

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th July 2017
At 8pm in HORSPATH VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Mr T Ayres, Mr K Brooks, Mr P Dobson (Chairman), Mr J Dobson, Mr P Ewart, Mr M Harris, Mr D Horsley, Mrs H Palmer, Mrs H Kogel (Clerk). Dr. K Johnson (County Councillor), Mrs E Gillespie (District Councillor)

Apologies

Absent:
Public: 14

106/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – There were no apologies to be made.

107/17 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – No declarations were made.

108/17 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN.

Mr Peter Dobson reported that Mr Harris has stood in as Vice Chairman in Mr Horsley's absence. Now that Mr Horsley is available he will take over as Vice Chairman. All Councillors voted in favour. Mr Dobson thanked Mr Harris for his help and support.

109/17 EMERGENCY BUSINESS – None.

110/17 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th June 2017 were amended on:-

Item 104/17 – AOB (i) to read:- *Mr Brooks stated that those people working in the factory were hiding and then kept pigs rather than fighting on the front line. Mr James Dobson found Mr Brooks' comments to be very offensive. Mr Brooks left the meeting before it was closed by the Chairman Mr Peter Dobson.*

The Minutes were then agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

Minutes of the Planning Application Meeting held on 27th June 2017 were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

111/17 MATTERS ARISING – There were no matters arising.

112/17 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

P17/S2114/O Land adjacent to 69 Gidley Way, Horspath (Outline)

Erection of two detached dwellings with vehicular access from Gidley Way.

(Mark Utting, Senior Planner, for and on behalf of Carter Jonas LLP has requested to speak at the meeting). - **Councillors agreed that there are no strong views on this**

and accepts that SODC will determine it as it considers appropriate. Councillors have requested that SODC ensure that this development is in line with the South Oxfordshire Local Plan and SODC's style and design guide.

P17/S1813/ 20 Spring Lane, Horspath (Householder)

HH Single storey rear extension. - **Councillors agreed to recommend approval on this application.**

P17/S1848/ 49 Gidley Way, Horspath (Full Application)

FUL Demolition of existing house, erection of two new 4 bedroom two and a half story dwellings with private gardens, provision of four off street parking spaces. Provision of enclosed bin stores. - **Councillors agreed that there are no strong views on this application and accepts that SODC will determine it as it considers appropriate.**

Councillors have requested that the height of the ridge line of the roof to be in line with existing building.

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.

P17/S1063/ High Tilt, 73 Old Road Wheatley (Householder)
HH Demolition of the existing stables and erection of a replacement outbuilding. –

Granted.

P17/S1523/ 3 Gidley Way, Horspath (Householder)
HH Proposed single storey rear extension and creation of first floor accommodation to provide two additional bedrooms and en-suite. (as amended by plan received 30.5.17 which alters the visibility splay as requested by the County Highway Authority). –

Granted.

113/17 CLERK'S UPDATE.

Manor Farm Road – Payment for the dropped kerb has been made. Mr Stenning, OCC Steward, has stated that installation should take place within the next eight weeks.

New Dog Bin – Waiting for a reply from SODC.

Trustees Indemnity Insurance for HSPT – Mr Harris has checked through the renewal policy and has prepared some questions for the Clerk to forward onto AON Insurance.

114/17 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT.

The Clerk circulated a copy of the internal audit report to all Councillors. There were no recommendations or comments from the auditor to be followed up. The Clerk will now arrange for the external audit to be carried out.

115/17 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNILLOR REPORTS.

Dr. Kirsten Johnson (County Councillor) – Dr. Johnson reported that she has attended several community Transport meetings including a meeting last week which she attended with Mrs Palmer which have all been very useful. Mr Gowers, an independent person, is looking at linking villages to look at putting a bus service together. Dr. Johnson has recently met with Mr David Taylor, OCC, County Officer to discuss the possibility of a bus service coming from Garsington into Horspath. Mr Taylor will set up a further meeting to continue with discussions. Dr. Johnson stated that she will continue to look at viable routes to include Horspath.

Dr. Johnson reported that the debris on the chicane at Cuddesdon Road has now been cleared and a meeting has been arranged for a County Officer to come to site to meet a resident, Mr Nick King, to look at signage. Dr. Johnson stated that OCC are willing to look at traffic calming at Oxford Road when the surveys have been carried out and it is possible that money for the scheme may be available from the adjacent City Sports Park development. Mr Peter Dobson asked if the existing chicanes could be looked after, Dr. Johnson stated that this could be done.

Dr. Johnson stated that grants from £1,500.00 - £10,000.00 are available from Oxfordshire Community Foundation. The Oxfordshire Communities Fund Group of County Councillors also has £25,000.00 available to use between them for grants. Applications should be made on line between now and the end of December.

