**GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 7th April, 2014 commencing at 7.30pm. The Chairman, Chris Wright presided: present were Cllrs Anne Eastwood (Vice Chairman), Matthew Dovey, Ian Dickinson, John Hieatt, Mike Patrick, Judith Westgate with J Eden in attendance. Also present were District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie, County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale and 3 members of the public.

4/14/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Paul Bolam – away on business

4/14/2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mike Patrick declared an interest regarding items for discussion under Village Maintenance.

4/14/3 Public Participation

Mrs Marie Holmes raised the following items that she was concerned about.

1. Potholes

2. Parked Vehicles at Greenwoods site, this afternoon when driving down Pettiwell she had observed 16 parked vehicles including a breakdown truck, she asked if any action was being taken.

3. Large van regularly parked at the bottom of the hill in Oxford Road by the alley leading to Elm Drive, the vehicle was causing an obstruction and it was very difficult to see oncoming cars when proceeding up the hill to the centre of the village.

Chairman, Chris Wright, said that potholes were dealt with by the County Council and should be reported to them. With regard to Greenwoods this item would be discussed later in the meeting under planning, the comment on the parked vehicles had been noted.

Cllr Anne Eastwood, said that she understood the van was owned by people who lived at the first house immediately after the drive to her house. She agreed that the vehicle did cause a problem and said she would try and speak to owners.

4/14/4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on the 3rd March 2014

The Minutes as circulated were approved and signed.

4/14/5 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

3/14/6 - Cllr John Hieatt advised that the garage door at the rear of Elm Drive shops had been put back on and was no longer a problem.

3/14/13 – The Clerk had not yet written to the Church regarding possible re-use of graves after 100 years had elapsed, letter would be sent to Church Warden.

4/14/6 County Councillor’s Report

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

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale brought to the Councils attention to the following items in the report.

Strategic Housing Market Assessment, the estimated number of houses required per annum in South Oxfordshire is 750-800 the total number of units estimated for the whole of Oxfordshire per annum is 5,100. The County Council will be assisting in the process to ensure that they are in sustainable locations with the required infrastructure. District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie said the proposed numbers did include some affordable houses but she questioned if the number of houses stated were required and how the figures been arrived at.

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gales said the Oxfordshire Flooding Summit had been a very successful meeting, commitment had been obtained from the Environment Agency that money would be available for work to be carried out not just in the City but also in other areas of the county that had suffered in the recent floods.

Cllr Mike Patrick raised the problem of the issues that affect the local area. Some months ago a list of items concerning several areas in Garsington had been brought to the County Councillor’s attention, some of them had been actioned, other items on the list still remained outstanding. It was very difficult to get any feedback, communication is a real problem. Cllr Patrick pointed out that work had taken place to repaint all the lines around the speed humps which had not been requested, but the 30mph roundels which had been agreed would be painted on the road had in some cases been put in the wrong place. Cllr Anne Eastwood raised the problems in Southend, water was still running down the road and badly eroding the road surface. Cllr Anne Eastwood reported that a serious vehicle accident recently in Southend had resulted in damage to property and the vehicle being written off. Although nobody had been seriously injured the road surface on the hill was a real problem and as this road was on the bus route it needed to be looked at again urgently. Chairman Chris Wright asked if the Police had attended the accident and if it was possible to obtain an incident number, Cllr Eastwood said she would see if this was possible.

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay- Gale apologised, she had been away for most of March. She asked Cllr Patrick to send her a list of any items that remained outstanding plus any additional items and also to send a copy to David Clack, Area Steward at the County Council.

Cllr Matthew Dovey raised the recent decision taken on School Transport and asked if there was any possibility of the current situation for Garsington being changed, County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said this was unlikely, she was very sorry about the decision, it was unfortunate that Garsington had not qualified as a split village. Cllr Anne Eastwood asked how money would be saved if the County Council had to supply two buses to two designated schools for Garsington, it did not make sense, currently one bus took all the children to Wheatley Park. County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay- Gale said it was likely that while the new system was phased in there would be increased costs.

Chairman Chris Wright asked if there were any exceptions, County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said she doubted it.

Cllr Anne Eastwood asked what the cost was per child for transport, the County Councillor said about £600-£700 per child per year.

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that Friends of Garsington School had said it was difficult to assess the impact on parents at the moment until more information became available.

4/14/7 District Councillor’s Report

District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie reported that she was still working very hard with the LEP’s and SEP’s as previously reported. Although Grenoble Road was not specified in any report this area was still a matter of great concern, she understood that Brookes University had indicated that they would consider Grenoble Road as a possible site.

