Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 3rd April 2006 commencing at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors David Baker, Paul Bolam, Anne Eastwood and Cliff Shuker with G Russell in attendance. Also present were District Cllr Ann Tomline and five residents of the Parish.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Saini and also from County Cllr David Turner who was on holiday. The Chairman commented that a reason for making an apology must always be given, because the Council has the discretion not to accept an apology where insufficient justification for the absence is presented.

2 Public Participation

a. Mr Tipping asked what action is proposed regarding his previous complaints about road signs. The Chairman said that the answer to this question would have to await Cllr Turner’s return from holiday. Mr Tipping complained about the damage being done by contractors’ vehicles to the entrance of ‘Tadpole Lane’ and said that trees on the perimeter of the Burial Ground were damaged when some gravediggers carelessly disposed of surplus soil. It was suggested that the Council’s burial ground regulations might need to be amended to cover this point.

b. Mr Hieatt said that a visit to Elm Drive by a Community Support Officer might help to deal with the increased problems that were being experienced, particularly by the shopkeepers. He has taken photographs of the damage being done.

3 Declarations of Interest

None

4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th March 2006

The Minutes of the meeting were approved and signed after the words ‘a vehicle owned by’ were deleted from the reference to Kiln Lane made in Paragraph 6: County Councillor’s Report. It was also confirmed that the deeds to the Village Hall had been passed to the Chairman by Basil Townsend and were now held by the Clerk.

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. Affordable Housing: Cllr Bolam has been in contact with Suzanne Willers and the next step is for the Parish Council to appoint a housing association – Mrs Willers had suggested SOHA – to progress site selection. A meeting to meet the people involved will be arranged.

b. Sports Club gate: repairs have been approved.

c. Speed safety posters: the Chairman will organise.

d. Stiles: a working party from the Garsington Society will be arranged.

6 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr David Turner is on holiday but District Cllr Ann Tomline said that she knew he had been asking the County about the various Highways issues that had been raised at the previous Council meeting.

7 District Councillor’s Report

Cllr Tomline said that she is continuing to monitor the business activities being carried out at Greenwoods. She will distribute the concessionary fares tokens as usual. She has spoken to the District and they will arrange for litter to be cleared from along the Oxford Road; she confirmed that ‘visibility jackets’ etc can be obtained from the District Council if litter-clearing working parties are organised in future.

Fly-tipping, particularly in Pettiwell continues to be a problem but it is being cleared away quickly. Figures are now available on the Council’s website which give details of the number of people using the new web casting service of Council meetings, both live and archived.

Cllr Tomline said that under new development proposals there is a possibility that some building controls may be relaxed. She will monitor this situation carefully, particularly any proposals for building in the green belt.

8 Finance

Balances and cheques for signature:

Barclays Current Account at 31/3 £16,434.15

Barclays Community 10/3 £50.21

Bank of Ireland at 14/3/06 £119,367.45 (interest earned £365.15)

Newsletter advertising receipts in the month amounted to £260. The Current Account balance includes the receipt of £9,185 which is the first half of the 2006/7 Precept.

The following cheques were approved for signature:

B & M Engineers (repairs to Sports Club gate) £470.00

ORCC (annual sub) £50.00

G Russell - Salary £302.40

Admin £78.40

M J Hill (rebuilding damaged brick pillar) £400.00

M J Hill (bus shelter repairs) £100.00

Michael Sobell House (donation) £75.00

9 Planning

a. Application

P06/W0190 68 Wheatley Road

Erection of a two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.

There were no strong views on the merits of the scheme, but some misgivings about site access and also for an apparent lack of regard for proper procedure.

P06/W0229/LB The Plough Public House

Take down walls between lobby and servery. Replace with new steel, boxed in with fire line board. Infill door openings in lobby with stud partition and make good all finishes.

The proposal was thought to be an improvement and approval was recommended subject to the conservation officer’s agreement.

P06/W0241 9 Wheatley Road

Demolish existing conservatory and erect a replacement conservatory.

The Council agreed that this proposal should be approved.

P06/W0274/RET (Retrospective) 60 Elm Drive

Retention of decking to rear of property to cover existing concrete steps and concrete base.

The Council recommended that this application should be refused as being un-neighbourly.

b. Decisions and other Planning matters

Greenwoods of Garsington; the matter has not yet been considered; it is understood that the next committee meeting will take place on 23rd May

Seven Bells Cottage, 93 Southend

The Council noted that this application was withdrawn on 27th March

P06/W0031 Land off Oxford Road

There has been no decision as yet because the planning officer has undertaken consultation with County Footpaths and the Crime Prevention Officer, the letters to these bodies only being despatched on 23rd March.

10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

a. Neighbourhood Policing Proposals; the Chairman and Cllr Shuker will attend the briefing meeting at Crowmarsh on 11th April.

b. Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act; there is no enthusiasm for adopting the new powers that Parish Councils have gained by this legislation. Councillors would like to see how it works elsewhere.

c. Details of the new garden waste service; changes to the Mobile Library Service and a new contact number for County Highways area office are being circulated.

d. The Chairman said that he would review the consultation details about a draft Youth Strategy.

e. The Clerk reported that following a review of bus services, Service 40 is to continue as is and there is to be an additional service (49A) operating on Tuesdays, the start date of which is to be requested.

f. The Parish Council agreed to enter a team in the Garsington Society’s Quiz Night to be held on 12th May, the monies raised going towards the St Mary’s tower fund and Parish footpath repairs.

g. The Chairman said that he had received a letter of thanks for the Council’s donation of £5,000 towards the St Mary’s tower fund. It was agreed that the second payment of £5,000 would be made at the October Parish Council meeting.

11 Parish Council vacancy

The notice advertising the vacancy was posted as regulations demand. Co-option will be necessary if a suitable candidate is available because the election of the whole Council is not until May 2007. So far one interested party has put his name forward.

12 Village Maintenance

The Clerk has received a complaint about dog mess from a resident of Fox Close. It was agreed that he should find out about the current cost of the dog hygiene bin service, and of warning signs and report at the next meeting.

Cllr Baker has asked about a person being employed to do general handyman type tasks including, for example, opening and closing the gates at the Sports Club car park and, eventually, the Oxford Road amenity site. Cllr Shuker suggested that a small group of people might be involved.

The next meeting of the Council will take place in the Village Hall on Monday 8th May 2006, immediately after the conclusion of the Annual Parish Meeting which will commence at 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm