

HORSPATH PARISH COUNCIL  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017**  
**At 8pm in HORSPATH VILLAGE HALL.**

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

**Apologies** Mr D Horsley.

**Absent:**

**Public:** 5

**192/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Apologies were made on behalf of Mr Horsley. Mr Peter Dobson thanked Mr Harris for standing in as Acting Chairman and all Councillors for their support during his absence.

**193/17 DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – No declarations were made.

**194/17 CO-OPTION OF MRS BEVERLEY OAKLEY** – Mr Brooks proposed that Mrs Oakley be co-opted onto the Parish Council, seconded by Mr Harris. Councillors voted unanimously for Mrs Oakley to be co-opted on to the Parish Council. Mr Peter Dobson welcomed Mrs Oakley.

**195/17 EMERGENCY BUSINESS.**

Mr Peter Dobson confirmed that he has passed a cheque for £100.00 from Mr Pettigrove for Horspath Feast to the Clerk.

**190/17 (b)** – Mr Peter Dobson informed Councillors that two invoices for payment have been received for the plumbing work recently carried out in the Village Hall.

**162/17 Matters Arising (151/17 Ox-Cam Expressway)** – Mr Harris requested that the donation of £50.00 to go to the Expressway Action Group towards the cost of lobbying exercises agreed at the October Parish Council meeting be sent onto Cuddesdon Parish Council.

**196/17 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL.**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were amended on **Item 190/17 AOB (d) to read** “*Mr Brooks stated that he has received an email from the person who is designing it*”. The Minutes were then agreed as correct and signed by the acting Chairman.

**197/17 MATTERS ARISING.**

**177/17 – Matters arising (171/17 – AOB (a))** – Mr Harris confirmed that he has submitted to SODC three objections to the Local Plan 2033, which will give access to attend any Public Enquiry. No further action can be taken until the spring.

Mr Peter Dobson informed Councillors and members of the public that Mr James Dobson has brought mince pies to the meeting and invited people to help themselves.

**198/17 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

**P17/S3840/ HH**    **136 Gidley Way, Horspath**    **(Householder)**  
Refurbishments and extensions to an existing detached dwelling. – **Councillors agreed that there are no strong views on this application and accepts that SODC will determine it as it considers appropriate.**

**P17/S4166/**    **Land adjacent to 4 Gidley Way, Horspath**    **(Full Application)**

**FUL** New dwelling. (Re-submission following planning approval P17/S1217/FUL). – **The Clerk confirmed that this Planning Application has not yet been received so will be deferred until a later date.**

**PLANNING PERMISSIONS/REFUSALS/APPEALS.**

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

**O** Erection of two detached dwellings with vehicular access from Gidley Way (As corrected by planning application forms received clarifying the matters for which approval is being sought accompanying email from agent received 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017). – **Granted.**

**P17/S4028/ 12 Church Road, Horspath \*\*\*Certificate of Lawful Development\*\*\***

**LDP** Insertion of 2 no. roof lights in the front roof slope.

**199/17 CLERK'S UPDATE.**

**External Auditor Appointments for 2017/18** – The Clerk has received information on the new External Auditor for 2017/18.

**Signs, Bollards & White Gates – Cuddesdon Road** – Mr Francis, OCC Highways, has placed an order for the signs and bollards and will arrange a site meeting before they are installed. He will also inspect the white gates at the same time.

**Building at Gidley Way** – The Enforcement Department at SODC has reviewed the Council's records and a planning officer has confirmed in April 2017 to the landowner that the proposed outbuildings which have now been erected to the rear of 84 Gidley Way are permitted development. The outbuildings are lawful under Schedule 2 Part 1 Class E of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. Therefore no further action is required for the outbuildings. SODC are still investigating the buildings/builders yard that is adjacent to the lane, therefore the case will remain open for this aspect.

**Repairs needed to the Scout Hut** – The Clerk reported that no reply has been received from Horspath Cricket Club with regards to carrying out the repairs. It was agreed that the Clerk will send the same email to the Chairman of HCC and also contact Mr Hamlet to obtain a cost for the repair.