She said that the LEP’s had been told that they have a duty to co-operate with the SEP’s. She would continue to be vigilant over any green belt issues affecting this area.

LEADER group it looked as if new funds would be available sooner than had been expected. She urged people who might have a project requiring funds to let her know as soon as possible. Cllr Anne Eastwood asked what sort of projects qualified. District Cllr Gillespie said any projects could be considered, providing the applicant had 50% matching funds available.

District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie said they were also looking for people to sit on the LEADER board and if anyone was interested they could contact her.

12 Kiln Lane – District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie said she had not been able to find a request for any planning permission in relation to this site. Cllr Mike Patrick said a local farmer believed that asbestos was present on the site, if this is correct, it appears to have been ground in when the site was levelled. It was agreed that at the present time the only action was to observe any further activity and keep the District Councillor advised.

County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale left the meeting at 8.20pm

4/14/8 Finance

Barclays Current Account at 31st March 2014 £30,572.34

Receipts – Newsletter Advertising £540, Burial Ground £163 = £703

Council noted the Direct Debit payment to Grundons for February amounting to £60.10

The following cheques were approved and signed.

HMRC/PAYE £92.80

ORCC Membership £50

Colourplus April/May Newsletter £766.83

Southern Electric (Christmas Tree Supply) £17.24

Clerks Salary £275.82

 Administration Costs/expenses £37.96

4/14/9 Planning

P14/S056/HH – 5 Pine Close

Demolition of conservatory, replaced with extension to the rear with 2 rooms in the roof space.

No objections were raised, application was approved.

P14/S0564/FUL – South Oxford Business Centre, Lower Road

Conversion and alteration of vacant first floor office accommodation to create 2x two bedroom flats with shared amenity space.

This application was approved.

P14/S0564/FUL – Greenwoods, 54 Pettiwell – Plus amendment No.1 dated 3/4/2014

Proposal is a partial site change of use from Sui Generis to mixed usage. Sui Generis and MOT Testing.

It was noted that a letter had been received as an amendment to the original plan, increasing the provision for off road parking to 15 vehicles and 1 recovery truck plus a turning provision, this provision would only be for employees and members of the public visiting the site, it did not include the storage of recovered vehicles.

Cllr Mike Patrick stated that unless a condition is applied that prevents parking on the road the change of use should not be supported.

Cllr Ian Dickinson said that surely the change of use to include an MOT facility would only increase the number of vehicles using the site daily.

The Council members agreed that until a willingness by the owners to reduce the number of vehicles currently parked on the road was demonstrated, the Parish Council could not sanction any change of use for this site. Taking into account all the concerns the application was rejected.

P14/S0610/LB - Garsington Manor, 28 Southend.

General repair work as detailed.

This application was approved.

4/14/10 Rights of Way Consultation

The draft response which had been prepared by Tina Everett had been circulated to Councillor’s, as there were no further amendments, Chairman Chris Wright said he would speak to Tina and ask her to forward to OCC.

Another matter relating to a footpath had been raised by a resident. The footpath at the bottom of the hill off the Oxford Road had previously received attention from the Garsington Society stile working party. Pallets had been place along the footpath to make walking easier, because the natural springs were causing a problem. The pallets were now breaking up and had become very slippery. It was agreed that action needed to be taken to remove the pallets as soon as possible. Chairman Chris Wright, said he would liaise with David Mather, footpath officer for Garsington Society and ask him to organise a skip and working group to remove the pallets, it was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for the skip.

4/14/11 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

Response had been received from Susan Robinson, Garsington Manor, acknowledging the Parish Councils letter and outlining her plans for the Manor once the building work was completed. Copy of the response was circulated at the meeting.

Cllr Judith Westgate had received a response from Crown Estates regarding the land adjacent to the Elm Drive Shops, as the letter appeared to suggest that any work carried out would not be challenged, it was agreed that costs for disabled access to the shops would be further investigated, Rob Jeffery had made some initial suggestions regarding the ramp. Cllr Mike Patrick would ask him to prepare a quote. Cllr Anne Eastwood was concerned about the costs involved and how many people would actually use it. Cllr John Hieatt said he would speak to Judith Ann and try and obtain feedback from her customers on the usage.

Old School Gardens, a response had been received from Mr Palmer, regarding the Leylandii trees. He has obtained quotes but at the present time is unable to proceed with the work due to the cost, he hopes to complete the work by the end of the year and asked for permission to get access to the trees from the Parish Council land. This was agreed, Clerk will advise Mr Palmer.

