

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st December 2009
At 8pm in HORSPATH VILLAGE HALL.

Present: 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 A Purse (County Councillor), Mrs H Kogel (Clerk).

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

Public: 5

221/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies were made on behalf of Mrs Carr and Mr Dobson.

222/09 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd November 2009 were amended on:-

204/09 Minutes of the Wind Turbine Meeting held on 27th October 2009 – (Item 4) – “(Which incidentally Oxford City Council doesn’t own) was deleted.

211/09 Review of Internal Audit - Councillors agreed to review the Internal Audit which *will* be carried out when the new auditor is appointed.

214/09 – Burial Ground Drainage – *“and suggested that the drains for the Burial Ground should be self contained”* was deleted.

209/09 Clerk Update - Vehicle Registration Certificate – The certificate for the *Smallholder* tractor has now been received.

The Minutes were then agreed and signed as correct.

223/09 MATTERS ARISING – There were no matters arising.

224/09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

P09/W1075 Unit 3, 4 Gidley Way, Horspath (Other)

Change of use from class B8 (storage) to B2 (motorcycle MOT centre).

Councillors agreed that there were No Strong Views on this application and accepts that SODC will determine it as it considers appropriate but did request that SODC contact all neighbours including neighbours from No’s 23 – 37 Cuddesdon Road who are of a different postcode but back on to this property and ensure that their views are taken into account before a decision on this application is taken.

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.

P09/W0132/ 137 Cuddesdon Road, Horspath

LD Lawful Development Certificate for the erection of a timber framed building.

- Refusal of Certificate of Lawful Use or Development.

225/09 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Mrs A Purse – County Councillor – Mrs Purse reported that she has recently met with Peter Ronald from OCC Highways Dept at Cuddesdon Road, Horspath to discuss the safety of the chicanes that are currently in place. Mr Ronald has stated that he does not think that the chicanes will automatically be replaced. Mrs Purse is willing to support the Parish Council in whatever they decide. Mrs Woodcock asked who covered the cost for the changes made to the chicanes on the Oxford Road. Mrs Purse stated that OCC would cover the cost to remove and take away chicanes. Mrs Woodcock asked if we could incorporate humps with the chicanes similar to those in place at Ladder Hill, Wheatley. This could be done but OCC would ask the Parish Council to cover the cost. The general opinion from Councillors

was that the chicanes are slowing the majority of traffic, however due to the number of accidents in this area we need to look at anyway possible to make it safer without removing the chicanes. Mrs Purse will liaise with OCC and the Clerk will inform Mr Malcolm Bowler.

Mrs Purse stated that Oxfordshire has been complimented on its excellent library service.

Mrs Purse passed on details of the Xmas refuse collections and commented that people can text SODC for collection dates.

Mr Turnbull commented about the footpaths at Butts Road and by the Bridge that are very narrow causing pedestrians to walk onto the road in certain places. Mr Turnbull will email the details to Mrs Purse who will take up with OCC.

Mr Harris reported that a HGV has damaged the footpath on Butts Road, north west of the bridge leaving a trip hazard on a very well used footpath to and from school. Mrs Purse to take up with OCC.

226/09 CLERK'S UPDATE.

Chequers Inn – A letter will be sent to the Chequers Inn asking them to paint the smoking shelter the same colour green as the pub sign as previously agreed.

Anna Kennedy ORCC – Will be attending January 2010 meeting along with a representative from SODC.

Barclays Bank – Renewal of Bond – Councillors decided not to renew the bond at this point.

Letter to Thames Water – A letter has been sent informing Thames Water of the repairs carried out to date.

227/09 REPORTS/UPDATES.

Wildlife Conservation Area – The trees that are to be felled in the Conservation Area have been marked with white tape and quotes have been invited from 4 arboriculturists. Mr Harris will circulate quotes in time for the next meeting.

South East Plan – The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has now stated that it will now revise the section of the South East Plan which deals with Central Oxfordshire such that all references will be deleted which refer to the South of Oxford Strategic Development Area, all references to a selective review of the Oxford Green Belt, and the references to a wider review of the Green Belt. The precise wording of the revised document has yet to be published, but it will set out the revised regional policies which must be followed in Oxford City Council's Core Strategy for its Local Development Framework, for which the Examination in Public is currently adjourned, but will be resumed when this regional policy is clarified. While these developments indicate that the Green Belt near Horspath will be protected against unwelcome development, this particular responsibility will remain South Oxfordshire District Council's, and will need to be clarified when SODC holds the Examination in Public of its own Core Strategy in the spring of 2010.

