**GARSINGTON PARIS****H COUNCIL - draft minutes**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held as a virtual meeting on Monday 6th April 2020 at 7.30pm. The Chair was Cllr Chris Wright, present were Cllrs Paul Bolam, Richard Betteridge, Mike Patrick, Ian Ashley, Anne Eastwood, Judy Westgate, Matthew Dovey, County Cllr Lorraine Lyndsay-Gale, District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie with L Stevenson in attendance.

No members of the public were present, representations were previously asked for by letter or email

4/20/1 Apologies for Absence

None

4/20/2 Declarations of Interest

None

4/20/3 Public Participation

The Parish Council agreed by resolution to exclude the general public from this meeting under the terms of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Section 1(2), the special reasons being the Coronavirus Crisis, noting that the public have been invited to submit comments on the agenda in advance and that the Parish Council will investigate technical solutions for public attendance in future meetings.

4/20/4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 2nd March 2020

These were agreed.

4/20/5 Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

Cllr Richard Betteridge reported that the matter of the proposed footpath in Pettiwell had been raised with County Highways, nothing was happening under the current situation. He agreed to continue to monitor for any action.

County Cllr Lorraine Lyndsay-Gale raised the minute regarding ‘no confidence’. Cllr Chris Wright explained that this matter was raised by a resident for the Parish Council to discuss.

County Cllr Lorraine Lyndsay-Gale reported that she was in a position with no option or choice but to vote the way she had (abstain) on the Local Plan. She went on to say that she represented over 8,500 constituents not all who felt the same way as Garsington about the Local Plan. Cllr Matthew Dovey stated that representation of such a wide number of communities made it more reasonable in principle for the Local Plan to be held within the District rather than the County. County Cllr Lorraine Lyndsay-Gale said she was relieved with the outcome that the Local Plan was now to stay with the District Council.

Cllr Chris Wright ended the matter to say that strong feeling was expressed within our community and that it was not just Garsington who felt this way.

Cllr Matthew Dovey had received a reply from Thames Travel to say that they were in negotiations for other grants and did not want to change the Pick Me Up service until those grants were secured.

Cllr Ian Ashley reported that he had met with Highways, the recommendation from the speeding stats was a dropped kerb (giving the information of the best place to cross) along with tactile paving and double yellow lines. Also, the data did not suggest a 20mph. This issue will be revisited again.

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that regarding EV points, the County Council were trialling a scheme in larger carparks, potential places for the village were outside the shops and by the pub.

4/20/6 Annual Parish Meeting and future Parish Council Meetings

The Annual Parish Meeting will be cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic and restrictions on public gatherings. Clerk will put notices up and Cllr Judy Westgate will put details on the website.

Future Parish Council Meetings will be held via Zoom with invitations for the public to join in. Clerk will put details on noticeboards and Cllr Judy Westgate will put details on the website.

4/20/7 County Councillor’s Report

Previously circulated

County Cllr Lorraine Lyndsay-Gale stated that around £1,000.00 was available to each parish from the priority fund, suitable in the circumstances regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. Details of how to apply could be found on the County Council website.

The County Council were concerned about possible scams in the current climate and any scams should be reported to Trading Standards. County Cllr Lorraine Lyndsay-Gale reported that several aircraft hangars at Upper Heyford were available to be used as a temporary Mortuary, also, all registrations apart from deaths had been suspended. She also reported that the Education service was working hard to provide school places for children of Key Workers.

4/20/8 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie reported that there was a new cabinet Member for Planning (Anne-Marie Simpson). The Planning Inspectors are still working on the 2034 Local Plan. SODC has a statutory duty to respond to Planning applications, but things are slow.

Cllr Chris Wright asked for an update on Kiln Lane plot 7/8 and Plot 12. District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie reported that a letter from Jeremy Peters of Planning Enforcement had been sent to say that the tarmacking of the bridle way could not be justified. There was still a question over site visits and social distancing measures.

Regarding Plot 12, District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie reported that the decision is still with the Planning Inspectorate and there has been no indication of when a decision will be made.

Regarding Plot7/8, Cllr Chris Wright noted that the resident’s group would like to know if they can make more representations as the application has been ‘reopened’. Currently, on the website there is no opportunity to add further comments. District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie agreed to find out if further comments could be made and will contact Cllr Chris Wright directly.

Cllr Ian Ashley asked about enforcement policies, District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie stated that the difficulty was that there were no Traveller sites in the current Local Plan. Cllr Ian Ashley will write on that basis to John Howell MP. District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie will speak to Ann Marie Simpson.

4/20/9 Finance

Clerk had previously circulated details of 3 insurance quotes received as the insurance renewal falls due on 1st June. Following examination, the Parish Council agreed to renew the insurance policy with Zurich for the period of 5 years at £759.31 per annum. Clerk will arrange the renewal.

