**GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 3rd February, commencing at 7.30pm. The Chairman, Chris Wright presided: present were Cllrs Anne Eastwood (Vice Chairman), Matthew Dovey, Ian Dickinson, Mike Patrick, Judith Westgate with J Eden in attendance and 5 members of the public.

2/14/1Apologies for Absence

Cllr Paul Bolam – away on business

Cllr John Hieatt – family illness

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale – attending other Parish Meetings

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie – attending meetings.

2/14/2 Declarations of Interest

None

2/14/3 Public Participation

None.

Tina Hall, David Mather and Steve Inch had come to speak specifically about items on the agenda, it was agreed that their input would be included when the items came up for discussion.

2/14/4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 6th January 2014

The Minutes as circulated were approved and signed.

2/14/5 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

Cllr Ian Dickinson raised the problem of parked vehicles at Greenwoods in Pettiwell, he had contacted DVLA who advised that untaxed vehicles left on the highway were subject to a fine of £500. The information required by DVLA was the location, registration number, make and colour of the vehicle before action could be taken.

Chairman Chris Wright asked Cllr Dickinson to circulate the email from DVLA to all the councillors.

Cllr Mike Patrick wished to have recorded his dissatisfaction at the way the SODC Planning Meeting had dealt with the application for 27 Elm Drive, he felt that the decision had been made before the meeting took place and little attention was paid to any of the concerns raised at the meeting. It was agreed that although the decision could not be changed, a letter would be sent to Adrian Duffield, Head of Planning Services at SODC, advising of the dissatisfaction at the way this application had been handled by the Committee. Clerk to action.

2/14/6 County Councillor’s Report

A copy of the County Councillor’s report had been circulated to all Parish Councillors.

The absence of the County Councillor left a number of problems relating to issues in Garsington unresolved. To be carried forward to next meeting.

2/14/7 District Councillor’s Report

None

2/14/8 Rights of Way Consultation

A copy of the Rights of Way Consultation document had been circulated to all the Councillors, plus Tina Hall, local footpath officer for Ramblers and SODC and David Mather who was the local footpath officer for Garsington Society.

Both thought the consultation document was a good idea, it gave the opportunity for a properly laid down plan of footpaths in the area, if footpaths were clearly defined it would encourage more people to use them. Tina outlined the document to the council, the short version of the draft gave a useful summary of all the facts, David said that this had been successfully done in other areas of the Country and this proposal was a good thing for local rights of way. One or two comments were raised about some of the areas shown on the map, particularly the proposed footpath between Garsington and Wheatley. Cllr Matthew Dovey was concerned about this in view of the current changes being looked at for Home to School Transport. From the map it was not entirely clear which route this footpath would take and it was therefore considered that this was not currently an issue.

It was agreed that Tina and David would do a draft response and email it to Chairman Chris Wright for consideration and action.

David Mather then asked the Council if they would be prepared to fund some guide posts for local footpaths, the current cost for 16 posts was £169.60 there would also need to be some other materials purchased. The Council agreed that total funding of £300 would be made available for the work, rather than small amounts being allocated each time any work was carried out.

2/14/9 Finance

Barclays Current Account at 31st December £40,918.41 (January statement not received)

Council noted the DD Payment to Grundons in December amounting to £73.54

The following cheques were approved and signed:

HMRC/PAYE £69.00

Donation to Garsington Voluntary Drivers £100

Donation to Friends of Garsington School (for Toddler Group) £150

Internal Audit fee for 2012/13 £220

JSB Planning Law (Kiln Lane) £400

Clerks salary for January £275.60

VAT - Letter had been sent to the Public Bodies Group as suggested by the Auditor, regarding the Councils position on VAT, should they be registered or not? A response was awaited.

2/14/10 Planning

P14/S0020/HH 2 Sadlers Croft

Construction of front and rear dormer roof structure and erection of two storey rear extension to facilitate first floor accommodation.

No objections were raised, application was approved.

P13/S3914/LB Garsington Manor 28 Southend

Amendment No.1 dated 23/1/14. Proposed internal alterations and water goods.

This application was approved

P14/S0034/LB The Plough, 1 Oxford Road

Replacement windows on modern extension, replace existing rear elevation window and work to wooden hatch to cellar.

No objections were raised, application was approved.

P14/S0165/HH 75 Wheatley Road

Removal of existing front extension, erection of new single storey front extension and porch.