**Christmas Tree** – Mr Pettigrove will deliver the tree on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017 or maybe the day before. Mr Peter Dobson asked for volunteers to help put the tree up. The Clerk will make contact with Mr Goss, Mr Austin and Mr Gray to see if they are able to assist. Mr Peter Dobson confirmed that he has the Christmas tree lights.

**Property on Manor Farm Road** – The Clerk has written to the owner of the property to ask them to remove the branches from their trees that are over-hanging onto the footpath.

**200/17 PRECEPT 2018/19.**

The Clerk circulated a copy of the draft Precept to all Councillors. The Clerk informed Councillors that the Precept will need to be finalised and confirmed at the January 2018 meeting. Mr Harris asked that the Clerk contact OALC to request a list of Insurance Companies who offer policies to Parish Councils so that they can be contacted before the Councils policy is due to be renewed in 2018.

**201/17 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNILLOR REPORTS.**

**Dr. Kirsten Johnson (County Councillor)** – Dr Johnson reported that her motion to Full Council on 7<sup>th</sup> November calling for a bus service provision for everyone in the County was passed unanimously. This is a great result, and will lead to much better transport provision in areas which have had their services cut. Dr Johnson has attended an initial meeting with the Cabinet Member for Communities, Cllr Mark Gray, and two OCC transport officers, planning how to take this forward and a further meeting is due to take place next week to look at current services provided throughout the County, including community transport initiatives and draw up a list of when bus contracts are coming to an end, and to look into how

other counties are providing transport in rural villages.

Dr Johnson reported that she has attended several meetings with regards to the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway, and she is happy to help Parish Councils in any way that she can. Mr Harris asked Dr Johnson if there is any update from Cuddesdon Parish Council from the Expressway Action Group. Dr Johnson reported that she will be attending a meeting on Friday with Highways England. The Expressway Action Group has been given stakeholder status which is a good sign and also means that our views will be listened to. Dr Johnson stated that Parish Councils need to work together on this. To date there is no official choice of routes available.

**Mrs Elizabeth Gillespie (District Councillor)** – Mrs Gillespie reported that the National Infrastructure Commission has released a report apparently favouring the north-east route. Mrs Gillespie commented that the EAG is very lucky to have Mr Peter Rutt leading the project. OCC are pushing for the Culham route to be chosen and John Cotton, SODC, who has been appointed Chairman of the relevant Committee, favours the north-east route.

Mrs Gillespie reported that SODC are building new offices in Wallingford and hope that they will be ready in the next two years.

Mrs Gillespie reported that SODC will be starting a lottery scheme in February 2018, which is an idea taken from Aylesbury District, whose scheme is working well. Money raised from the lottery will be given to local charities.

Mr Peter Dobson asked Mrs Gillespie who made the decision that the Chequers Inn Pub should not remain on the list of Assets of Community Value. Mrs Gillespie stated that the decision would have been taken by an Officer at SODC. Mr Harris asked why the Asset of Community Value status has been granted to other public houses in other villages but not Horspath. Mr Peter Dobson stated that the Chequers Inn is a village pub and it is currently trading. Mr Harris stated that the signs are that the pub is being sold for re-development. Mr Harris stated that Horspath Parish Council has submitted another application to SODC explaining why the pub should be listed as an Asset of Community Value. Mrs Gillespie will check with Mrs Sally Trueman, SODC, Policy & Partnerships Manager when she returns to work.

#### **202/17 PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE HPC WAR MEMORIAL SUB-COMMITTEE.**

Mr Peter Dobson stated that he is waiting for the design to come through which was due at the end of November. As soon as it is available the sub-committee will meet to discuss the proposal and it is hoped that it will be available to bring back to the Parish Council meeting in January 2018. Mr Harris asked the cost of the design. Mr Peter Dobson stated that a price has not yet been given. Mr Peter Dobson also stated that the Parish Council has never committed to a memorial being in place by November 2018. Mr Brooks commented that the Parish Council is run on secrets. Mr Peter Dobson stated that he resents that comment. Mr Peter Dobson stated that there would not be any further discussions on this project that evening. Mr Brooks stated that there will be a memorial in place by November 2018.