The Clerk reported that the internal audit of the Annual Return would be done electronically this year rather than by a visit.

Balances and invoices for payment

Barclays Current Account at end of March - £52,925.88

To note DD to Grundon of - £49.12

Receipts – £11,964.32 first half precept had been received (not showing on above banking figure)

£230.00 direct credits for Newsletter advertising

The following invoices were approved for payment online

£498.00 – C Jarman – levelling in the burial ground

£82.88 – SODC for dog bin emptying Jan-March

£95.90 – to reimburse Cllr Richard Betteridge – hedge plants for Parsler’s piece and grass seed for burial ground

£510.70 - Clerk’s salary March

£5.40 – PAYE to HMRC

£65.03 – to reimburse Clerk for stationery and Zoom fee for month

Cllr Judy Westgate will set up the payments and authorise and Cllr Chris Wright will authorise them as well.

Additions to the current Financial Regulations were approved re online banking. Clerk will amend the Financial Regulations and circulate.

4/20/10 Planning

P19/S4456/FUL – Oxford Road – retrospective application for a siting caravan for use as an annexe to the main dwelling and installation of a 2800L septic tank – previously commented on by Parish Council. It was agreed that previous comments would stand.

P19/S4253/FUL – Kiln Lane Plot 7/8 – the use of land as a Travellers caravan site consisting of a mobile home, an amenity block, two touring caravans and associated works.

As above, the Parish Council is notified this is going forward as an application and District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie will find out if further comments can be made.

Other Planning enforcement queries raised by residents –

A resident has complained directly to SODC Planning Enforcement regarding works at The Three Horseshoes. District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie agreed to look into this matter.

A resident in Oxford Road had queried the use of ‘suitable’ materials used in building work with Planning Enforcement. This has since been resolved.

A resident is closely monitoring the building work on The Green regarding height and size and placing of the garage building. Cllr Richard Betteridge agreed to ask the resident to write to Planning Enforcement.

4/20/11 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

The Parish Council had received an email regarding the noise and frequency of bird scarers. This had been investigated and found that the noise level and frequency was within the guidelines of the NFU. Cllr Judy Westgate agreed to contact the resident and explain the situation.

The Clerk had received an email (previously circulated) from SSE regarding grants available to enhance the resilience of communities. Following a discussion, it was agreed not to apply.

4/20/12 Playground/Sports and Social Club

Cllr Paul Bolam reported that all was fine at the Play area and defibrillators had been checked.

Cllr Richard Betteridge reported that there was no update from the Chairman of the Sports & Social Club regarding the cost of the storage container.

Regarding the grass cutting proposal from the Chairman of the Sports & Social Club to cut the area at a cost of £100.00 per cut. It was agreed to set a maximum of 10 cuts over the season. The Clerk had written to the Chairman of the Sports & Social Club regarding the grass cutting order and what to do with the grass clippings. The first cut would be collected and clippings put under the hedge, subsequent clippings would be left to mulch down in situ.

4/20/13 Village Maintenance

The grass cutting programme will start in the next week. Cllr Richard Betteridge agreed to contact BGG to fine tune the cutting areas. Cllr Anne Eastwood to inform Cllr Richard Betteridge which parts of Parsler’s Piece need to be left uncut as cowslips were flowering.

It was agreed to place large stones along the verges on Denton Lane/North Manor to stop the parking of cars at school time. The Parish Council agreed £300.00 to fund this project, Cllr Richard Betteridge will organise and write to residents to inform them of this decision.

4/20/14 Village Bus Service

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that the bus company was running a Saturday service timetable with an additional early morning bus. The busses were often empty.

4/20/15 Neighbourhood Development Plan

Cllr Chris Wright reported that the modified Plan would be ready to resubmit to SODC by 18th April.

Cllr Chris Wright reminded all to look at the Cuddesdon and Denton Neighbourhood Plan and make any comments by the deadline of 24th April.

4/20/16 Burial Ground

Following an item in the Newsletter, Cllr Chris Wright reported that the only comment he had received regarding the proposed planting of trees and the placing of seats under the trees was that there might be bird droppings on the seats.

Regarding the grave spoil mess left by gravediggers, Cllr Richard Betteridge has sent round a document with proposed guidelines to the Vicar, Churchwardens and Parish Council for comment. Cllr Paul Bolam will review the document and put into a useable format and circulate.

4/20/17 Oxford-Cambridge Expressway/Northfield Update

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie reported that the National Infrastructure Committee were looking at this, but no further news.

4/20//18 Any Other Business

Cllr Chris Wright brought up the ownership of the Village Green which the Parish Council claimed over 20 years ago when registering it as such. It is also a public highway with rights asserted over it by the County Council. This issue was raised to be explored further.

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that the battery was not in use in the speed sign, but as there was very little traffic, this was not essential to replace.

The next Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 4th May at 7.30pm using zoom.

Meeting closed at 9.04pm