No objections were raised, application was approved.

2/14/11 Community Plan

A copy of the proposed questionnaire had been circulated to all Councillors.

Steve Inch, Chairman of the Steering Committee advised that the questionnaire was now being vetted prior to printing and they were looking for further volunteers to deliver and collect them. They were hoping to commence the distribution week beginning 28th March with collection during April. Chairman Chris Wright volunteered to cover Pettiwell and Cllr Anne Eastwood volunteered to help with the delivery as well, although she would not be available week commencing 28th March.

Cllr Anne Eastwood raised the viability of some of the questions that had been included, when there was no possibility of them being provided. Allotments, we had an arrangement with Horspath, ground was not available in Garsington, and this had been discussed many times in the past. Post Office we were very well served by Wheatley, Blackbird Leys and Stadhampton and were unlikely to ever get a Post Office again in the village. Swimming Pool, this seemed a pointless question.

Chairman Chris Wright felt the introduction needed to be looked at in the present form it did not encourage people to complete this questionnaire; he agreed to discuss this further with Steve Inch after the meeting.

2/14/12 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

CAB had sent a letter of thanks for the donation

Confirmation from SODC had been received for the Precept figure of £20.800 plus additional grant of £958.

Email from Barry Ruffels regarding state of Oxford Road and the hazard to cyclists. It was agreed that the Clerk would send a copy to County Councillor asking for a response. Clerk would also advise Mr Ruffels of the action taken.

Cllr John Hieatt had received a request from a resident for yellow lines to be painted on the road by the Elm Drive Shops, to prevent people from parking and blocking resident’s driveways. It was agreed that this was unlikely to happen, previous applications for yellow lines in other parts of the village had been turned down.

2/14/13 School Transport

Cllr Matthew Dovey had circulated his response to all the Councillors, it was unfortunate that the County Councillor was not at the meeting to discuss this issue.

2/14/14 Village Maintenance

Quotes had still not been received from Malcolm Hill for Kings Copse Bus Shelter or the Painting of the EIIR Climbing Frame. Clerk would chase again and also look at an alternative supplier to carry out the work.

Wall around the garden by Old Stone Cross. Chairman Chris Wright said he has spoken with Alan Bower regarding the removal of the wall. It was a possibility that if Mr Bower could retain the stone from the wall the removal of the wall would not cost anything. The Clerk would write to the Electricity Company regarding relocation of the electricity supply for the Christmas Tree, costs for this needed to be obtained before any further action could be taken.

2/14/15 Playground

Cllr Paul Bolam had sent his apologies, items outstanding would be carried over to the next meeting.

2/14/16 Community Assets

Old School Garden. Clerk had completed the forms requesting this area to be registered as a Community Asset. Completed forms had been passed to the Chairman for comment and would be sent off shortly.

Clerk had also written another letter to Mr Palmer asking for an update on cutting back the Leylandii trees.

2/14/17 Village Bus Service

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that problems continued the commuter bus had again driven past the stops in the village because it was full, causing delays and problems for users. Following conversations with the bus provider a larger vehicle was provided, but on Friday the problems of the commuter bus being full and not stopping in Garsington happened again. Cllr Dovey said that he was in contact with other users in villages on the route. The next step was to send a letter to the Chief Executive of the Go Ahead Group highlighting all the problems. Chairman Chris Wright suggested that he look at the possibility of buying a share in the Go Ahead Group, entitling attendance at the Annual General Meeting. Cllr Matthew Dovey agreed to speak to other Parishes and consider this as an option.

2/14/18 Speed Monitoring/Policing

Cllr Matthew Dovey had looked into the possibility of a mobile speed sign, cost was in the region of £3000 it was agreed that this needed to be investigated further to explore all the options before any decision could be made.

2/14/19 Annual Parish Meeting Community Fair

Cllr Matthew Dovey advised that work had commenced on this, emails would be sent to all organisations in the village inviting them to take part, an article would also be placed in the next Newsletter.

2/14/20 Any Other Business

Chairman Chris Wright said that he and Cllr Mike Patrick had been invited to attend a meeting on 22nd February with the Parochial Church Council, they were looking at ways of improving the Churchyard and Burial Ground to make it more visitor friendly.

Cllr Mike Patrick stated that the white lines recently painted by OCC throughout the village were not what had been asked for, the request for SLOW at the top of the hill in Oxford Road had not been actioned, he had taken this up with the his contact at OCC.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm