

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd October 2017
At 8pm in HORSPATH VILLAGE HALL.

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

Apologies Mr P Dobson (Chairman), Mr D Horsley, Mrs E Gillespie (District Councillor).

Absent:

Public: 8

157/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies were made on behalf of Mr P Dobson, Mr Horsley and Mrs Gillespie. In the absence of Mr Peter Dobson (Chairman), Mr Harris (Acting Vice Chairman) will chair the meeting.

158/17 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – No declarations were made.

159/17 CO-OPTION OF MR RICHARD BURGESS.

Mr Harris informed Councillors that Mr Burgess has volunteered to join the Parish Council and assist with identifying ways to secure the future operation of the Chequers Inn. Councillors voted unanimously for Mr Burgess to be co-opted on to the Parish Council. Mr Harris welcomed Mr Burgess.

160/17 EMERGENCY BUSINESS.

Mr James Dobson reminded Councillors that in January 2017 Councillors agreed that the Precept 2017/18 would be reduced and if further funds are required throughout the year an application would be made to HSPT. At the September 2017 HSPT meeting the funds were agreed subject to an application being submitted. Mr James Dobson proposed that an application is made to HSPT for £11,000.00. Councillors voted unanimously in favour of the application being submitted and the funds being transferred.

161/17 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th September were agreed as correct and signed by the acting Chairman.

162/17 MATTERS ARISING.

151/17 Oxford – Cambridge Expressway – Mr Harris reported that he and Mr Ewart had attended a meeting in Cuddesdon Village Hall of representatives from 19 South Oxfordshire villages, forming the “Expressway Action Group” EAG for a briefing by CPRE’s Michael Tyce on the uncertainty about the possible routing through this area of the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway OXCAM, the multi-lane motorway under development by the National Infrastructure Commission NIC, to act as a spine for the development of around 10,000 new houses along each mile of its length. Mr Harris has also been in contact with several other nearby villages, all of which will be objecting to any proposal coming forward to route this Expressway to the south side of Oxford City. A preferred route option has not been announced by the National Infrastructure Commission, but the NIC has been in contact with our Local Authorities. SODC has written to the NIC advising its preference for a northern route around Oxford for OxCam, and that if a southern route is advocated by the NIC, SODC would wish to be consulted on that route. It is hoped that there will be an opportunity to comment on the proposed route when the NIC submits its final report, presumably revealing the preferred route, which is due in November 2017. However, it is believed that

Highways England will probably designate the preferred route for OxCam, without any preliminary consultation about the choices of routes. Mr Harris stated that Mrs Gillespie has recently discovered that there is a Planning seminar to be held in London in December to discuss the possible routes, and that a representative from EAG will ask to attend this. Mr Harris stated that anyone is able to write to the NIC to express their views, although there has so far been no invitation or opportunity for wider public consultation.

Mr Harris has drafted a letter to be sent by the Parish Council to Lord Adonis, NIC Chairman, and to Sir John Armitt, NIC Deputy Chairman, making it very clear that any route for Oxcam through Horspath would be inappropriate and impractical. Councillors voted unanimously that the letter be sent to both contacts. It was also agreed that a copy will be sent to John Howell MP and to Mr John Cotton, Leader of SODC.

Dr Johnson stated that the NIC is an advisory group, and that Highways England will be making the decision on the exact route and they will liaise with all Parish, Town & District Councils when the route is selected. Dr Johnson has written to the NIC and also to John Howell MP to express her views. Dr Johnson stated that a fund is being started to cover the cost of lobbying exercises and Councillors agreed to contribute £50.00 to the fund which is being initially held by Cuddesdon Parish Council, as the host and originator of the "Expressway Action Group".

Mr Harris stated that there is to be a meeting in Cuddesdon of around fifteen Parish Councils on 10th October 2017 to discuss this matter further, and a meeting in Didcot called by SODC for a briefing on the Local Plan 2033.

163/17 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

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P17/S3190/ 149 Cuddesdon Road, Horspath *Certificate of Lawful Development***.**
LDP Construction of new summerhouse. – Noted.

PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.

P17/S2794/ Land adjacent to 4 Gidley Way, Horspath (Full Application)
FUL Variation of condition 2 on application ref. P17/S1217/FUL – substitution of drawing. (As amended by site plan and block plan and ownership certificate received 14.8.17 and amplified by proposed plan showing increase in the height of the ridge from the approved plans received 22.8.17). – **Granted.**

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. – **Granted.**

P17/S2830/ 136 Gidley Way, Horspath (Householder)
HH Proposed roof extension and associated works. – **Granted.**

P17/S2762/ 130 Gidley Way, Horspath (Householder)
HH Proposed two bay car port. – **Refused.**

164/17 CLERK'S UPDATE.

Weight Restrictions in Horspath – Simon Mitchell, of OCC Trading Standards will carry out some checks in the village over the next few weeks.

Road Safety for Cyclists – Dr Johnson has made contact with OCC about additional 30mph signs and bollards being installed in Cuddesdon Road. Dr Johnson stated that Mr Keith Stenning, of OCC Highways, will proceed with the cyclist signs, bollards and 30mph signs when permission from the Parish Council has been received. It was agreed that the Clerk should e-mail Mr Keith Stenning to ask him to go ahead.

Additional 30mph sign in Cuddesdon Road – Mark Francis, of OCC Highways, has stated that:- “When Oxfordshire County Council install signs we have to adhere to the regulations specified in the ‘Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016’, if there is a system of street lighting (a system of carriageway lighting furnished by lamps lit by electricity placed not more than 183 metres apart in England and Wales) the regulations do not permit the installation of speed limit repeater signs”, so he personally is unable commit OCC to installing the additional 30 mph signs.

165/17 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNILLOR REPORTS.

Dr. Kirsten Johnson (County Councillor) – Dr Johnson reported that Mrs Palmer has submitted an application to the Communities Fund for funding for a temporary minibus service. Dr Johnson is on the committee and will fully support the application. The committee has asked if the service will continue when the funding expires. Mrs Palmer stated that the minibus service is a trial for the time being but if it is successful a local charity will support it financially in the future. Mr Harris asked what the timescale is for finding out if the application is successful as there are more than 200 people in the village with long term health conditions who may need to get to routine hospital appointments and their only option at the moment is getting a taxi. Dr Johnson stated that a decision will be made this coming Friday. Mr Harris stated that he hopes that the minibus service is successful and that people will use it. Mrs Palmer stated that she has a list of people who are interested in using the service, and there may be enough people for a second minibus service starting at Gateley. Dr Johnson stated that lots of villages are buying their own minibuses. Mr Harris stated that to do this and operate it, the Parish Council would either have to become a bus company and a licenced public carrier in order to charge passengers and employ a PSV driver, or to run a free bus service without the ability to charge passengers, based upon at least six competent volunteer drivers being available to run a schedule.

Dr Johnson stated that she has submitted a motion to full Council to reinstate the bus services as OCC has a duty of care to provide a bus service. This has been deferred for debate until the meeting in November. Dr Johnson reported that OCC has recently passed a mental health motion for early intervention to be introduced in all schools to help children.

OCC has applied to Central Government for more funding for roads. OCC will also look into borrowing money to carry out road repairs rather than waste money on temporary repairs.

166/17 EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2016/17. – The Clerk confirmed that the report is not yet available so this item will be deferred until the next meeting.

167/17 TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATE.

Mr Ayres suggested that a letter be sent to Mrs Crane stating that the Parish Council sympathises with her observations and believes that OCC will be installing 30mph signs. Mr Ewart suggested installing speed measuring strips and speed monitoring equipment. It was agreed that this will be reviewed after the 30mph signs are installed.

168/17 CORRESPONDENCE.

- a. RSN – Rural Vulnerability Service – Fuel Poverty September 2017. – (Circulated via email).
- b. Open Spaces Society. – Restoring the Record – Right of Way Training Course. – (Circulated via email).
- c. Dr Kirsten Johnson – Communities Fund. – (Circulated via email).
- d. SODC – South Oxfordshire Local Plan – Update Briefing 11.10.17. – (Circulated via email). – **Mr Harris confirmed that he will be attending the meeting.**
- e. RSN – Weekly Email News Digest 4.9.17. – (Circulated via email).
- f. CPRE – SOS Campaign – Public Meeting with Layla Moran – Have Your Say. – (Circulated via email).