Mrs Elizabeth Gillespie (District Councillor) – Mrs Gillespie reported that the Chief Executive of SODC has resigned and an interim Chief Executive has been appointed.

Mrs Gillespie reported that to date there is no further development of a Unitary Council.

Mrs Gillespie stated that SODC has £1.5 million available to be awarded in grants and Mrs Gillespie has £5,000.00 as District Councillor to use within the villages.

Mrs Gillespie reported that lots of representatives are expected to attend the Town & Parish Forum tomorrow, including Mr Harris who will attend to represent Horspath.

Mrs Gillespie reported that further meetings are due to be held this week to discuss the Oxford to Cambridge expressway. SODC and OCC both prefer the further southern route. More information will be available after the meeting tomorrow. Mr Harris stated that the proposal is to build a major motorway and there will be a lot of pressure to allow development all the way along this route. If the southern route is the preferred option, residents in Cuddesdon and Wheatley will be very affected, as it is assumed that a possible route would be from a new Thames bridge currently under consideration at Culham to Junction 8 on the M40 near Wheatley. .

116/17 TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATE – Update.

Mr Ayres reported that around half of the Cuddesdon Road traffic calming project is in place along with the white lines, and that the project is expected to be finished by Thursday. Mr Ayres passed the specification paperwork to the Clerk to keep on file.

117/17 HORSPATH VILLAGE HALL – Update.

Mr Peter Dobson reported that the fire safety works have been slowed down by the possibility of asbestos in the Village Hall. An asbestos survey has now been completed and Mrs Julian is now liaising with Mike Bloom from Chris Lewis Security. Mrs Riley stated that the work will resume tomorrow.

118/17 SAVE THE GREEN BELT CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE MEETING 26.6.17– Report from Mr Harris.

Mr Harris reported that CPRE recently held a meeting in Horspath for representatives of all Green Belt villages. There are still some villages that are unaware of the proposals for building urban extensions to Oxford, none of which are in the 2nd Preferred Options of the draft SODC Local Plan 2033 or are consistent with the existing Green Belt Policy, and all of which will result in a serious legal fight to stop them from going ahead. It is hoped that SODC will turn any of the applications down as they are not in the Local Plan. All the villages likely to be affected are now waiting to receive the first submission of a planning application to SODC, and then a further meeting will be arranged by CPRE and together we need to be prepared to submit any appropriate objections. Some of the planning applications are due to be submitted anytime now, with others following in the autumn. It will take a lot of time to read all of the documents included with the planning applications and all the evidence will need to be carefully prepared to oppose the applications. Mrs Gillespie stated that SODC will refuse planning applications for building in the Green Belt near Oxford and it is then expected that any refusals will go to appeal. Further discussions will take place at the SODC Town & Parish Forum tomorrow evening.

119/17 HORSPATH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN – Update from Mr Harris, with two specific recommendations:-

- a. To commission EcoConsult to carry out a **Phase 1 (Ecology) Habitat survey** of the whole of the parish to provide evidence to support the Horspath Neighbourhood Development Plan, for the quoted cost of £2,795 + VAT for the professional survey and £1760 + VAT for producing the Phase 1 written report including a habitat map of the parish which can be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. This is strongly recommended by SODC and Wild Oxfordshire's Community Ecologist, and the cost would be reclaimable via a grant from SODC. HPC already holds a licence for using Ordnance Survey mapping, so that will not add extra costs. – **Councillors voted unanimously for Mr Harris to go ahead and engage EcoConsult to carry out the Phase 1 survey and report as soon as possible.**

- b. **To register 2 significant assets of community value with SODC**, including the railway bridge THA21 over Cuddesdon Road and the Chequers pub on the village Green. There is no charge for this service offered by SODC, and such village assets need to be identified anyway, along with any others which are in danger of being lost, in the Horspath Neighbourhood Development Plan.

On the bridge numbered THA21, Mr Harris reported that there had been no reply to Horspath Parish Council to any letters/emails sent in the past year to the owners of the bridge, which has been transferred from the now closed BRB (Residuary) Ltd to a department of the Highways Agency, acting on behalf of the DoT, called Heritage Railways Estate (HRE), with a postal address in York. Horspath Parish Council has been requesting the transfer of the ownership of this bridge to the Parish Council ever since the successful conclusion of the Planning Appeal Inquiry in 2004 which was won by SODC and the Parish Council and which saved this bridge from demolition. It now appears that HRE have a default option for the demolition of this bridge and the sloping back of the embankments.

In the past ten years negotiations to own the bridge have stalled because Horspath Parish Council did not have access to sufficient finance to carry out any extensive repairs to the bridge and maintain it. However, since 2015 the situation has changed in that the Council can now access sufficient funds from the annual income to the Horspath Stone Pit Trust to pay for professional engineering maintenance of this bridge. Mr Harris reported that he has recently spoken to Jacobs UK Ltd., which carries out the surveys on other bridges in the area under contract for the present owners HRE, and they could, in principle, carry out regular surveys of the bridge for Horspath Parish Council, if it became the owner. Mr Harris proposed that Horspath PC continues to try to obtain ownership of the bridge, in order to maintain it to a high standard, as a very effective element in Horspath's traffic calming scheme, as part of the village's railway heritage, as an essential part of the landscape of the Green, and for later conversion into a public foot bridge connecting together the two County Council footpaths which terminate on opposite sides of this busy road.

Councillors agreed for Mr Harris to continue to try and negotiate this transfer of ownership. Mr Ewart stated that in his professional experience as an engineer, the survey should be carried out as soon as possible. However, he could see a problem with a tree that is growing on the bridge. Mr Ayres suggested that volunteers should clear any trees from the bridge. Mr Harris stated that he has asked for permission to do this but no reply has been received. Mr James Dobson asked, if it is possible under the Freedom of Information Act, to find out how many bridges have been sold off over the years. Mr Harris stated that he will see if he can obtain the answer to this question simply by asking the present owners.

With regards to the Chequers Pub, which is currently advertised for sale through Savills by Punch Taverns Plc, the Parish Council has received a number of communications from village residents that they fear that this pub will be sold to the highest bidder who has made it known that he would close and demolish the pub and redevelop the entire site. Horspath Parish Council holds the car park in trust as part of the village green registered in 1968, and there is a further 11 years to run on the lease of this section of the green to Punch Taverns Plc. Councillors mentioned that there is also the right of access across this part of the village green to two private properties which needs to be preserved.

Mr Horsley proposed that the village shop Horspath Village stores, should also be registered as a community asset at the same time. Mr Harris agreed that any village asset which the community cannot afford to lose can be registered as an asset of community value. **Councillors voted unanimously for Mr Harris to go ahead and register with SODC the bridge THA21 over Cuddesdon Road, the Chequers pub on the Green, and the village shop, Horspath Village Stores, as assets of community value.**

120/17 CORRESPONDENCE.

- a. SODC – South Oxfordshire’s Five Year Housing Land Supply Statement. – (Circulated via email).
- b. CPRE – Green Belt Campaign Meeting 26.6.16 at Horspath Village Hall. – (Circulated via email).
- c. RSN – Weekly Email News Digest 5.6.17. – (Circulated via email).
- d. PCSO Ryan Dollery – Monthly Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- e. OALC – AGM 3/7/17. – (Circulated via email).
- f. RSN – Rural Intelligence from behind the headlines 2.6.17. – (Circulated via email).
- g. OALC – DCLG Consultation on Conserving Free Use of Public Parks. – (Circulated via email).
- h. RSN – Rural Intelligence from behind the headlines 9.6.17. – (Circulated via email).
- i. SODC – South Oxfordshire’s Five Year Housing Land Supply Statement Addendum. – (Circulated via email).
- j. SODC – Over 60? Register now for the 2017 Vintage Village Games. – (Circulated via email).
- k. RSN – Rural Economy Spotlight. – (Circulated via email).
- l. CPRE – Cherwell’s Local Plan Review Draft Submission Document Proposes 3990 in Green Belt. – (circulated via email).
- m. RSN – Weekly Email News Digest 12.6.17. – (Circulated via email).
- n. Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens Advice – Headlines. – (Circulated via email).
- o. Mr Keith Brooks – Email regarding the Chequers Inn Car Park. – (Circulated via email).
- p. OPT – Newsletter 2017. – (Circulated via email).
- q. RSN – Rural Residents – We want to hear your views. – (Circulated via email).
- r. RSN – Rural Conference 2017. – (Circulated via email).
- s. Open Spaces Society – Didcot Garden Town Consultation. – (Circulated via email).
- t. CPRE – Green Belt Campaign Meeting 26.6.17. – (Circulated via email).
- u. SODC – Local Plan – Settlement Assessment. – (Circulated via email).
- v. Cllr. Kirsten Johnson – Thame, Wheatley & Watlington Locality Meeting. – (Circulated via email).
- w. RSN – Weekly Email News Digest 19.6.17. – (Circulated via email).
- x. SODC - Didcot Garden Town Proposed Delivery Plan Consultation. – (Circulated via email).
- y. RSN – Rural Intelligence from behind the headlines 16.6.17. – (Circulated via email).
- z. Open Spaces Society – Invitation to AGM & Annual Report & Accounts.*
- aa. Oxfordshire Adult Learning – Part-time Prospectus.*
- bb. TLT LLP Solicitors – Email regarding the Chequers Inn Car Park. – (Circulated via email). – **Councillors agreed that the Clerk write to TLT LLP Solicitors stating that Horspath Parish Council does not wish to offer Punch Taverns any variation on the current lease, or the opportunity to purchase the freehold of the Chequers Inn car park.**
Mr Kelsall, a resident of The Green asked if it is part of their lease to use the driveways as part of the car park. Mr Harris stated that a condition included in the lease is to keep the driveways clear. Mr Burgess stated that beer lorries drive over and break the grids in the car park when entering/leaving the car park to load/unload deliveries. Mr Horsley stated that the access drive on the right hand side of the car park is authorised via an easement, so the pub has no right to use this area. It was agreed that the Clerk will ask TLT LLP Solicitors to remind their client of the conditions of the lease.
- cc. Mr Richard Burgess. – Email regarding the Village Green. – (Circulated via email). – **See item bb.**
- dd. Mr David Wright – Email regarding War Memorial. – (Circulated via email). – **Mr James Dobson reported that the sub-committee has held a meeting to explore all options. The sub-committee agreed to minimise costs where possible. It has been arranged for the sub-committee to carry out site visits to look at the memorials in other villages. This will allow members to put a proposal together to bring to**