#### **203/17 STAGECOACH SITE VISIT & APPROVAL FOR THE SERVICES OF MR JAMES OFFEN.**

Mr Harris stated that the annual inspection of the Stagecoach premises needs to be arranged as it is over-due. Mr Harris also recommended that the Parish Council ask Mr James Offen to accompany representatives of the Parish Council to carry out the inspection at a cost of £50.00p/h, and estimated at two hours. Mr Peter Dobson asked if Mr Offen is able to provide the Parish Council with a report of his findings, Mr Harris stated that he will be able to do this. Mr James Dobson stated that the site inspection should also tie in the new fencing erected around the perimeter of the site. Councillors agreed for Mr Harris to invite Mr Offen to the site inspection. The Clerk will contact Stagecoach and Hanson to arrange a date for the site inspection. Mr Peter Dobson and Mr Harris will both attend.

## **204/17 THE OXFORD-CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY AND ASSOCIATED BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS. – Mr Harris to report.**

Mr Harris reported that the aim is to build a mega road from Oxford to Cambridge with 10,000 houses being built every mile. There are two main options currently being discussed, one being to widen the A34 and the other to build a road from a bridge crossing the River Thames at Culham to Junction 8 on the M40. These and other proposals are now in the hands of Highways England and they will decide, consulting stakeholders only rather than the public, which option will be chosen as the corridor for this road and will announce their decision in July 2018. The Ox-Cam Expressway project is not just about a road, it is about a development to build one million houses along its total length. Mr Harris stated that it is approximately four years away from being constructed. There is a risk that it may come near to Horspath, so the Parish Council needs to watch and wait for more information to become available. Mr Harris will keep Councillors informed.

## **205/17 CHEQUERS INN PUB.**

Mr Peter Dobson reported that SODC has reversed the decision of making the Chequers Inn an Asset of Community Value. Mr Burgess stated that Mr Harris has re-applied to SODC for it to be registered as an Asset of Community Value, to be decided within 10 weeks. Mr Burgess stated that the Parish Council has now received a letter from TNT Solicitors, representing Punch Taverns, requesting that the lease be re-assigned to the new company, ST Properties Oxford Ltd. Councillors agreed that this matter should be passed to Andrew Miscampbell of Blake Morgan Solicitors for his advice. In the meantime, Mr Miscampbell will be asked to send a holding letter to TNT Solicitors, so that the Parish Council continues to control the lease and only the licensee of the Chequers Inn can benefit from the lease. Mr James Dobson stated that the credit worthiness of the new company will need to be looked into and will require a guarantee from parent companies. Mr Burgess also stated that the lease is due a rent review next year, so the Parish Council also needs to consider this. Mr Harris stated that there is a valuation report in the files. Mr Burgess stated that he has been told verbally from Savills, Southampton office that the property has been sold.

Mr Harris agreed to write to Mr Miscampbell, Blake Morgan Solicitors to request his advice on the most professional way to retain maximum control on this property. Mr Harris will also copy the Clerk, Mr Peter Dobson and Mr Burgess in the letter.

