Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 7th August 2006 commencing at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors Paul Bolam, David Baker, John Hieatt, Gurdip Saini and Cliff Shuker with G Russell in attendance. Also present were District Cllr Ann Tomline and thirteen residents.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Anne Eastwood and County Cllr David Turner who were both on holiday.

2 Public Participation

Hugh Blaza and other residents raised concerns about the development of Oxford into the Green Belt and asked the Parish Council to ensure that village residents as a whole are aware of the possible schemes so that, if it was felt necessary, a village meeting could be called which might approve the running of a campaign. The Chairman said that this would be raised later in the meeting with a suggestion that a full discussion should take place at the October meeting.

Some residents spoke about the need to extend the traffic calming scheme to Pettiwell and Southend. The Chairman said that these areas would be considered for future schemes. The plan to mark the 30 mph speed limit with roundels in the road and repeater signs could also be extended. The meeting called for the County to undertake surveys of both traffic speeds and vehicle weights.

Other residents mentioned the dangers caused by the hedge overhanging the road outside the Village Hall, the poor state of the path to Grenoble Road and traffic signs which the County has so far not repaired. Cliff Moss reminded the Council that the management process of locking and unlocking the car park gates at the Sports Club has not yet been agreed.

Monica Waud asked that the Council oppose P06/W0749 from Garsington Opera, which calls for the removal of condition 8 of planning permission P01/N0620 to remove the requirement to raise and lower acoustic screens each day between rehearsals and performances. She said that the effect of the new application would be worse than the one that had been considered and opposed at an earlier previous Council meeting and, subsequently, withdrawn.

Peter Rodger asked about the Council’s attitude to the planning application for alterations and single storey extensions at Garsington Sports Club. This is intended to satisfy demand for a new village community centre. Amongst several matters Mr Rodger asked how the extra space would be managed and by whom; who would provide the funding for its building and what is to become of the present Village Hall.

The Chairman agreed that the Council would indeed have to discuss these matters if the planning application is approved.

3 Declarations of Interest

Both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman declared personal and prejudicial interests in the matter of P06/W0749; Garsington Manor. The Chairman was at one time employed by the artist in residence and the Vice-Chairman provides bed & breakfast accommodation for members of the opera company.

4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd July 2006

The Minutes as circulated were approved and signed as a true record

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. The broken man-hole cover on Clinkards Hill has been repaired.

b. It was agreed that the division of responsibility between the County and the Parish

for cutting the grass within the Village should be debated at the November meeting.

c. A new supply of safety bark had been delivered.

d. Details of the consultation about future bus services will be published in the Garsington Newsletter.

e. The Parish Council’s response to the County’s consultation document about future Waste & Minerals policy is being dealt with by the Chairman.

f. The Chairman commented favourably about the new seat in the burial ground.

6 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Mrs Tomline said that the young resident who had contributed an article to the latest issue of the newsletter was keen to write more articles in future and the Parish Council agreed that the Newsletter editor is correct in encouraging news and views about matters of special interest to younger residents.

Cllr Tomline said that any owner is now permitted to register their land as development land and she foresees even greater pressure from Oxford City and the colleges to develop housing on sites outside the present city boundary. The Baldons have started a new action group to counter such proposals and Cllr Tomline said that it may be necessary for Garsington to do the same.

Cllr Tomline also reported that so far 59 residents have signed up for the ‘green waste’ bin service; all council tax collection is now being administered by a company called Capita, which has a call-centre based in the Midlands; and that the sponsorship of roundabouts within the District continues to be a fiercely debated topic.

7 Finance

Balances

Barclays Current Account at 31st July £8,974.99

Barclays Community Account at 9th June £50.27

Bank of Ireland at 5th July £120,958.11 (interest earned £396.36)

Advertising receipts this month £960; Burial ground receipts £273

The following payments were approved:

Information Commissioner (Data Protection Act Registration) £35.00

Garsington Village Hall (room hire 5 months) £65.00

Southern Electricity (The Green) £63.37

The Great Greenery Company (play bark) £641.55

Total Pest Control (quarterly mole control charge) £164.50

G Russell (Clerk’s salary) £315.90

G Russell (Admin) £96.80

Colourplus £764.82

Sobell House (donation) £50.00

Wheatley Park School (donation) £50.00

Charitable donations; the Parish Council’s S137 allowance in the current year is calculated as 1,383 residents @ £5.44 per head = £7,523.52. Already allocated for the Church appeal is £5,000. The total of all other donations last year was £545 so the S137 allowance seems adequate to cover anticipated donations. It was agreed to donate £50 each to Sobell House and Wheatley Park School but the appeal for a campaign against car crime would not be supported.

It was agreed that the Council need not apply for a Business Barclaycard at this time.

8 Planning

a. Applications:

P06/W0671; Garsington Parish Council & Sports Club, Denton Lane Garsington

Alterations and single storey extensions.

The Council noted further details in the agent’s letter showing an enlarged disabled toilet and wider corridor access to it.

The Council is in agreement with the proposed extension and supports the project. The proposed arrangements will provide the facilities that the new Community Centre should be able to offer to the residents of the Village.

P06/W0728; Morgans View, 3 Oxford Road Garsington

Erection of a two storey front extension and conservatory to the rear.

The Council, by 4 votes to 2, agreed to recommend refusal on the grounds that the proposal represents overdevelopment of a small site.

(Cllrs Bolam and Eden left the room while the following matter was discussed)

P06/W0749; Garsington Opera, Garsington

Temporary planning permission (15 years) for the erection of temporary structures and the change of use of land and buildings for up to 35 public events per annum together with ancillary work of preparation and clearing up, including a maximum 20 opera performances and 3 dress rehearsals and up to 12 other public events, with associated parking and ancillary catering and toilet facilities.(Removal of condition 8 of planning permission P01/N0620 to remove the requirement to raise and lower acoustic screens each day between rehearsals and performances).

The Council unanimously agreed to recommend that this application be refused. There were good reasons for this condition being imposed in the first place and the Council has not been persuaded that there is any reason for a change to the status quo.

P06/W0764; 3 Combewell, Garsington; Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of new conservatory.

The Council recommended that this application should be approved.

P06/W0779; 15 Elm Drive, Garsington; Proposed single storey rear extension.

The Council recommended that this application should be approved.

P06/W0810; 104 Oxford Road, Garsington; Single storey front extension.

The Council had no strong views about this application.

P06/W0820; 106 Oxford Road, Garsington; Erection of a two storey front extension.

The Council had no strong views about this application.

b. Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were noted

PO6/W0482 68 Oxford Road, Garsington; Erection of a single storey garden summerhouse.

Planning permission granted 7th July 2006

PO6/W0516 175 Oxford Road, Garsington; Erection of new dwelling, attached to 175 Oxford Road, with associated new access.

Planning permission granted 7th July 2006

PO6/W0471 69 Southend, Garsington; Demolition of existing house, garage and store, and erection of new five bed dwelling.

Application withdrawn

PO6/W0512/LB Hill Farm, Cuddesdon Road Chiselhampton (in the parishes of Stadhampton & Cuddesdon); Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of new conservatory.

Listed Building Consent refused

P06/W0545 106 Wheatley Road; Conversion of remainder of rear annexe to provide additional living accommodation

Planning permission granted 19th July 2006

10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

a. The County has just issued a new edition of the ‘Definitive Rights of Way’ map together with a description of each route. This will be circulated for study and comment and then posted for public display.

b. The Council agreed with the concerns, which had been raised by several residents under Public Participation earlier in the meeting, about the growing campaign to promote the development of housing south of Grenoble Road. The Chairman distributed a paper entitled ‘Raising awareness in relation to possible development south of Grenoble Road’ and it was agreed that discussion of this matter should be on the agenda for the next meeting.

11 Land off Oxford Road

The Clerk confirmed that the grant application was made by the deadline of 31st July.

12 Village Maintenance

a. Cllr Mrs Tomline said that she would ask the District Council’s tree expert for his opinion on the Combewell tree survey made by Paul Jenks.

b. The Clerk said that replacement of the metal safety rail outside the shops in Elm Drive is in hand.

c. The County is already aware of the overhanging branches on the footway by Clinkards Hill. The Clerk will also ask for action at the hedge opposite the Village Hall.

d. The Garsington Society has sent in an application for countryside access grant aid.

13 Police/Parish Council liaison

Following attendance at the Neighbourhood Action Group meeting in Wallingford, Cllr John Hieatt has written a report for the next Newsletter.

14 Traffic Surveys Oxford & Wheatley Roads

The current Newsletter carries the results of the County’s traffic survey which conclusively demonstrates the success of the traffic calming scheme in reducing traffic speeds in both Oxford and Wheatley Roads.

It was agreed that this should be an agenda item at the October meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm