#### Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 4th August 2003 commencing at 7.30 pm

1. The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors Paul Bolam, John Goodey, Cliff Moss and Ann Tomline with G Russell in attendance. Also present were 4 residents of the Parish

2. Apologies for Absence were received from Cllrs Anne Eastwood, Gurdip Saini and County Councillor David Turner

3. Declarations of Interest: None

4. Public Participation

## a) Mr Colin Jennings of 66 Oxford Road explained his ideas for developing his property, the subject of a planning application that the Council had considered at the July meeting.

## b) Mr Lance Dorman of 12 Poplar Close told the Council about his campaign to bring Broadband access to Garsington. He was starting a website at www.garsingtonbb.co.uk

## c). Mr Basil Townsend asked why the date for this Parish Council meeting had been wrongly printed in the magazine. Cllr Mrs Tomline said that this was an unfortunate error for which Cyril Tomline offered his apologies.

## d). Mr Townsend asked why the Parish Council had not held all its discussions about the possible purchase of land off Oxford Road in open meetings. The Chairman explained that this was because the Council had been independently advised by the District Valuer that the matter should be treated as confidential for as long as possible.

## e). Mr Townsend said that in his view the Council should drop its plans for traffic calming. He believed that road humps would be a disaster. The Chairman explained the precise type of traffic calming devices had not been finalised and that the Council would not proceed with any scheme until it had received advice from the experts in the County's Highways department.

5. The Minutes of the Meeting of 7th July were approved and signed as a true record.

6 Matters Arising from the Minutes

## a). Cllr Goodey asked to which property Mrs King had been referring during public participation at the previous meeting. Cllr Mrs Tomline explained that the property had not been named during the meeting but that Mrs King had told her in advance and that was how she knew.

## b). Cllr Mrs Tomline said that she had nothing further to report on the survey being undertaken at Larch End by Trevor Gwynne of SODC.

## c). Cllr Moss spoke about the problems of the refuse collection vehicle gaining access to the car park at the Sports Club due to the gates normally being closed at the time of its arrival. The Chairman said that he would discuss this matter with the Chairman of the Sports Club.

## d). The County Council has arranged for the hedge on Clinkards Hill to be cut back and the Clerk was asked to try and arrange that this work would be undertaken regularly in future.

## e). Cllr Mrs Tomline asked that, following last month's presentation by Suzanne Gibbins, the Rural Housing Enabler of ORCC, the subject of housing needs should be placed upon the agenda for the next meeting. She hoped that the Garsington Society would wish to be involved in any survey.

## f). The Clerk said that he believed that the Council did need to register under the terms of the Data Protection Act and the Council agreed to accept this proposal.

## 7. County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr David Turner had sent his apologies for absence from the meeting.

8. District Councillor’s Report

Cllr Mrs Tomline said that the enforcement officers had told the occupants of 26 Wheatley Road that the outbuilding must be removed by 19th November unless an appeal is lodged. She had attended the Cuddesdon meeting about traffic calming in Wheatley where the vote in favour of introducing a scheme had been passed by a ratio of 2:1 by Wheatley residents. Cuddesdon strongly opposed the scheme.

Cllr Mrs Tomline said that she had been to several meetings about new proposals for housing schemes in parts of the green belt area around Oxford. She asked if the Parish Council would agree to write a letter to the County Council strongly opposing the proposals. Other neighbouring parishes were also opposing the scheme, especially the enlargement of Greater Leys by 1,000 homes, and Cllr Ann Ducker, leader of the District Council, was encouraging parishes to support the SODC campaign called 'Hands off South Oxfordshire".

Cllr Bolam said that he fully agreed with this suggestion. Cllr Goodey said that he was against 'mass development' but recognised the need for 'key-worker' housing. Cllr Moss said that he was uncomfortable with the idea of supporting a campaign for the whole South Oxfordshire District. The Chairman said that he had always been in favour of preserving the 'green belt'. Cllr Mrs Tomline's proposal that the Clerk should write to both the County Council and Cllr Ann Ducker was carried by 4 votes in favour with one abstention.

Cllr Mrs Tomline said there were difficulties concerning new regulations about standards for mobile homes. She had wanted the District Council's support to set up a 'task force' to tackle these problems but this had not been forthcoming.