## **206/17 CORRESPONDENCE.**

- a. OALC – NALC Smaller Councils Committee – Nominations Please. – (Circulated via email).
- b. RSN – Rural Intelligence from behind the headlines 3.11.17. – (Circulated via email).
- c. SODC – Press Release – Didcot Garden Town – An exciting opportunity to get involved. – (Circulated via email).
- d. RSN – Weekly Email News Digest 6.11.17. – (Circulated via email).
- e. RSN – Rural Intelligence from behind the headlines 10.11.17. – (Circulated via email).
- f. RSN. – Rural Vulnerability Service – Fuel Poverty November 2017. – (Circulated via email).
- g. OPFA – Playground Inspection Training 2/12/17. – (Circulated via email).
- h. RSN – Weekly Email News Digest 13.11.17. – (Circulated via email).
- i. Community First Oxfordshire. – Autumn Newsletter 2017. – (Circulated via email).
- j. RSN – Rural Intelligence from behind the headlines 17.11.17. – (Circulated via email).
- k. Open Spaces Society. – Latest News from Open Spaces Society. – (Circulated via email).
- l. RSN – Spotlight on Rural Health. – (Circulated via email).
- m. RSN – Weekly Email News Digest 20.11.17. – (Circulated via email).
- n. Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens Advice – Headlines November 2017. – (Circulated via email).
- o. SODC – Council backs strategy to reduce vehicle emissions in South Oxfordshire. – (Circulated via email).

- p. SODC – Energy Recovery Tour 13.12.17. – (Circulated via email).
- q. RSN – Rural Intelligence from behind the headlines 24.11.17. – (Circulated via email).
- r. CPRE – Response to VWHDC Local Plan Part 2 – Green Belt/Oxcam Expressway/Corridor. – (Circulated via email).
- s. CPRE – Oxcam Corridor/Expressway plus Oxfordshire Growth Deal. – (Circulated via email).
- t. Goring-on-Thames Parish Council – Deregulation of Parking Enforcement. – (Circulated via email).
- u. OCC – Care Worker Recruitment Campaign. – (Circulated via email).
- v. RSN. – Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural Broadband November 2017. – (Circulated via email).
- w. Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens Advice. – Donation Request. – (November 2017 meeting) (Circulated via email). – **Councillors agreed a donation of £50.00.**
- x. RSN – Weekly Email News Digest 27.11.17. – (Circulated via email).
- y. Wheatley Parish Council. – December/January Newsletter. – (Circulated via email).
- z. Henley Residents Group. – Please help give more protection to Assets of Community Value. – (Circulated via email).
- aa. TLT Solicitors – Application for consent to assign the lease for the land at the Chequers Inn to ST Properties Oxford Ltd. – (See **205/17**).
- bb. RSN. – Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural Transport November 2017. – (Circulated via email).
- cc. SODC – Charity Fashion Show 4.12.17. – (Circulated via email).
- dd. SODC – Christmas Charity Arts & Craft Fair. – (Circulated via email).
- ee. CPRE – Challenging times for Oxfordshire countryside – CPRE Oxon News November 2017. – (Circulated via email).
- ff. Open Spaces Society – Lost Commons: The rescue begins.\*
- gg. Mr Stephen Smith – Land on Oxford Road. – **Mr Peter Dobson informed Councillors that he has recently been contacted by Mr Smith regarding the land owned by Mr Smith on Oxford Road. Mr Smith is being pressurised by Travellers to sell the land. Mr Smith is asking for the Parish Council to support him in principle to build two houses on the land at the entrance to the village on Oxford Road. Mr Burgess asked if the Parish Council is aware of the value of the land. Mr Peter Dobson stated that the value will depend on what is being done with the land. Mr Peter Dobson stated that discussions have taken place with Mr Smith in the past but the Parish Council now needs to advise Mr Smith of its intentions. Mr Harris stated that the Parish Council will need to arrange a valuation on the land. Mr Brooks stated that the Parish Council have three options, purchase the land at its value, support a planning application or accept that it will be sold to travellers. Mr Peter Dobson stated that the Parish Council needs to give this matter serious thought, no decision can be made at this meeting without a planning application being submitted, even though planning applications have been refused on two previous occasions. Mr Peter Dobson asked Mrs Gillespie if there is any way of SODC working with Mr Smith on a planning application. Mr Harris stated that if the planning application was for two affordable houses, this could be considered. Mrs Gillespie stated that Mr Smith will need to re-apply to SODC for planning permission for two houses. Mrs Gillespie stated that certain areas in the village can be included in the Neighbourhood Plan which would then be considered for development. Mr Peter Dobson stated that there may be an opportunity for the Parish Council to purchase some of the land. Mr Harris stated that this land could be an exception site for another phase of affordable houses. Mr Harris stated that Mr Smith needs to write to the Parish Council with his proposals and this can then be considered by the Parish Council. Mr Peter Dobson will contact Mr Smith to request that he puts his proposals in writing to the Parish Council which will be considered at the January 2018 meeting.**