the Parish Council with regards to location, costs etc. Mr Wright asked if the Parish Council has permission to put a war memorial on the Village green. Mr Peter Dobson stated that some advice has been received from Paul Clayden an expert on Planning and Village Greens but as and when there is a firm proposal we can then, acting for the Charity, contact the Charity Commission to obtain their permission. Mr Brooks asked how long this will take. Mr Peter Dobson stated that the length of time is unknown, the sub-committee taking it forward will come back to the Parish Council with a proposal. Mr Horsley suggested that ORCC are contacted as they have lawyers who are experts on Village Greens and they will be able to provide a legal opinion. Mr Peter Dobson stated that he will contact ORCC when a proposal is put forward.

- ee. RSN – Spotlight on Rural Health. – (Circulated via email).
- ff. CPRE – Green Belt Meeting 26.6.17 – Briefing Paper on Oxford to Cambridge Corridor/Expressway. – (Circulated via email).
- gg. CPRE – Pro Campaign Meeting 26.6.17. – (Circulated via email).
- hh. RSN – Weekly Email News Digest 26.6.17. – (Circulated via email).
- ii. Thame & Wheatley Ramblers Group. – TW Ramblers Poster.#
- jj. SODC – South Oxfordshire Town & Parish Forum 5/7/17. – (Circulated via email).
- kk. CPRE – Pro Campaign Meeting 26.6.17 – Filming Not Going Ahead. – (Circulated via email).
- ll. SODC – Councils recover over £1.6million unpaid Council Tax. – (Circulated via email).
- mm. RSN – Rural Intelligence from behind the headlines 23.6.17. – (Circulated via email).
- nn. RSN – Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural Transport June 2017. – (Circulated via email).
- oo. SODC – Erection of new commercial building to be known as Sunnyhill Vineyard, 51 Cuddesdon Road, Horspath. – (Circulated via email).
- pp. CPRE – Invitation to AGM 1.7.17. – (Circulated via email).
- qq. Wheatley Park School. – Thank you for donation.*
- rr. Mr M Cull, 11 The Green – Tree Outside 11 The Green & Others. – **Mr Peter Dobson stated that Mr Prior carried out the work as requested. Since the work was carried out, the roots have been exposed and the tree has gained new growth. The intention was to make the property safe which was done, so no further works are planned. Mr Prior has now been to site and has treated the root with glyphosate free of charge. It was agreed that this will be monitored.**
- ss. Mossop Monumental Masons Ltd – Request for monument. – (Circulated via email). – **Councillors agreed that the Clerk contact Mossops and arrange for a sample of the stone to be provided.**
- tt. SODC – Vintage Village Games Warborough 19.7.17. – (Circulated via email).
- uu. Mr John Kelsall. – Email regarding Chequers Inn Car Park. – (Circulated via email).
- vv. Mr Paul Cumine. – Email regarding traffic Calming at Cuddesdon Road. – (Circulated via email). – **Mr Ayres has visited Mr Cumine who assumed that the traffic calming was being installed all along Cuddesdon Road which would cause his house to shake. Mr Ayres has explained the traffic calming scheme to Mr Cumine who is now satisfied.**
- * original held by the Clerk, copy available on request.
displayed on Village Hall & village noticeboards.*

121/17 PAYMENTS.

