purse (County Councillor), Mrs H Kogel – Clerk. Mr Peter Ronald – Area Traffic Engineer, OCC.

Apologies Mr P Dobson, Ms S Gray, Mrs A Julian,

Public: 6

193/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies were made on behalf of Mr Dobson, Ms Gray and Mrs Julian.

194/10 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL - Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th October 2010 were amended on Item **184/10 Reports/Updates (f)** – To that end, of course, if we can attract any grant funding for the painting & decorating soffits, signage or any other of those items we are looking to you to support, we would be able to mitigate the amount we are asking the Parish Council to *commit*. **Item 184/10 Reports/Updates Wind Turbine** - Mr Harris explained that Oxford City Council is proposing a wind turbine of *130 metres* be sited even closer to Horspath village as there has been an objection from BMW which is a serious change from the previous proposal. The minutes were then agreed and signed by the Chairman.

195/10 MATTERS ARISING – There were no matters arising that are not already listed on the agenda.

The meeting was then suspended to allow an open forum to discuss the traffic calming at Cuddesdon Road. (See separate report).

196/10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

P10/W1508/ 137 Cuddesdon Road, Horspath

LD Single storey side extensions. – **Councillors voted unanimously to recommend refusal on this application as it is already up to its maximum expansion and it is the responsibility of SODC to enforce the planning policy.**

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.

P10/W1293 14 Gidley Way, Horspath (Other)

Demolition of existing garage. Extension to the front to form new entrance, porch and extend existing rooms. Side & back extensions to form additional ground floor living accommodation. Additional dormer gabled construction forming en-suite shower room. **- Granted.**

10/02127/ Telefonica 02 UK Ltd, Junction of Transport Way and Watlington Rd, Cowley.

T56 Application for the prior approval of a 12.5m telecommunication mast plus equipment cabinet. – **Prior Approval Required – Siting & design acceptable.**

P10/W1138/ Ways Farm, Gidley Way, Horspath

LD Extension to the side of Ways Farm to provide accommodation for disabled shower room and carer facility. – **Certificate of Lawful Use or Development Granted.**

197/10 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

Mrs J Carr (District Councillor) – The Core Strategy will be discussed next week, but will not affect Horspath.

Mrs A Purse (County Councillor) – Mrs Purse reported that the Electoral Review of Oxfordshire is only for Witney.

With regards to the proposed wind turbine, the new current system seems to have taken planning advice away from OCC, but Mrs Purse will support the Parish Council in opposing any proposals for development in the Green Belt. Mrs Purse stated that she is not against wind turbines but they have to be suitable sited.

Mr A Hodgson (District Councillor) – Mrs Purse will update Mr Hodgson on the traffic calming measures at Cuddesdon Road.

198/10 CLERK'S UPDATE.

Bus Shelters – Mr Pete Aries has agreed to take over the maintenance of the bus shelters.

Horspath Primary School – A thank you letter has been received from Mrs Emma Coleman for the slide that has been donated to the school.

Property at Copcot Place – A part buy/rent property has become available. ERHA has written to approx 5/6 applicants. Councillors agreed that if SODC Housing Dept can provide proof that there is a need for further affordable housing in Horspath then the Parish Council will support a third phase.

Property on The Green – Councillors agreed to grant permission for tarmac to be used for the repairs to the driveway.

199/10 REPORTS/UPDATES.