HVSA – As no meeting has taken place, no report is available. Mrs Woodcock commented that despite being reminded, the HVSA is still waiting for a business plan from the boys'/men's football club.

HVHMC – Ms Gray requested that it be minuted that she has resigned from the HVHMC. Mr Henderson commented that it is very unclear who is responsible for the three committees – the Parish Council, HVHMC and HVSA. Mr Harris stated that the Village Hall is a registered charity managed by the HVHMC, and is quite separate from the Parish Council. Mrs Woodcock stated that the HVHMC has not met as regularly as it should recently and it should consist of members from all organisations that use the Village Hall. At the last meeting held, apart from Cricket Club representatives no other members from other organisations were present, however, it is not clear if the organisations are aware that they should be at the meetings. Mrs Woodcock suggested placing an advert on the notice board for volunteers to come forward to assist the committee. The boiler has not been maintained over the past 15 years and now needs to be replaced. Mr Harris stated that this is a capital cost which will be covered by the Parish Council as the landlord. Mr Henderson asked who the trustees for the Village Hall are at present. Mr Harris stated that they are Mr Dobson and Mr Goss. Mr Henderson asked to see a copy of

the lease for the Village Hall and as there is no existing agreement for Cycle Speedway this must be done. Mr Henderson stated that a group of people are needed to run the HVHMC who are committed. Mr Turnbull suggested that the Parish Council hand over the responsibility of the HVHMC to the Cricket Club. Mr Harris stated that the Parish Council has to be very careful as the Village Hall is a registered charity and no other user groups have been approached as yet to become involved in the HVHMC. Councillors agreed that a meeting will take place in the New Year to discuss the HVHMC VHSA committees.

228/09 PRECEPT 2010/2011.

The Clerk circulated a draft copy of the Precept to Councillors. It was agreed that the final Precept will be confirmed at the next meeting.

229/09 PLAY AREA UPDATE.

Mrs Julian reported that she has recently circulated a plan for the revised play area that Playbuilder are happy with. It is a flexible plan but the work will need to be completed by the end of March 2010. The Clerk has raised a cheque for the deposit of £16,000.00 that is required from the contractor. There is a lead time of five weeks on the equipment. Despite several reminders, Mrs Julian is still waiting for Trevor Stewart to send the final quote for the other play area so that the grant funds from Wren can be released. Mr Stewart should have started the work in September 2009. Mrs Julian also has another quote for this play area. Councillors agreed that the Clerk write to Trevor Stewart giving a deadline of 7 days to submit the quote or the project will be awarded to an alternative contractor.

230/09 BURIAL GROUND DRAINAGE.

Mr Turnbull reported that there is only one wet area in the burial ground at the moment. Mr Turnbull asked where the tap in the burial ground is fed from. Mr Gray stated that it is either the Village Hall or the Scout Hut. Mr Gray and Mr Turnbull to contact John Madden.

231/09 CUDES DON ROAD CHICANES – Letter from Mr Alan Morton.

This item was discussed in 225/09 – County Councillor – Mrs A Purse.

232/09 HORSPATH METHODIST CHURCH.

Following a recent meeting with members of the Parish Council, the Methodist Church and St Giles Church, Mr Horsley circulated a proposal on behalf of the Parish Council to transfer the Methodist Church charity over to the VHMC charity. St Giles PCC is due to hold a meeting to discuss managing the Methodist Church as a sub section of the VHMC. Mr Horsley commented that the running costs of the building are approx £3000 - £4000.00 per year, with an income of approx £1500.00. At the moment it is being subsidised by individuals. There are a lot of residents in the village who would like to keep the Methodist Church building so the Parish Council has to try and put arrangements in place if it is possible. Mr Harris asked how the Methodist Church regards a ban on liquor and gambling, Mr Horsley stated that they are strongly against both. Mr Harris stated that the Parish Council could never give assurance that this wouldn't happen. Mr Horsley commented that it is possible that some of the meetings held at the Village Hall could be transferred over to the Methodist Church which would free up more evenings for functions to be held in the Village Hall. Mrs Woodcock stated that if the proposals set out in the letter drafted by Mr Horsley met our conditions then the Parish Council could commit for one year and then review after that. It was agreed that Mr Horsley and Mr Henderson will make a few amendments to the letter and then pass onto the Clerk to send.

233/09 CYCLE SPEEDWAY.

Mr Turnbull commented that there is a hole in the ground with exposed electric cables. Mr Clarke from the Cycle Speedway confirmed that this has now been filled in. The spoil heap in the car park will be

used by Mrs Julian for the bike track. Mr Horsley stated that as of next year, Cycle Speedway will be fully paid up members of HVSA. Mr Horsley will contact Robin Carter to confirm.