Chq	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
2476	Open Spaces Society	Annual Subs		45.00
2477	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Salary 24/5/17 – 24/6/17		402.77
2478	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Home Office June 2017		30.00
		Postage		26.24

2479	Mrs Hayley Kogel	HMRC Tax payment Mar-June 17		98.20
2480	Community First Oxfordshire	Annual Subs		70.00
2481	Arrow Accounting	Internal Audit Fees		377.96
2482	ARB UK	Emergency tree works in Conservation Area		150.00
		TOTAL		£1,200.17

122/17 RECEIPTS.

Date	Received from	Details	Total £
13.6.17	HMRC	VAT Repayment	2,646.91
		TOTAL	£2,646.91

HORSPATH RECREATION CHARITY.

Date	Received from	Details	Total £
28.6.17	Punch Partnerships Ltd	Quarterly rent for Chequers Car Park	712.50
		TOTAL	£712.50

123/17 AOB

- a. Mrs Palmer reported that the gullies on Gidley Way, opposite Sandy Lane are full of a sediment that gets washed down the lane. The Clerk will report to OCC Highways.
- b. Mrs Palmer reported that a house down the track from Gidley Way to Berkeley Homes has sectioned the garden in half and there is a large building being built without planning permission. Mrs Palmer will email the details to Mrs Gillespie who will report to SODC. The Clerk will also write to SODC Enforcement Department.
- c. Mr Ewart asked for volunteers to help improve the paths by filling with bags of sand. Councillors agreed for Mr Ewart to purchase the sand.
- d. Mr Harris reported that AON Insurance has answered the questions asked about the Parish Council's Insurance policy. One questions was, whether or not the Parish Councillors are covered when acting for other Council committees. AON Insurance stated that they are only covered if the accounts and minutes of the meeting are included with Parish Council minutes, which should be easy to comply with.
- e. Mr Horsley stated that the situation with the Chequer's Inn Car Park has caused concern for residents and he hopes that the discussions held tonight have put their minds at rest as there are a lot of rumours going around the village. Mr Peter Dobson stated that the Parish Council meets every month and residents are welcome to attend or alternatively they can contact the Clerk to raise any concerns. Mr Peter Dobson advised the residents of the Green that a copy of the car park lease should be kept with their property deeds. It was agreed that the Clerk will send a copy of the lease to 32 The Green.

Public:

- f. Mrs Oakley reported that there are weeds growing in most of the kerbs on the road in the village. It is particularly bad over the bridge on Butts Road which causes children to walk on the road. Mrs Oakley will be clearing the weeds in this area. Mr Peter Dobson asked that Mrs Oakley be careful if working on the road.
Mrs Oakley reported that there are at least 10 lorries a day passing through the village via Butts Road that are avoiding the bridge, which causes a problem. Mrs Oakley suggested that parts of the village are restricted to 7.5 tonne weight limit, especially on Butts Road. It was agreed that the Clerk contact OCC to check to see if there are weight limits in place.

Mrs Oakley commented on the planning application at 49 Gidley Way, Horspath and noted that the new houses will have no windows looking down on Gidley hill so there is not an over-looking issue. Mrs Oakley's neighbour is concerned with regards to subsidence and has written to SODC Building Control. Mrs Oakley stated that she walks her dog on line bank regularly and there is a problem with dog mess, so has now made a notice and attached it to the gate.

- g. Mrs Riley reported that two lorries drove down to the caravan park and got jammed in the driveway. It took two hours to clear the jam.
- h. A resident asked for the details of the traffic calming in Cuddesdon Road. Mr Ayres stated that there are 4 sets of cushions being installed which will be illuminated at night. There will also be new signage installed. The traffic calming will finish just before the chicane. The resident stated that the speed cushions in Gidley Way do not slow the traffic.
- i. Mr Wright asked if the sub-committee for the war memorial has got authority to spend the money to provide the design to the Parish Council. Mr Peter Dobson stated that authority has been given.
- j. Mr Clarke asked that the gullies in Manor Drive also be cleared. The Clerk will report to OCC Highways.
- k. Mr Clarke stated that the gate in the car park still needs attention. Mr Harris stated that he repaired the vehicular gate after the last meeting, and he has reminded the welder to repair the high level barrier. Mr Clarke asked if the grant application for Cycle Speedway was successful. The Clerk reported that the cheque was posted out to them yesterday.

124/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 18th July 2017 (To be confirmed).

Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 1st August 2017.