

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th December 2011
At 8pm in HORSPATH VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Mr J Dobson, Mr P Dobson, Mr P Ewart, Mr M Harris, Mr D Horsley, Mr S Turnbull, Mrs S Watson, Mr R Bell (District Councillor), A Purse (County Councillor), Mrs H Kogel – Clerk.	Apologies Mr C Henderson, Mrs A Julian, Mrs H Palmer, Mrs J Carr (District Councillor).
	Public: 4

194/11 PCSO Ken Cooney reported that for the whole of this year there have been 95 calls received by TVP for Horspath the majority of which have been enquiries and only a few crimes being reported. Mr Cooney reported that there has been a lot of metal theft in the area. Buildings, schools and houses are being targeted so residents are asked to report anyone who is collecting metal so that the Police can check that it is not stolen. There has also been agricultural machinery stolen in the area. Two arrests have recently been made in Waterperry where a JCB was stolen. Mr Cooney also reported that from November 2011 the new non-emergency contact number for TVP is 101. The old number will still be in use until March 2012 but advised that TVP would prefer that people use 101.

195/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies were made on behalf of Mr Henderson, Mrs Julian, Mrs Palmer and Mrs Carr.

196/11 EMERGENCY BUSINESS – Mr Horsley reported that an email has been received from S&R Childs regarding a burial next Tuesday. It was agreed that this will be discussed under Burial Ground.

197/11 PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY – RESIGNATION OF MR KEITH BROOKS
It was agreed that a notice will be put on the village notice board advertising the vacancy for a Parish Councillor. The Clerk will write to Mr Brooks thanking him for his input over the past six months.

198/11 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS. – There were no declarations made.

199/11 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st November 2011 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as correct.

200/11 MATTERS ARISING

180/11 Matters Arising – Mr Dobson commented that he had received over 80 emails this month with only four of them being classed as emergencies. Mr Harris commented that he has relied on emails during the past month to keep him up to date whilst he has been ill. Mr Horsley will monitor the situation.

201/11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

P11/W1772 The Downs, Wheatley Road, Garsington

Complete demolition of 11 redundant poultry units, partial demolition of 11 redundant poultry units, and change of use and conversion of the remaining 18 units to provide 1,697 sq.m of new class b1 business accommodation with associated car parking, landscaping and means of access. – **Councillors agreed that there are No Strong Views on this application and will leave to SODC to determine.**

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.

P11/W1365/ Chartwell, 149 Gidley Way, Horspath

LDE Certificate of Lawful Development concerning the breach of condition 6 (agricultural tie to dwelling) of planning permission P88/NO728 for a period exceeding the requisite 10 year period. – **Granted.**

P11/W1393 89 Gidley Way, Horspath (Other)

Demolish garage and existing rear extensions. New single storey side garage and extension, double and single storey rear extensions and loft conversion. (As amended by Drawing No's 59COT-044-06C, 07C & 08C received 18 October 2011). – **Granted.**

P11/W1437 9 Wrightson Close, Horspath (Other)

Demolition of existing garage, store and lobby and construction of two storey extensions to form granny annexe, kitchen and dog room, garage with additional bedroom with ensuite to first floor. (As amended by Drawing No's P2A & P3A accompanying letter from agent dated 12th October 2011). – **SODC has advised that this application has been withdrawn by the applicant.**

202/11 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Mr Roger Bell (District Councillor) – Mr Bell reported that the current rules at SODC regarding planning applications is that when an application is classed as “other” the views of the Parish Council will not carry an automatic move to the planning committee, this will need to be done by either Mr Bell or Mrs Carr. In future any “other” planning applications should be referred to either Mr Bell or Mrs Carr. This would be the same if the Parish Council were in strong support of a planning application. With planning applications classed as “minor” or “major” these would be referred to the Planning Committee. Mr Bell sent a copy of the Planning Officer's report to Mr Harris and Mr Horsley. Mr Bell reported that there is nothing further to report on the property that is under construction behind the existing property at 76 Gidley Way.

The Localism Act is now officially an act but no information about how it is going to work.

Mrs Ann Ducker SODC has announced that there will be a reduction in Council Tax next year of 2.5%.

Mrs Anne Purse – County Councillor – Mrs Purse asked if there was any improvement in the School Bus situation at Gidley Way. As Councillors were not sure this will be monitored and Anne Purse will be notified if there is still a problem.

A representative from OCC Highways recently came to look at the footpaths in College Way and is pushing for at least an assessment. Mrs Watson agreed to meet with Anne Purse to walk round the village to inspect the footpaths.

203/11 CLERK'S UPDATE

OCC – No response received to date from Paul Wilson regarding the salt plans.

Salt Bins – Mr Tim Wilde at OCC is now dealing with the salt bins. 3 residents from Collcutt Close have requested a particular location for the bin in Collcutt Close. This information has been passed to Mr Wilde.