234/09 UPDATE ON VILLAGE HALL –NEW BOILER & HEATING SYSTEM.

Mr Turnbull confirmed that he is working through the Thames Water report. Many of the repairs have already been carried out but there are still some remaining which will be done next week when the plumber returns. Mr Turnbull will need access to the bar area and the doctors surgery. Mr Turnbull will get a quote for the recommendations that the current boiler is replaced with two combination boilers in the same place with hot water on demand, electric showers for the Cricket Club and keeping the existing radiators in the main hall. With these new boilers it is more efficient to run the heating at a lower temperature on a timer. The room thermostats will be locked. Mr Turnbull stated that the plan is to replace the boilers next summer but further consideration will be given when the quote is received.

235/09 CORRESPONDENCE.

- a. CPRE – Oxfordshire Campaign Briefing October 2009. – (Circulated by email).
- b. ORCC – News Bulletin November 2009. – (Circulated by email).
- c. Thames Valley Crime Stoppers – Posters.*#
- d. Mr R Kramer – Treasurer St Giles Church – Thank you letter for donating cost of hiring Village Hall.*
- e. SODC – Minutes of a Meeting of the Standards Committee on 22.10.09.*
- f. John Howell MP – Introductory Letter. – **Noted.**
- g. Clerks & Councils Direct – Newsletter November 2009.*
- h. Oxfordshire Association for the Blind – Donation Request. – **A donation of £50.00 was agreed.**
- i. OPFA – Annual Report 2008-2009.*
- j. OCC – Oxfordshire Fire Authority’s Integrated Risk Management Consultation Action Plan 2010-2011.
- k. Abbey Netball Club – Donation Request. – **It was agreed that no donation will be made on this occasion.**
- l. OGBN – Chairman’s Report November 2009. – (Circulated by email).
- m. SODC – Town & Parish Council Sports Development Letter. – (Circulated by email).
- n. SOHA – Annual Report. – (Circulated by email).
- o. CPRE – Campaign Briefing November 2009. – (Circulated by email).

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

displayed on Village Hall & village noticeboards

236/09 PAYMENTS.

Chq	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
1945	Mr Rob Gray	Grass Cutting Village Green Grass Cutting Burial Ground		170.00 33.00
1946	Oxfordshire County Council	Repayment of Play Area Grant overpaid in error		1,000.00
1947	PWLB	Loan repayment for Burial Ground		2,865.34
1948	Mrs Tasker	Bus Shelter Maintenance Oct/Nov 09 Xmas Box		120.00 20.00
1949	Vilitas Office Supplies	Photocopier & Cartridge	55.95	428.94
1950	Mr S Turnbull	Materials for Plumbing repairs	2.85	21.86
1951	Allplay	Deposit for Play Area	2,400.00	18,400.00
1952	Ox Assoc for the Blind	Donation		50.00
		TOTAL	£2458.80	£23,109.14

237/09 RECEIPTS

Date	From Who Received	Details	Total £
19.11.09	Oxfordshire County Council	Grant for Play Area	46,700.00
19.11.09	OGBN	Donation	60.00
			£46,760.00

238/09 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Mr Henderson commented that Oxford City Council is now talking about situating a wind turbine at Cutteslow Park.
- b. Ms Gray reported that there has been a problem in the past with the Grundon's refuse lorry regularly damaging the kerb edges and the grass area at Gateley. When the new contractor Verdant took over they said that the refuse lorry would reverse into Gateley and then carry the bins to the lorry. This is not happening; they are causing more damage than Grundon's. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to SODC.
- c. Mr Horsley commented that the broadband speed in Horspath is inadequate. Mr Horsley to forward contact details to the Clerk who will write a letter of complaint. Mr Harris commented that this subject has also recently been discussed at the South East England Rural Forum. Mr Harris will circulate details of the Broadband speeds available in Horspath as well as details on the speed tests.

Public:

- d. Mr Gray asked for volunteers to help put up the Christmas tree on Saturday 12th December 2009 at 10am.
- e. Mr Clarke reported that there are brambles overhanging onto the very narrow footpath at Manor Cottage.
Mr Clarke asked if it was possible to install a street light at the bottom of the alleyway at Manor Drive by the bridge as it is very dark and could be dangerous. By doing this it may help to stop vandalism in this area. It was agreed that the Clerk will make a request to Kieran Murphy at OCC.
- f. Mrs Dandridge commented that she is glad the Parish Council is giving consideration to the future of the Methodist Church.

239/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 15 December 2009 (To be confirmed)
Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 5 January 2010.