- g. OCC – Non Household and DIY Waste Changes. – (Circulated via email).
- h. Dr Kirsten Johnson. – Update on Oxford-Cambridge Expressway. – (Circulated via email).
- i. RSN – Rural Intelligence from behind the headlines 1.9.17. – (Circulated via email).
- j. SODC – Final proposals to tackle the need for houses in South Oxfordshire to be published. – (Circulated via email).
- k. SODC – Town & Parish Forum 1.11.17. – (Circulated via email). – **Mr Harris confirmed that he will be attending the meeting.**
- l. RSN. – Rural Opportunities Bulletin. – (Circulated via email).
- m. RSN – Call for information – Station and other Community Heritage Buildings. – (Circulated via email).
- n. CPRE – Green Belt Rally – Culham 24.9.17. – (Circulated via email). – **Noted.**
- o. RSN – Weekly Email News Digest 11.9.17. – (Circulated via email).
- p. RSN – Rural Intelligence from behind the headlines 8.9.17. – (Circulated via email).
- q. SODC – Grants boost to make a big difference for smaller community projects in South Oxfordshire – Apply now. – (Circulated via email).
- r. Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens Advice – Headlines September 2017. – (Circulated via email).
- s. Open Spaces Society. – Restoring the record – Rights of Way Training. – (Circulated via email).
- t. RSN – Rural Economy Spotlight. – (Circulated via email).
- u. OALC – Transparency Code drop in session 3.10.17 – Didcot. – (Circulated via email).
- v. OPFA – AGM 20.9.17. – (Circulated via email).
- w. RSN – Weekly Email News Digest 18.9.17. – (Circulated via email).
- x. SODC – Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability and Local Plan/CIL Viability Assessments. – (Circulated via email).
- y. RSN – Rural Intelligence from behind the headlines 15.9.17. – (Circulated via email).
- z. RSN – Spotlight on the heart of the village. – (Circulated via email).
- aa. Ms S Waller – Email regarding cremation stone. – (Circulated via email). – **Councillors agreed to this request if Mrs Waller is replacing the stone with like for like for the existing stone. If it is of a different type, then a sample must be sent before approval is given. Mr James Dobson asked that for future requests, a sample of the stone must be sent with the application.**
- bb. SODC – Meeting the challenge of delivering new homes in Southern Oxfordshire – Have your say. – (Circulated via email).
- cc. RSN – Weekly Email News Digest 25.9.17. – (Circulated via email).
- dd. Ms Vicky Crane – Email regarding traffic calming at Cuddesdon Road. – (Circulated via email). – **(See 167/17).**
- ee. RSN – Rural Intelligence from behind the headlines 22.9.17. – (Circulated via email).
- ff. OCC – National Highway & Transport Public Satisfaction Survey – Member Consultation. – (Passed survey to Mr Peter Dobson to complete).
- gg. OCC – Community Emergency Plans & Resilience Workshops. – **Noted.**
- hh. Clerks & Councils Direct. – September Newsletter.*
- ii. OCC – Changes to DIY charging at Household Waste Recycling Centres. – **Mr James Dobson asked if it is worth raising an objection to the charges which could be a barrier for people going to these centres. Mr Harris stated that there is no point in raising an objection as the charges have been decided.**
- jj. CPRE – Green Belt Campaign Group – Update. – (Circulated via email). – **Mr Harris stated that the pressure is on for urban extensions in north Oxford. Cherwell District Council has submitted a planning application for four thousand houses to be built in their own Green Belt.**
- kk. OCC – Appeal to increase the number of digital helper volunteers in Oxfordshire. – (Circulated via email).

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

169/17 PAYMENTS.

Chq	To Whom Paid	Details	Vat	Total £
2497	ARB UK	Tree work in Conservation Area		150.00
2498	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Salary 24/8/17 – 24/9/17		402.77
2499	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Home Office September 2017 Postage		30.00 9.88
2500	Mr P Aries	Bus Shelter & Play Area Maint, August/September 2017		120.00
2501	Parchment Oxford	Printing Leaflets		85.00
		TOTAL		797.65

170/17 RECEIPTS.