Hill Farm Sign – An order has been raised to move the sign.

204/11 PRECEPT 2012/13.

The Clerk circulated a draft precept to all Councillors. A decision will need to be made at the next meeting as SODC need to be informed by 12th January 2012.

Mr Bell commented that there is no cap on Parish & Town Precepts at the moment but it is likely to happen in two years time.

Mr Horsley reported that the income from the Chequers Car Park (approx £9000.00) can be spent but only on Village Green projects. Mr Horsley suggested that some of this money could be used on

installing lighting the other side of the bridge and in front of the Methodist Chapel. Also, the village car park needs work when the housing development is finished. Mr Horsley suggested that a sub-committee be formed to get quotes together for the two lights and the work in the car park.

Mr Ewart asked if this money could be used on the bridge. Mr Horsley stated that until the Parish Council owns the bridge then no money could be used on this project. Mr Harris suggested that the Parish Council pay someone to cut the grass back from the pathways by Cuddesdon Road bridge, the bus stop and the other side up to Gidley Way. Mr Ayres reported that Mrs Pullen has recently started this. Mr Turnbull commented that there are cracks in the columns of the bricks of the bus shelter; Mr Horsley agreed to get a quote for this work. Mr Horsley invited Mr Ayres to be involved in this project as he has carried out a lot of work himself. Mr Ayres suggested that a light at the bus stop side of the bridge should be installed as it is very dark crossing the road and also it would slight up the alleyway. Mr Horsley agreed that this would be included in the quotes.

205/11 RISK ASSESSMENTS.

Mr James Dobson commented that decisions on data management need to be made by the Parish Council. Mr Dobson will colour code the assessment and email through to the Clerk and each item will be considered at future Parish Council meetings.

206/11 METHODIST CHURCH – Letter from Martin Slade.

Mr Horsley commented that there are various different views on what the end result should be. Mr Horsley has spoken with the Charity Commission regarding granting an easement and they have confirmed that the Parish Council has no legal obligation to grant an easement. If an easement is granted that sum of money will have to sit in the capital easement fund, therefore it is not in the Parish Councils interest to do this.

In the past, there have been a lot of people in the village who have donated money to the Methodist Chapel in order to keep this facility. The Methodists are saying they will sell the property at market value. Mr Ewart suggested that a use needs to be found for the building and that grants to cover the costs of running community buildings are available. Mr Turnbull stated that the Parish Council already have the Village Hall and cannot afford to run another building unless a full time use for the building is found.

Mr Harris commented that it appears that the Methodists want to sell the building but any buyer's solicitors will realise that they do not have legal vehicular access to the property. This will delay any sale which will give people in the village more time to see how we could try and keep it in the village and for what use. Mr Horsley suggested that the Nursery could use the chapel as their building is falling apart.

Rebecca Brown commented that the building is a very valuable asset to the village. Residents can't come up with a use for it straight away but in a few years time, the Parish Council will have a big income from Stagecoach. It was also suggested that it could be used for the Post Office, but as there are no car parking facilities this is not practical.

Councillors agreed that the draft letter circulated by Mr Horsley be amended on the last paragraph and then sent to Martin Slade. Mr Horsley will then arrange a meeting with Mr Slade.

207/11 VILLAGE HALL OVERFLOW CAR PARK. – Deferred until next meeting.

208/11 BURIAL GROUND.

Mr Turnbull reported that there are at least approx 42 cubic metres of soil to be dug out for the drainage which will be very expensive to dispose of but could be used at the cricket ground. Part of the quotes will be to carry on the mound following instructions from Mr Murray or to bring it down to the far corner of the field by the road and put inside the hedges and trees to act as a sound barrier to reduce the road noise. Another option would be to make a big pond or to ask Mr Walker to spread it on his fields. Mr Turnbull explained that he may also need to speak with the Environment Agency with regards to the

water coming out into the ditch. It was agreed that Mr Turnbull will go ahead and obtain the quotes and then further discussions will be take place.

Memorial Plaque Request – A request has been received from Mrs Richards regarding a memorial plaque for Mr Tony Richards. Councillors approved the request but commented that this cannot be used as a precedent for other cases.

Burial Request – Mr Horsley has received a request for a burial next week from S&R Childs for a lady whose family live in the village. Councillors approved this request. Mr Horsley will liaise with the local vicar and the grave diggers.

209/11 OXFORD CITY COUNCIL PLANS A NEW BURIAL GROUND ON A HORSPATH FARMER'S FIELD.

Mr Harris reported that the Executive Board will receive a recommendation for another Burial Ground between the Bowley Field and the Sports Club. They are proposing soil tests on the field that always floods in the winter. If the proposals go ahead for the burial ground they could face major problems with flooding. The field, which is owned by Oxford City Council, is controlled for Planning purposes by SODC and is in the Green Belt.

210/11 REVIEW OF BURIAL GROUND RULES

Councillors agreed the following increase at Horspath Burial Ground effective from 1.1.2012.

