HORSPATH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 3rd May 2017
at 8.00pm in Horspath Village Hall.

Present:  Mr T Ayres
           Mr K Brooks
           Mr P Dobson (Chairman)
           Mr P Ewart
           Mr M Harris
           Mrs H Palmer
           Mrs H Kogel, Clerk
           Mrs A Purse (County Councillor)
           Mrs E Gillespie (District Councillor)

Apologies: Mr J Dobson
           Mr D Horsley

Absent: Mrs H Palmer
        Mrs E Gillespie (District Councillor)

Public:  18

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were made on behalf of Mr James Dobson and Mr Horsley.

2. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL
The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 25th April 2016 were approved, all in favour.
The minutes were signed as correct.

A statement of un-audited accounts for 2016/17 was circulated. No questions were asked. The statement of accounts had not at this point been audited.

4. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Mr Peter Dobson
Good Evening and welcome to the Annual Parish meeting 2017.
As I’m sure you will be aware Bob Walker passed away in the early hours of Easter Monday. Bob was an active member of the Parish Council for many years and as the local farmer he supported the village in many ways including hedge cutting, ditch and snow clearing and often helping villagers out of all sorts of problems when the need arose. Bob also showed a great interest in village life including the provision of facilities to support the youth of the village with their various hobbies and interests. Bob had a great interest in local football and cricket as a player and for many years was President of the Cricket Club only recently giving up the office to his son Dennis. Our condolences go to Muriel and her family at this sad time. I would now ask you to join me in a minute’s silence in memory of Mr Bob Walker.

The Stone Pit - Trust has now been in operation for about two years and continues to receive grant applications from both individuals and organisations. During this period, the Trustees have again reviewed and updated terms and conditions of the Trust to demonstrate accountability and transparency. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Residents, Trustees and Independent Trustees for their support and commitment in the management of the Trust.

The Horspath Hub - Since the opening in May 2014 the Hub facilities have continued to expand and become an attractive and inviting venue for all providing a location for residents to meet. The provision of a Post Office has been well received and the access through the Hub grounds to the Village Hall has given a safe route for children, disabled and the elderly. More recently Broadband has been installed which will provide new opportunities for residents.

At their January meeting the Trustees held discussions as to how Horspath Stone Pit Trust could assist the Hub financially as it is an important community asset. To this end we are currently working with our
solicitors and the Hub to establish the most effective way to proceed. I would like to wish the Hub every success in the future.

**Village Bus Service** - As reported at the last Annual Parish meeting the County Council confirmed it would be withdrawing bus subsidies on 20th July 2016. Heather Palmer volunteered to act as the Parish Council’s Transport Representative and attended several meetings with residents and local bus companies in order reduce the impact on village residents. Heyfordian offered a reduced service for a trial period. Heyfordian stated that the trial confirmed that it was uneconomic to continue the bus service due to the low number of passengers using the service and the bus service ceased on 2nd December 2016. The Parish Council has looked at several alternatives and held discussions with locally affected parishes who all felt that it was not possible to financially support a bus service. The Parish Council also worked with a local taxi firm to set up a group taxi service which would enable residents to access bus connections. The Parish Council will continue to seek opportunities to establish a bus service for the village. This week we received an email from Community First Oxfordshire inviting parish councillors to attend a meeting on 22nd May to discuss opportunities for reducing the impact by the possible use of community transport schemes. I would like to thank Heather Palmer for her work as Transport Representative for Horspath.

**Planning** - Mr Harris our planning expert and advisor has agreed to provide an update on planning issues on item 8 of the agenda. I would like to thank Mr Harris for all his hard work in representing Horspath on these complex planning issues.

**War Memorial** - Mr. Harris reported that he has recently received verbal advice from a solicitor specialising in the specific aspects of English Law relating to common land and village greens, with regard to installing a war memorial on the Village Green. The solicitor has stated that there is no law specifically prohibiting this. Following this information, I have requested a sub-committee meeting to discuss the war memorial further. The Clerk will contact the Village Green Charity once again to better understand why a memorial cannot be erected on the village green with the approval of the Parish Council. Following discussions with the Village Green Charity and our insurers the council agreed to allow a temporary wooden memorial to be erected on the village green from Remembrance Sunday until Armistice Day. It was also agreed that subject to no issues being raised this arrangement could be repeated for the same period in future years.

