

Horspath Stone Pit Charity
Minutes of Trustees' Meeting – Thursday 6th March 2025 at 7.30pm
held at Horspath Village Hall

Present: Mrs B Oakley (Chairman), Mr D Burgess, Mr L Coolman, Mrs P Cook, Mrs H Franklin, Mr I Harris, Mr P Hookham, Mr B Igoe, Mr P O'Brien, Mr E Parker, Mr G Walker, Mrs H Kogel (Clerk). Mr B Lowe (I/A), Mr L Smith (I/A), Mr A Absolom (I/A), Mr S James-Lawrie (I/A).

Apologies: Mr R Hamlet.

Absent:

Public: 1

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were made on behalf of Mr Hamlet.

2. INDEPENDENT ADVISORS. – 2 Applicants.

Mrs Oakley explained the role expected of an Independent Advisor to the two applicants. Trustees agreed unanimously for Mr Absolom and Mr Smith to be Independent Advisors.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST. – None.

4. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL.

The Minutes of the Trustees Meeting held on 10th December 2024 were agreed and signed as correct by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the Trustees Meeting held on 7th January 2025 were agreed and signed as correct by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the Trustees Closed Meeting held on 27th January 2025 were agreed and signed as correct by the Chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING.

Further to the meeting held on 27th January 2025, Trustees agreed that as Mr Bearder has not attended a meeting for more than six months, he is no longer considered to be an Independent Advisor.

6. STAGECOACH. – New sub-station. - Mr O'Brien reported that no update is available.

7. HSPC AUDIT.

Mr Parker and Mr O'Brien will pass on the details of companies that could carry out an audit. Mr Parker will draft a letter for the Clerk to send out to the companies.

8. CORRESPONDENCE.

Mrs Oakley reported that Mr Bearder has delivered a leaflet/questionnaire to households in the village asking residents for their views on how they would like HSPC funds to be spent. Mr Bearder is no longer an Independent Advisor and was not authorised to circulate the questionnaire, and Trustees do not agree with it. Trustees agreed that Mr Parker will draft a letter to be sent to Mr Bearder. Mr James-Lawrie stated that he was asked to be included on the leaflet, but he refused as HSPC is non-political. Mr Parker stated that residents were given the opportunity to give their views on how HSPC funds were used at a public meeting. Mr O'Brien stated that last year a survey was delivered to all households regarding HSPC funds and the majority of residents were in favour of a new village hall.

9. **PAYMENTS.**

Date	Paid To	Details	Total £
BACS	Mrs Hayley Kogel	Salary Jan, Feb, Mar 2025 + ¼ holiday pay	764.98
BACS	Barnes4Business	Accountant fee for accounts 2023/24	1200.00
		TOTAL	1964.98

10. **RECEIPTS.**

Date	Received from	Details	Total £
10.12.24	Horspath Senior Residents	Un-spent grant	1122.00
12.12.24	Barclays Bank	Gesture of goodwill	50.00
23.12.24	Stagecoach	Quarterly Rent	62,500.00
9.1.25	Mr David Wright	Un-spent grant	140.00
7.2.25	Horspath Senior Residents	Un-used grant	210.00
		Total	£64,022.00

****£62,500 due from Stagecoach in March 2025**.**

Bank Balance as of 27.2.25

Community Account £75,492.11
Business Premium Account £76,542.02
Treasury Account £900,000.00

11. **AOB.**

- a. Mr O'Brien reported that he has recently sent two emails regarding the planned large capital projects and suggested that while capital projects are taking place, all organisation grants should be suspended until the projects have been completed as we will need the funds that are available to cover the costs. Mr Parker stated that HSPC is only guaranteed an income from Stagecoach for the next twelve months. The Stagecoach rent review is due in March 2026 and then a rent review will take place every five years. Mrs Oakley stated that HSPC will have to honour the grant applications received at this meeting. Trustees agreed that all organisation grants will be suspended after this meeting. The Clerk will post this information on the HSPC website.

12. **APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING.**

6 Organisation & 12 Individual and 2 Hardship Fund applications to be considered.

Individual Applications

2 applications were successful for school trips. – Total 400.00.

2 applications were successful for swimming lessons. – Total £343.00.

2 applications were refused as receipts for a previous grant have not been provided.

2 applications were refused as they do not meet the criteria of the charity.

1 applications was refused as a grant for the activity has already been awarded this year.

3 applications were refused as receipts for a previous grant have not been provided, and the request does not meet the criteria of the charity.

Organisation Applications

Horspath Parish Council – Awarded £3912.00 for Consultant and planning application fees for Village Hall. (Supported by all four Independent Advisors).

Horspath Cricket Club – Awarded £1896.50 to purchase sightscreens.

Horspath Parish Council – Awarded £750,000.00 for the refurbishment of the Village Hall. (Supported by all four Independent Advisors). Trustees agreed that there may be a need for further grant applications.

Horspath Parish Council – Awarded £21,901.20 for a new mower for the village. (Supported by all four Independent Advisors).

Horspath Parish Council – Awarded £150,000.00 for a new play area. (Supported by all four Independent Advisors).

Horspath PTA – Awarded £330.00 for a PA system for the extravaganza.

Hardship Fund Applications

1 application was refused as it did not meet the criteria of the charity. (Supported by all four Independent Advisors).

1 application was awarded £3,000.00. (£1,000 per month for 3 months). (Supported by all four Independent Advisors).

Two previous applicants contacted the Clerk to question why their applications were not successful. Trustees agreed that applications need to meet the criteria of the Charity, and the Trustees decision is final. Full details of the criteria are available on the website.

A total of £928,782.70 was awarded.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm to members of the public.

New Play Area

Trustees voted in favour of the larger play area. Trustees discussed the quotations received to date, although some companies will be asked to revise their quotations for other options. Mr O'Brien stated that if the larger play area is considered to be too big, and the smaller area too small, there is an option to go for a size in between the two. Mr O'Brien stated that there will be large areas of grass that will need to be maintained so it may be worth considering artificial grass. It was agreed to wait until all quotations have been received.

Village Hall

Mrs Oakley stated that Mr Parker and Ms Oakley have been trying to change the bank signatories. This has still not been done and Santander have now frozen the bank account. It was agreed that HPC will take over all utility bills for the Village Hall until the bank details have been changed.

Signed Date.....