The cost for a burial will be increased to £300.00

The cost for a monument will be increased to £125.00

The cost for Interment of ashes will be increased to £125.00

The cost for a tablet will be increased to £75.00

211/11 CORRESPONDENCE.

- a. Thame & District Citizens Advice Bureau. – Donation Request. – **No donation on this occasion.**
- b. SODC – Town & Country Planning Act 1990 – Tree Preservation Order No. 15/2011. – **Noted.**
- c. OCC – Request for Additional Streetlight on Cuddesdon Road, East of the Old Railway Bridge. – **Mr Horsley to make contact.**
- d. Post Office – Ref Horspath Post Office. – **Noted. A copy to be sent to Mr/s Patel.**
- e. Clerks & Councils Direct – November 2011 Newsletter.*
- f. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons – The Guide to Taking Part. – **Passed to Mrs Watson. Mrs Watson commented that the Events Committee meeting is in January and they are in need of additional volunteers. Mrs Watson will inform the Parish Council if any financial assistance is needed in arranging any event for the Queen's Jubilee.**
- g. Open Spaces Society – Autumn Newsletter 2011.*
- h. OALC – Roles & Responsibilities – Working on your Local Council 27.2.12. – (Circulated via email).
- i. OALC – Members Update November 2011. – (Circulated via email).
- j. Rural Services Network – Weekly News Digest. – (Circulated via email).
- k. Charity Commission – News. – (Circulated via email)
- l. ORCC – News Bulletin December 2011. – (Circulated via email).
- m. CPRE – Oxfordshire Campaign Briefing November 2011. – (Circulated via email).
- o. CPRE – Oxfordshire Campaign Briefing October 2011. – (Circulated via email).
- p. TVP Community Messaging – Scams. – (Circulated via email).
- q. ORCC – Rock Salt Bulk Ordering System for Parish Councils. – (Circulated via email).
- r. Dawn Hunt – TVP – Monthly Update for December 2011. – (Circulated via email).
- s. PCSO Ken Cooney – Routine December Monthly Update. – (Circulated via email).
- t. Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum – Bulletin. – (Circulated via email).

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

displayed on Village Hall & village noticeboards.

212/11 PAYMENTS.

Chq	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
2112	SODC	Emptying Dog Bins	11.81	70.86
2113	Mrs H Palmer	Annual Fee for Easyspace	24.11	144.65
2114	PWLB	Loan repayment for Burial Ground		2665.60
2115	Mr P Aries	Bus Shelter Maintenance Oct/Nov 2011 Christmas Bonus		120.00 20.00
2116	OALC	OALC Course for 3 Councillors	24.00	144.00
		TOTAL	59.92	3165.11

****The Clerk will remove Mrs Woodcock from the signatory list and add Mr Peter Dobson****

213/11 RECEIPTS.

Date	From Who Received	Details	Total £
8.11.11	OGBN	Donation	45.00
5.11.11	S&R Childs	Burial Fee	225.00
1.11.11	Co-op Funeral Directors	Memorial Fee	100.00
1.11.11	Punch Taverns	Quarterly Rent for Chequers Car Park	712.50
		TOTAL	1082.50

214/11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

- a. Mr Ewart commented that the refuse collection times have changed to before 9am, which is at the same time as the school run. Mr Bell will speak liaise with SODC and ask them to avoid school times.
- b. Mr Harris reported that he attended the Town & Parish Council Forum with Mr Bell and listened to the presentations including the Localism Act. There have been 14,000 objections to the NPPF, the Planning Minister has promised a new version, which will be available in April 2012.
Mr Harris reported that the 150 whip trees can be planted in the Bowley Field when volunteers are available. Mr Harris will email round to arrange a working party.
- c. Mr Horsley reported that the Christmas tree will be put up on Saturday morning.
- d. Mr Bell asked if the letter recently received from the Post Office stated anything significant. Mr Horsley stated that the letter didn't contain anything significant but the Post Office has spoken with both of the Public Houses in the village and looked at the Village Hall which would mean the Post Master from Wheatley or Cowley would have to come to the village, which is not viable.
Mr Bell commented that Wheatley Parish Council make a regular donation to Thame CAB. Mr Horsley commented that Horspath Parish Council was picked up by the Auditor for making this donation.
- e. Mrs Purse asked Councillors to consider Wheatley Youth Club when finalising the Precept for 2012/13 as it will only be able to continue to operate if it attracts other villages and with financial support. Hopefully the Youth Club will be able to provide a minibus service to collect and drop off the youths. Mr Horsley agreed to put up a notice asking the youths of Horspath if they would be interested in attending. Mr Bell commented that a meeting will take place next week so more information will be available shortly.

215/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 20th December 2011 (To be confirmed)

Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 10th January 2012.

216/11 STAGECOACH & HORSPATH STONE PIT CHARITY

Nothing to report.