**Traffic Calming** - In March 2015 following several traffic surveys and the expressions of concerns by residents, it was agreed that with the increased volume of traffic through Horspath village the existing traffic calming measures were no longer suitable. In July 2015, it was found that at peak times 600 vehicles per hour were going through the village with 65% exceeding the speed limit. Mr Ayres has been working actively with the County Council to provide a solution using new traffic calming measures in Cuddesdon Road. To date, due in the main to County Council delays it has taken almost twenty-two months to reach the consultation stage which was from 1st March until 14th April. April with letters to residents, notices on telegraph poles and an announcement in the Oxford Times. On the 24th April permission was given to proceed with the project. Specifications and drawings have been sent out for estimates and may be received in time for the June Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council is also committed to provide new traffic calming measures for Oxford Road to ensure the right traffic management is purchased for the village. The total cost of a new scheme will need to be funded by the Parish as no County money is available to fund the project. I would like to thank Mr Ayres for his continued help throughout the project.

**The Horspath Parish Wildlife Conservation Area** - which is maintained by Mr Harris and village volunteers, continues to provide a safe and dry walking route, even in bad weather. The conservation area requires continued maintenance and I’m sure Martin would welcome any additional help when the maintenance season starts.

**Defibrillator** - The Parish Council with the help of Elizabeth Gillespie our SODC Councillor has successfully purchased two defibrillators for the village. One has been installed on the front of the Village Hall and the second at Horspath CofE Primary School near the entrance to the School buildings.
The defibrillators were purchased with the financial support of a SODC grant. I would also like to thank Bob Hamlet for carrying out the installations of the units.

**Horspath Village Website** - continues to provide a valuable source of village information for all to access. Thank you, Heather for your work as Horspath Webmaster.

I would like to thank: - Anne Purse who has been our County Councillor for many years, for her help and support. Anne will not be standing for election in May. I would like to wish Anne a happy retirement and the very best for the future.

Elizabeth Gillespie as our SODC Councillor, who has once again supported us during the year.

I would like to thank Parish Council colleagues including Mrs. Watson who has recently resigned, for their continued help and support throughout a difficult year.

Hayley for her excellent work as Clerk.

The residents of Horspath for their continued support and confidence in the Parish Council.

The Cricket Club members for their continued support. On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Cricket Club every success for the 2017 season.

I would also like to thank the volunteers who carried out litter picking and cleaning up in the village over the Bank Holiday weekend.

I would also like to thank Jenny for organising coffee, tea and biscuits, which will be available at the end of the meeting.

5. **VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION COMMITTEE’S REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.**

Mrs Julian provided a copy of the accounts for HVHMC, no questions were asked. These were circulated to all Parish Councillors and members of the public. No report was available. Mr Peter Dobson commented that HSPT has supported the HVHMC throughout the year financially.

6. **HVSA STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.**

A copy of the accounts was circulated to all Parish Councillors and members of the public, no questions were asked.

7. **HORSPATH STONE PIT CHARITY & STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.**

A copy of the accounts was circulated to all Parish Councillors and members of the public, no questions were asked.

8. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – Presentation from Mr Martin Harris.**

Mr. Harris used a PowerPoint slide show to introduce the purposes and the advantages of producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Horspath, and he outlined the stages in the process of producing the plan. The present status is that members of the Parish Council form the core of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, and so it has applied for permission from SODC to start work on the Plan for the geographical area of the Parish of Horspath, which has been granted. Mr. Harris has applied for, and has been granted a licence to use Ordnance Survey base maps for all the maps to be used as illustrations in the Plan. Further work on the Neighbourhood Plan will start when the policies of South Oxfordshire’s emerging Local Plan 2011-2033 will be published, as any policies in any Neighbourhood Plan must be synchronised with policies published in the District Council’s Local Plan. Of several surveys which will be needed to support the policies in the Horspath Plan with objective evidence, a Phase 1 Ecology (Habitat) Survey will need to be commissioned in advance of other the other surveys required as the evidence of living plants can only be surveyed in a summer season.

9. **FRIENDS OF HORSPATH – Report from Sheila Frankum**

The Hub continues to be very well supported and all the classes, clubs, events and activities have kept the building occupied most days, and often there are 3 or 4 different activities taking place throughout
one day. Pilates, yoga, especially seated yoga, table tennis, painting and drawing have continued and now we have a thriving Line Dancing group, a busy creative writing group and young dancers from nursery age, upwards taking exams.
The local produce markets have been well supported with the next one being this Saturday at 9.30am, the Sunday Breaks with Naturally Sweet, which are a very different way to meet up with people, are always busy. The Post Office and Friday Café continue to flourish.
Bill Heine came to give a lively and enlightening talk in October, and as a follow up PC Woolley is giving us a talk about his experiences as a young PC following the Great Train Robbery. This is taking place on the evening of Friday May 12th.
We have just had Broadband installed which means we will now be able to start a class for those wishing to improve their IT skills this has been promised for quite a while so we are so pleased to make a start.
At our AGM in November our accountant reported on our finances, and having been thoroughly checked, they have been sent to Companies House. We are very grateful for the support and encouragement that we have from the residents of Horspath and also the on-going support of the Parish Council.

10. SODC COUNCILOR’S REPORT – Mrs E Gillespie.
Mrs Gillespie reported that it has been a very busy year for SODC particularly with a Unitary Council for the whole of Oxfordshire being considered. Mrs Gillespie is concerned that having a Unitary Council will result in rural communities no longer having a voice. Mr Harris asked what a Unitary Council means? Mrs Gillespie stated that villages will be linked with a town, but full details are unclear at the moment. Mrs Gillespie stated that OCC has always wanted a Unitary Council, and the Leader of SODC was concerned that Central Government would impose it on us, so he agreed to go with it.

11. OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – Mrs Anne Purse.
No report available.

12. AOB
a. Mrs Gray commented that £80,000.00 has been spent from HSPT over the last two years, and asked if there is a register of who has benefitted from this money. Mr Peter Dobson stated that there is a register detailing the people that have benefitted from the money, and it is available for people to view if they wish, however it is not appropriate for the register to be published widely. Mr Goss stated that HSPT is a village asset and residents of the village should be aware of who is benefitting from the money. Mrs Gray stated that the register should be published on the village website. Mr Dobson stated that personal information should not be published, however this can be discussed at the next HSPT meeting. Mrs Gray asked if there is any information available on how HSPT is operated. Mr Dobson stated that all information is available on the village website for residents to look at, including the minutes from the meetings which state the amounts paid out in grants but not the individual names of recipients.
b. Mrs Woodcock asked if some of the mower costs on the accounts could be allocated to the Village Green account. Mr Peter Dobson stated that this will be looked at.
Mrs Woodcock asked what organisations were given grants on S137, totaling £1,150.00. The Clerk agreed to email the details to Mrs Woodcock.
Mrs Woodcock asked if the general repairs section on the accounts can be broken down. Mr Dobson stated that this will be looked at.
Mrs Woodcock reported that the road light used by Thames Water on Horspath Road is very dazzling to motorists. Mr Peter Dobson will contact Thames Water.
c. Mr Goss commented that HVHMC accounts are not very healthy, and asked what action is being taken. Mr Peter Dobson stated that no report has been provided for the meeting this evening, however, there
have been a lot of costs involved with general maintenance and boiler repairs. It may also be that there is some impact from the Hub. Mr Dobson stated that the Parish Council will be looking at the accounts.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – To be confirmed.
14. REFRESHMENTS
Mr Dobson passed thanks to Mrs Jenny Horsley for organizing the refreshments.