Date	Received from	Details	Total £
18.8.17	Abingdon Stone & Marble	Monument Fee	125.00
18.8.17	S&R Childs Funeral Director	1 x Burial	300.00
16.8.17	HVHMC	Contribution to fire safety system installation	4,500.00
7.9.17	SODC	2ns Inst of Precept 2017/18	11,000.00
		TOTAL	£15,925.00

HORSPATH RECREATION CHARITY.

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

Mr Burgess stated that Punch Partnerships no longer exist. Patron Capital is now the owners of the Chequers Inn. Mr Burgess asked if the Clerk has received any notification. The Clerk confirmed that no correspondence has been received.

171/17 AOB

- a. Mr Harris asked Mr Burgess to update Councillors about the situation with the Chequers Inn and give his advice on what action the Parish Council needs to take. Mr Burgess stated that SODC has provisionally granted an Asset of Community Value status for the Chequers Inn which has been contested by Punch Partnerships. The Parish Council needs to consider the options for purchasing the Chequers Inn for the community as there are developers looking to buy the pub, demolish it, and develop the site. The Parish Council has an option to express an interest in the next six weeks to put in a bid for purchasing the pub. This option is not binding, but it does give the Parish Council four and a half months to raise the money and decide how the village community can run the pub. The pub car park is a part of the registered Village Green and is owned by Horspath Recreation Charity, so developers would not have any access. Mr Brooks asked what we can do with the car park if a developer buys the pub. One option would be to put it back to a grass area. Mr Burgess asked, if the Parish Council could legally stop any developer accessing the car park. Mr Harris stated that if we failed to provide an in/out access, it would be contested. Mr Burgess stated that for the access to the right of the car park, the easement is for property No. 30.

Mr Burgess stated that a developer has purchased another local pub, The Quarry, which has been completely gutted inside, and they are now waiting for planning permission.

Mr James Dobson stated that he fully supports expressing an interest to bid for the pub. This will involve a lot of work and we will need to look around at other Parishes that have done this for advice on how it works. Mr James Dobson stated that if the pub is going to be developed, the Parish Council would want to be in the driving seat with whatever is decided. Mr Harris stated that he is able to approach two pubs in community ownership, the Abingdon Arms in Beckley and also the Seven Stars in Baldon to find out more information. Mr Harris stated that of the two pubs in Horspath, the Chequers Inn could be profitable with the restaurant and additional passing trade.

Mr Brooks stated that one of the developers has withdrawn their interest as the car park is not for sale. Mr Brooks stated that it needs to be made clear to any interested party that the car park is not included in the sale. Mr Harris stated that Savills have done that.

Mr Burgess stated that strategically, Councillors need to agree to send a letter to SODC to formally confirm that Horspath Parish Council are intending to bid on purchasing the Chequers Inn. Mr Burgess stated that he has spoken with people in the village and he believes that the pub could be a community asset. If the pub had a tenant or direct management, the rent would be worth £40 - £50k per year.

It was agreed that Mr Burgess will carry out further research and Mr Harris will write to SODC.

Mr Harris welcomed Mr Burgess to the Parish Council and thanked him for the information. Mr Harris asked that Mr Burgess report to Councillors with any further information received.