Waterperry Parish Council had sent an email requesting advice regarding Gifford’s Circus coming to Water Perry House staging 10 shows over 5 days in June, they were concerned about the disruption from traffic etc. that would be caused to the residents, they wanted to know how Garsington Parish Council had dealt with the problems surrounding the Opera. Chairman Chris Wright made the point that the Parish Council had not had any problems with the Opera, the opposition had come from a small group of residents. Clerk would write to Waterperry Parish Council.

NAG Meeting, the first meeting had been held in Chalgrove, a copy of the email from David Turner had been circulated. Cllr John Hieatt pointed out that he had previously said that he would not be able to attend the first meeting. Clerk said that she had advised David Turner.

District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie left the meeting at 8.55pm

4/14/12 Community Plan

Steve Inch informed the Parish Council that the questionnaire had been printed and was in the process of being delivered to every household in Garsington.

4/14/13 School Transport

This had been discussed with the County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale under item 4/14/6

4/14/14 Village Maintenance

Burial Ground – Chris Wright thanked the Clerk for the plan of the area. He had been speaking to Wynn Jones and would circulate her version suggesting ideas for making the area more inviting to visitors. To be discussed further.

Badgers – The badger sett in the burial ground was a cause for concern, several holes had been dug in the upper part of the area and although this was not causing problems to any of the graves, some of the holes were close to the area where ashes were placed. Natural England the body responsible were aware of the problem, they had advised that a licence would need to be obtained to close the sett. Nothing could be done until June when the breeding season was finished. Clerk will action the application for a licence. To be discussed further.

Quotes had been received from Rob Jeffery. Cllr Mike Patrick declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion.

Repainting of the E11R Climbing Frame in the Children’s Play Area £350, this was accepted.

Kings Copse Bus Shelter – hard standing in front of the bus shelter, two quotes had been prepared for this work, the decision was taken to accept the lower quote of £450. Clerk will action confirmation of both quotes.

Cllr Mike Patrick had taken a trip round the village on a tractor with a local farmer who wished to highlight the problems experienced on a daily basis with over grown hedges, trees, potholes etc. on road surfaces. Cllr MikePatrick reported that problems existed on all of the roads in the village, it was agreed that he would provide a list of all the problem areas for discussion at the next meeting. Cllr Patrick had already spoken to a resident in the Wheatley Road regarding one of the areas.

4/14/15 Playground

Cllr Paul Bolam had confirmed to the Clerk that new seats had been purchased for the baby swings and would be fitted as soon as possible. He had also carried out the routine safety checks and removed stones from the safety bark on the aerial runway. He had not yet ordered the sign for the gate.

4/14/16 Community Assets

Old School Gardens, the nomination to register this area as a Community Asset had been rejected, it was considered by the Corporate Strategy department at SODC that this nominated land did not constitute land of community value within the meaning of section 88 of the Localism Act 2011.

4/14/17 Village Bus Service

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that the service had been fairly reliable. A new timetable would be published in June with the introduction of a second commuter bus in the morning. He had also attended the Public Transport Meeting one of the issues discussed was the need to save £2 million in transport costs in the county by 2018. Real time information displays had also been discussed at the meeting, Cllr Dovey said the system had problems, in the case of Thames Travel, 50% of the fleet did not have the system installed and 50% of the drivers didn’t understand the system, making the real time displays at bus stops inaccurate.

4/14/18 Policing/Speed Monitoring

Police report had been circulated.

Mobile Speed Indicator Device, Cllr Matthew Dovey said he was still obtaining costs and information on a suitable machine.

4/14/19 Annual Parish Meeting/Community Fair

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that many of the village organisations had expressed an interest in the event. The Council decided that the Annual Parish Meeting should take place first. To be discussed at the next meeting.

4/14/20 Any Other Business

Cllr John Hieatt said he had received a request from a resident to remove the bag of salt stored by Elm Drive Shops, he agreed to deal with this.

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that he had been in discussion with Peter Cowan from BT, it was hoped that most of Garsington would have superfast broadband by 2015, a survey would be carried out in the summer. It was possible that in some of the more isolated areas of the village, at the very end of Southend and end of the Wheatley Road the service might not be so good.

Chairman Chris Wright raised a question regarding the Council’s structure for keeping information this had been highlighted recently with the lack of information on common land registered in the village. The clerk advised that she had inherited a filing cabinet from the previous clerk but was not sure what it contained, she also kept up to date files of more recent information. It was agreed that this needed to be formalised, Clerk would look at this.

The Meeting closed at 9.25pm