9 Finance and cheques for signature

Bank balances were as follows

Bank of Ireland (at 7h July £107,762.51 (interest earned in the month £306.17)

Barclays Community A/c (at 31st July) £3,240.46

Barclays Base Rate Tracker A/c (at 14th July) £8,136.39

Newsletter advertising receipts in July were £240 and burial ground receipts £410

The following cheques were approved for payment:

OALC (postage of books) £4.20

Clerk £179.09

Village Hall hire charges £50.00

Information Commissioner £35.00

With regard to Charitable Giving it was proposed by Cllr Goodey that the budget be set at £1,000 for the current year. At the next meeting a decision could be made about which appeals for donations should be approved.

10. Planning

Cllr Mrs Tomline said that, as a member of the SODC Northern Area Planning Committee, she would not vote on these matters when they were decided by the Parish Council. She could not disclose to the Parish Council how she intended to vote on these matters when they were decided by the Planning Committee, as further information may be available at the planning meeting. During the Parish Council’s discussions prior to a vote, however, she was available to give advice and answer questions on factual matters if invited.

Applications

P03/W0579 5 Elm Drive,

Two storey extension

It was agreed by two votes in favour to one against and one abstention that this application should be approved.

P03/W0612 185 Oxford Road

Rear two storey extension and front single storey extension

It was agreed by three in favour with one abstention that this application should be approved.

P03/W0624 Retrospective Listed Building Consent

18, The Green

Creation of storage area in existing building. Alterations to gable end. New windows.

The Council had no strong views about this application.

Planning Decisions

Oxford Equestrian Centre; Appeal Decision

Details of the Inspector's decision have been received and will be circulated for further study. Although the appeal is allowed in part the District Council is apparently quite happy with the decision.

It was agreed that the Parish Council had no wish for the matter to be taken to the High Court.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Ackerman to explain that Cllr Moss had been asked in January to attend the Appeal hearing on behalf of the Parish Council. The Parish Council had not, however, subsequently given Cllr Moss any instruction or briefing upon what it wished Cllr Moss to say on its behalf.

Cllr Mrs Tomline said that following the recent changes to the planning process it was important that the Parish Council make clear any request that it wished a planning application to go before the Planning Committee.

11. Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

## a). The Chairman has invited residents to write to him with their ideas for possible uses of the land off Oxford Road as an amenity area.

## b). The Chairman had received an enquiry asking why there are no allotments in Garsington. It was suggested that the Chairman should point out that allotments are available in both Horspath and Wheatley.

## c). It was agreed that two requests for the grant of burial rights be agreed. These were from Mr Hardcastle, now of 7 Millers Close, Chalgrove, and Mr and Mrs Snell, formerly residents at The Old Kennels.

## d). The Clerk said that so far he had received one telephone call about the Parish Council vacancies

## The Clerk said that 'Signs of the Times' who advertise in the local council publications had indicated that an engraved version of the Parish Map could cost in the region of £1,000. Cllr Goodey suggested that the Clerk contact a firm called Ledgers in Radley.

12 Playground

Cllr Moss said that he would take on the job of renovating the bench for which Wooster Landscapes had quoted £140 and this offer was gratefully accepted. It was agreed that a specification of the 'caretaker's' duties needed to be drawn up and this would include health and safety issues such as instructions about wearing appropriate safety equipment while carrying out certain tasks. Such equipment is available at the Sports Club and may belong to the Parish Council anyway. It was agreed that if possible the Chairman would arrange a meeting with Mr Ernie Tipping before the September Parish Council meeting.

Vandals have now destroyed the bin in the centre of the playground. The Clerk was authorised to purchase a new bin, preferably fireproof. He was also asked to find out whether there is such a thing as a 'nappy-bin' service, similar to the dog hygiene bin scheme.

13. Old Stone Cross

The Clerk confirmed that he had asked the District Council’s conservation department for the names of alternative contractors and was awaiting this information.

14. Village Maintenance

Cllr Mrs Tomline said that she would continue to follow up the flood prevention scheme.

The Clerk confirmed that under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 a planning authority, the District Council, can serve on the owner of untidy land a notice requiring steps to be taken to tidy the land. If this is not done the planning authority can enter the land and have the work done at the owner's expense. Fines may also be imposed upon the owners of such land who fail to comply. Parish Councils are able to request District Councils to take this action.

15. Street Lighting

It was agreed to hold over discussion of this topic until the September meeting.

16. Code of Conduct and training video

Not all the material has been seen by all councillors. It was agreed to hold over discussion of this topic until the September meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 1st September. Mr Townsend asked the Clerk if he had any information on file about the sewers, water mains and footpaths in Oxford Road and to bring them to the next meeting if he had.

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The meeting closed at 9.55 pm