Wildlife Conservation Area(s)– The grass meadow (the 'Bowley Field') at the west end of the Parish Council land extending along the north side of Oxford Road from the Village Hall was mowed by Donald Gray and Martin Harris on 28th October, using the Parish Council's Smallholder 135 tractor and Caroni mower. The tractor and mower ran very well for the 7 hours of continuous mowing that it took to cover this large area, and the object was achieved - to prevent the tall grasses and woody plants getting so long this year that it would be impossible to mow them with this machinery in a year's time, and to render this large area usable as an overflow campsite for any major Village Hall hirers next year. The Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum, of which our village conservation area volunteer group is a member, is considering solutions to the problem of how to remove the grass cuttings by machine next year, as is desirable to take off such material, which unlike straw, is unusable by grazing animals, to preserve the biodiversity of such meadows, as this problem is faced by 6 other Oxfordshire villages with similar grass meadows. This field is heavily populated by moles, voles and mice, and is therefore a rich hunting ground used by owls at night and by Red Kites by day, two of which closely followed behind the tractor for several hours on 28.10.2010. Most of the 650 newly planted trees around the Bowley Field were inspected, and some cutting back of nearby tall vegetation is underway to give them a better chance of establishment, while still allowing long grass to grow up around them to protect the developing roots from summer droughts. A margin of 2 metres will be left around all the trees, where long grass will grow up for this purpose, when the Horspath Cricket Club volunteers resume the close mowing of the walking routes through the Bowley Field. Some of the trees most recently planted just before the hard winter weather last year did not develop good enough roots to survive the mid-summer dry period, but they will not yet be removed until we can be sure that some of the roots do not regenerate and produce new buds in the spring. Overall, only a small percentage of the 650 newly trees have failed and some of the young survivors may well need to be thinned by relocating them to places where obvious gaps develop. Some trees will also need re-staking with recycled plastic covers, currently stored in the Scout Hut, to protect them from the hungry deer during the coming winter. A total of four Stihl petrol-driven hedge-cutters (two Parish Council owned + two brought along by volunteers) were used by our volunteers to make an impressive start on the annual cutting back of the tall vegetation in the

Wildlife Conservation Area on Saturday 30th October. The area kept as a clay wildflower meadow is now cleared of tall vegetation and is ready for its annual close cut using the Parish Council mower. Further cutting back around the paths and the ponds will be undertaken by volunteers in the coming month. The recently acquired second-hand Stihl FS85T hedge trimmer was serviced at a cost of £48 and now goes well. Despite posting some notices on the Wildlife Conservation Area gate inviting new local volunteers to help maintain this valuable and well-used village amenity, we attracted no new volunteers on 30.10.2010, indicating how important it is for the core of regular volunteers to use machine tools to get the work done.

HVHMC – A report from Mr Stobart was not available. Mrs Woodcock reported that the finances are improving and will hopefully soon be making a profit. Still waiting for an estimate for decorating.

Village Hall Heating - Notices have been put up reminding people to remember to turn the radiators back up if they have been turned down.

200/10 WIND TURBINE

The Clerk circulated to all Councillors a copy of the draft summary of Horspath Parish Council's understanding of the PFR wind turbine proposals. Councillors approved this summary and it was agreed that it will be published on the village website www.horspath.org.uk. Mr Harris reported that OGBN will be holding their AGM next Friday and will be focusing on threats to the Green Belt in Horspath.

201/10 REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT.

The Clerk circulated the Internal Audit Review Checklist. Councillors approved the checklist with the following exception:- *The annual audit plan demonstrates how audit work will provide assurance for the council's Annual Governance Statement.* – Horspath Parish Council does not have an Annual Governance Statement.

202/10 TREES – Quotations to be considered at the end of the meeting.

203/10 BUS SHELTER MAINTENANCE

It was agreed that Mrs Tasker will be paid for August, September and October 2010. Mr Aries will take over with effect from 1st November 2010. It was agreed that the payment made for this service will remain the same and will be reviewed again in 2/3 months.

204/10 CHICANES – CUDDESDON ROAD

Following the Open Forum to discuss the traffic calming at Cuddesdon Road (notes attached), Mr Ronald recommended that half of the chicane is removed and then see what effect this has. Councillors all agreed to support this decision on condition that the signage and lighting in this area is properly maintained and improved..

205/10 CORRESPONDENCE.

- a. SODC – Town & Parish Council Forum 2010. – (Circulated via email).
- b. NALC – Events Bulletin. – (Circulated via email).
- c. OALC Local Councils Training Workshop 9.11.10. – (Circulated via email).
- d. OGBN – Notice of AGM. – (Circulated via email).
- e. SODC – Review of Polling Districts & Places. – (Circulated via email).
- f. OALC – October Update for Members. – (Circulated via email).
- g. SODC – Outpost - News & Features from SODC. – (Circulated via email).
- h. CPRE – October Oxfordshire Campaign Briefing. – (Circulated via email).
- i. Mr Peter Ewart – Building Works off Church Road. – **Mrs Woodcock has notified SODC about the building works. Mr Harris advised Mr Ewart that SODC recommend using Boddingtons for turf**

stabilisation grids as Mr Ewart wants to cover the Green outside his house so that his car doesn't churn it up.

- j. ERHA – Annual Report 2010.*
- k. OCC – Local Transport Plan 3 (2011 – 2030) Draft Plan Consultation. – Passed to Mrs Woodcock
- l. Wheatley Parish Council – October/November Newsletter.*
- m. NATS – Terminal Control North. – **Noted.**
- n. OCC – Review of Subsidised Bus Services Wheatley, Thame & Watlington area June 2011.*
- o. OPFA – Invitation to AGM & Social Event for the retirement of Roger Davis.*
- p. Wickstead Leisure – Brochure.*
- q. The Local Government Boundary Commission – Electoral Review of Oxfordshire. – **Mr Harris asked the Clerk to look out for any further future correspondence.**
- r. The Valuation Office – Notice of Alteration to an existing 2010 Rating List Entry. – **Clerk to send a copy to Mr Stobart and Ms Julian.**
- s. OPFA – Newsletter Autumn 2010. – Passed to Mrs Julian.
- t. PWLB – Proposed Withdrawal of Cheque Handling. – **It was agreed that the Clerk will set up a direct debit for future payments.**
- u. OCC – Invitation – Further Electoral Review of OCC.
- v. Wheatley Park School – Thank you on behalf of the students for the donation.*

** original held by the Clerk, copy available on request.
displayed on Village Hall & village noticeboards.*

206/10 PAYMENTS.

Chq	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
2028	JJ Bark	Repairs to Mower	64.13	430.60
2029	Mrs Julian	Cheque Cancelled		
2030	Mr M Harris	Service on Hedge Trimmer		44.65
2031	Mrs Tasker	Bus Shelter Main Aug/Sept/Oct 2010		180.00
		TOTAL	64.13	655.25

**** Mr Gray will look into the cost of the annual servicing of the mower as this seems very expensive.**

207/10 RECEIPTS

Date	From Who Received	Details	Total £
29.9.10	HM Revenue & Customs	Repayment of VAT	8,621.31
6.9.10	Barclays Bank	Interest Business Saver Acct 7.6.10 – 5.9.10	4.95
6.9.10	Barclays Bank	Interest Business Saver Acct 7.6.10 – 5.9.10	1.42
30.9.10	Mrs Woodcock	Payment received for scrap metal	62.50
		TOTAL	£8,690.18

208/10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Mrs Woodcock reported that she has received a letter from Mr Charles Gurden with regards to the Church/School Fete planned for June 2011. Mr Gurden has asked if the Parish Council will consider making a donation to cover the cost of hiring the village hall. Councillors agreed to contribute the cost of hiring but will be discussed at the next meeting.
Mrs Woodcock also commented that the Toddler Group are struggling to raise the funds to cover the new hire costs of the village hall. To be discussed at the next meeting. Mr Horsley commented that the Parish Council should also support the senior residents group.
- b. Mr Horsley commented that Stagecoach are now sponsoring Horspath Cricket Club. Mrs Woodcock has already spoken with Mr Stobart to ensure that HVHMC and the Parish Council are kept completely

separate and asked that the Parish Council is kept informed. Mrs Woodcock will suggest to Mr Stobart that the minutes from the HVHMC are circulated to all Parish Councillors.

Public:

- c. Mr Clarke commented that the man hole covers in Manor Drive have never been finished off. Mrs Purse will contact OCC Highways Dept.
Mr Clarke also reported that Cycle Speedway is making every effort to keep the noise down to an acceptable level. They have had their best ever year so far with 8 championship medals coming in this year.

209/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 16 November 2010 (To be confirmed)
Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 7th December 2010.

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

210/10 TREES

Councillors considered the two quotations received from Robinson's Trees and Mr McGregor.
Councillors agreed to accept the most competitive quote received from Mr McGregor. Clerk to contact Mr McGregor.