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

*# displayed on Village Hall & village noticeboards.*

**207/17 PAYMENTS.**

<b>Chq</b>	<b>To Whom Paid</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Total £</b>
DD	PWLB	Loan repayment for Burial Ground		2066.40
2509	Shaw & Sons	Receipts & Payments Book	12.79	76.74
2510	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Salary 24/10/17 – 24/11/17		402.77
2511	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Home Office November 2017 Stationery		30.00 48.00
2512	Mrs Heather Palmer	Payment for Easyspace Web Fee	30.04	180.25
2513	The Oxfordshire Taxi Company	Minibus Service from 24.11.17-22.12.17		240.00
2514	JJ Bark	Repairs to Toro Mower in August 2017	18.00	108.00
2515	Mr P Aries	Bus Shelter & Play Area Maintenance Oct/Nov 17 Xmas Box		120.00 20.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60.83</b>	<b>3292.16</b>

**208/17 RECEIPTS.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Received from</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Total £</b>
	Oxfordshire County Council	Grant for Trial Minibus Service	1,000.00
2.10.17	HSPT	Contribution to Village projects	11,000.00
2.10.17	Horspath Recreation Charity	Re-surfacing of Village Green area by the village shop	2,650.00
4.10.17	Funeral Director	Interment of Ashes	125.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,775.00</b>

**209/17 AOB**

- a. Mrs Palmer suggested that due to the Christmas period, the next Parish Council meeting date be changed to 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Councillors agreed to the change of date.
- b. Mr Ewart reported that he has cleared his garden ready for building works to commence and will submit drawings next month.
- c. Mr Burgess asked for information on the trial minibus service as he has not seen it advertised. Mrs Palmer stated that the service is advertised on the village noticeboard. The trial service will run for fifteen weeks and there will be no charge at the moment for people using the service. The minibus picks up from Gateley at 12 o'clock and then the bus shelter on the Village Green and transports passengers to Cowley Centre and St Aldates, returning from there at 3.30pm. Mr Peter Dobson asked Mrs Palmer about the usage of the minibus so far. Mrs Palmer stated that there were 7 passengers the first week, 8 passengers the second week and 5 passengers booked in for this week. Anyone who would like to book seats in the minibus should contact Mrs Palmer.
- d. Mrs Oakley asked why it had taken two months to pay the invoices submitted by Mr Bond and Mr Hamlet for works carried out in the Village Hall. Mr Peter Dobson stated that the invoices were left in his porch and he has been away for two months with family commitments. Mr Peter Dobson stated that all invoices for work carried out should be sent directly to the Clerk to avoid any delay. Mr James Dobson stated that the Parish Council have very good payment terms.

**Public:**

- e. Mr Lee Clarke reported that the concreting was completed yesterday at the Cycle Speedway Club. Mr Clarke hopes to have the invoices ready to email to the Clerk next week, but there may be a slight delay. Mr Clarke reported that the Cricket Club have erected a fence without notifying Cycle Speedway that the fence will be erected at the edge of their fence and it is suspected that they have gone through Cycle Speedway's electricity supply as all power has now been lost which means a new electricity cable will need to be installed. Mr Gordon Clarke asked if the Cricket Club should have sought permission from the Parish Council before erecting a fence. Mr Peter Dobson stated that the Parish Council were not aware of the new fencing. Mr Lee Clarke informed Councillors that a skip has been ordered to dispose of all of the rubbish.

**210/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.**

HSPT Meeting – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 8pm.

Parish Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 (To be confirmed).

Horspath Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018.