- b. Mr Harris stated that as owners of the property, a site inspection needs to be arranged for Councillors with Stagecoach and also with the sub tenants Hanson.
- c. Mr Harris confirmed that he is working on the Neighbourhood Plan, but with other bigger problems to deal with it does become over-shadowed, and must anyway be based upon policies in the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2033, yet to be finalised. Mr Harris asked Councillors if they have given any consideration as to whether a line should be drawn around existing buildings to define an envelope for the village. The advantage of the line is that people will know that they won't get planning permission for anything outside of the line. The initial advice from the SODC Planning Service is to draw around the existing houses. Mr James Dobson stated that he supported drawing the line, however, this needs to be carefully considered and should be discussed at the APM before any decision is made. Mr Harris stated that it may perhaps be better to draw a line on each of the access roads to the village, outside which there would be no permitted development. Mr Harris will get another opinion from a Planning Manager at SODC. Mr Goss stated that the line should be drawn around the existing properties. Mr Ewart asked if the Parish Council is committed to building a certain number of houses in the village. Mr Harris stated that the Parish Council is asked by SODC to try and fit in a 5% increase in the number of houses on the total existing in 2011, however, this is flexible as some villages will fit in more and some less.
- d. Mr James Dobson asked that the Clerk share all the Councillor contact details with Mr Burgess.
- e. Mrs Palmer confirmed that the new waste bin has now been installed at the end of Sandy Lane.
- f. Mr Ewart stated that all information on the full proposals for work to be carried out on his property on the Village Green will be put to the Parish Council to keep Councillors informed.

Public:

- g. Mrs Oakley stated that the Parish Council may have some huge legal costs in the future with regards to roads, housing etc, and asked if it would it be prudent to stop all individual grants from HSPT being made from December 2017 so that the money can be used towards good legal representation, as we will need it. Mr Harris stated that this suggestion can be put on the agenda for the next HSPT meeting. Mrs Oakley will write to HSPT to put her suggestion forward. Mr Harris stated that we may not know the timelines by then but we will need a legal representative at some point.

- h. Mrs Riley confirmed that the repairs to the Village Hall are in progress. The Gents toilets are now working and the invoice will be forwarded onto the Parish Council. The contractor who carried out the repairs has stated that he can repair the paving slabs outside.
Mrs Riley asked if anyone has received training on using the defibrillators yet as the one located at the School has now been fitted. Mr Burgess stated that no training is required, if there is a requirement to use the defibrillator, just ring 999 and they will give you instructions by phone on how to use it. The Clerk will remind Mr Peter Dobson regarding the possibility of training.
- i. Mr Aries asked if there is any information from SODC regarding the property in Gidley Way where building operations are underway apparently without planning permission. The Clerk confirmed that no further correspondence has been received to date.
- j. Mr Goss reminded Councillors that at the APM he had asked for information on who has received a grant from HSPT and for what purpose. Mr Goss stated that Mr Peter Dobson stated at the time that he would consult with other Trustees, but Mr Goss has not heard anything further and does require an answer. Mr Harris stated that this will be made a formal agenda item and will be discussed at the next HSPT meeting. Mr Goss asked who is responsible for maintaining the land either side of the track from the Village Hall up to the Burial Ground, as it is littered with Cricket Club equipment, rubbish and grass cuttings. Mr Goss also complained that near the gates inside of the Burial Ground there is the remains of a bonfire and lots of tree branches, broken furniture and other rubbish that has been dumped there. Mr Harris confirmed that the Parish Council is responsible for the land and the Cricket Club has taken over the grass cutting of the area. Mr Harris stated that a letter will be sent to the Cricket Club asking them to remove all waste and clear the area. Mr Brooks suggested that Cycle Speedway should also be sent the same letter.
- k. A resident stated that she totally agrees with the comment from Mrs Oakley regarding individual grants being awarded by HSPT.
- l. Mr Wright asked of the Parish Council will have a war memorial on the Village Green by November 2018? Mr Wright stated that there is now just twelve months to get this project up and running as he believed that nothing has been done about it. Mr Harris stated that he agreed with Mr Wright that this project should be progressed. Mr Brooks asked what has been achieved so far. Mr James Dobson stated that the sub-committee formed for this project agreed to meet up again in the autumn. A date for this meeting needs to be arranged and the sub-committee can agree a contractor. Mr Clarke stated that the memorial is very important to lots of people in the village and the project needs to be moved forward. Mr Brooks stated that Mr Peter Dobson proposed to put forward a design to the Parish Council, which has not been done, and that Mr Wright has already located a designer and a sample of the stone. Mr Harris stated that he is concerned that no progress has been made but will leave this to the sub-committee to progress the plans.
- m. Mr Wright asked if a representative of the Parish Council will lay a wreath on the Village Green this year. Mr Harris stated that he would expect this to happen.

172/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 17th October 2017 (To be confirmed).
Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 7th November 2017.