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

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 2nd December 2019 at 7.30pm. The Chair was Cllr Chris Wright, present were Cllrs Paul Bolam, Matthew Dovey, Richard Betteridge, Ian Ashley, Anne Eastwood, Judy Westgate, District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie with L Stevenson in attendance.

5 Members of the public were present.

12/19/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mike Patrick - recuperation

12/19/2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Matthew Dovey – planning application P19/S4281/HH

12/19/3 Public Participation

A resident again raised the matter of the cutting of the hedge at the Sports & Social Club. Cllr Chris Wright stated that in the current lease it was the responsibility of the Sports & Social Club to cut it.

A resident brought up the matter of stepping stones in the burial ground. Cllr Chris Wright stated that this would be discussed later in the meeting, but at the moment Cllr Chris Wright confirmed that there was no fixed proposal over this matter.

A resident raised the matter of Kiln Lane – following the delivery of a large mobile home, (which the Police attended due to the blocking of Oxford Road and Elm Drive), there had been damage to the road sign for Kiln Lane and the dog bin and trees along the edge of the bridleway had been removed. District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie agreed to look into the matter of the dog bin and sign. District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie also agreed to report the overpopulation of the site to Head of Planning Enforcement Emma Turner.

Cllr Chris Wright also asked for a letter in writing from Head of Planning Enforcement of the timetable for enforcement action on Plots 7 and 8.

All agreed to look into similar circumstances of private land being used in this way.

A resident also reported that a topping of road stones had been put down along Kiln Lane but were worried about the loose chippings blocking the drains and consequential flooding. Cllr Chris Wright confirmed that Kiln Lane is registered as an unadopted bridleway.

12/19/4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 4th November 2019

These were agreed and signed.

12/19/5 Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

Cllr Chris Wright has been in touch with the owner of Greenwoods to arrange dates for a further meeting. District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie also agreed to attend.

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie informed the meeting that Cllr Patrick had been sent an email regarding waste bin charges for the Village Hall.

12/19/6 County Councillor’s Report

Previously circulated

12/19/7 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie reported that the Local Plan 2034 was in limbo and the plan was with Robert Jenrick until after the General Election.

12/19/8 Finance

Draft Budget 2020/2021 – papers previously circulated.

Following a discussion, it was agreed to spend some of the Parish Council reserves. Cllr Chris Wright proposed a long-term target of always having around £25,000 in reserve and this should be the aim over the next 4 or 5 years. This was agreed. An overspend of £5,000 each year for the next 4 or 5 years with a cap on expenditure of £47,755 was also agreed.

It was agreed that each Cllr would rank the project items 1-11 and share by email for inclusion in the budget for the next 5 years project budgets and the year 2020/2021. Clerk will co-ordinate.

Clerk reported that the precept papers for 2020/2021 had been received to be returned by 10th January 2020.

Clerk reported that a request for funding had been received and circulated from Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens Advice. The Parish Council agreed to a donation of £100.00 under The Local Government Finance Act 1972 s137. Clerk to prepare a cheque for the next meeting.

Clerk reported that an offer of £200.00 had been made by Mr Hill towards the cost of the purchase of a defibrillator at Kings Copse. Clerk will ask if Kings Copse can provide a constant electric supply for the machine and begin to finalise details for the installation.

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie will send details of the community grant to Cllr Paul Bolam to help towards the cost.

Clerk reported that the tender for the removal of the Old Stone Wall had been awarded following the tendering procedure where 2 tenders had been received. The lower value was chosen by the Parish Council with the stone removed being used within the village. Work now completed.

Balances and cheques for signature

Barclays Current Account at end of November - £58,762.33

To note DD to Grundon of - £56.38

Receipts –

£120.00 – Newsletter advertising

The following cheques were approved and signed

£2,950.00 – TPJ Clarke – removal of Old Stone Wall

£400.00 – Positive Tree Care for Parsler’s Piece works

£221.82 – to reimburse Cllr Richard Betteridge for wood etc for gates and repairs

£108.00 – Garsington Village Hall – hall hire Sept- Dec

£516.10 – Clerk’s salary November

£5.40 – PAYE to HMRC

£41.43 – to reimburse Clerk for printer inks

Online banking – Cllr Anne Eastwood reported that the process for her was almost complete. Cllr Chris Wright agreed to start his process towards on-line banking. Clerk will send details of how to start the process.

12/19/9 Planning

P19/S2325/FUL – Land to West of Lower Farm Bungalow, Lower Road – retention of toilet and shower facilities structure serving touring caravan and farm. It was pointed out that this was a retrospective planning application.

The Parish Council had no objections to this application.

P19/S4281/HH – 11 Willow Close – single storey extension to provide a new entrance hall, extended kitchen and ground floor wc.

Cllr Matthew Dovey declared an interest in this application and would make his own views to SODC.

Following a discussion, the Parish Council had the following objections – the proposed application would encroach on the existing building line, which could set a precedent and close off the open character of the Close, the proposed application would create dark corners and block light from adjacent houses.

12/19/10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

The Chairman had received a query re the Burial Ground Policy, previously circulated, and the Parish Council could confirm that no reservations or decisions of eligibility were made in advance of any application.

12/19/11 Playground/Sports and Social Club

Cllr Richard Betteridge reported that he was waiting further information from the Chairman of the Sports & Social Club regarding the purchase of a storage container for joint use. The Parish Council agreed to share the cost of a container once information was given about the price, but did not want to share ownership of it.

12/19/12 Village Maintenance

Cllr Richard Betteridge reported that the road surface on Oxford Road near Combewell had started to break up, a photo of this had been sent to the Highways Inspector.

He went on to say that many of the works performed by the County Council were of poor cosmetic quality, often performed to save cost and did not solve underlying problems. Cllr Chris Wright asked Cllr Richard Betteridge to draw up a letter to The Oxford Times to draw attention to this matter. This was agreed.

Cllr Richard Betteridge also reported that the County Council works on the Denton Lane junction would commence in 2/3 weeks and a 3-way traffic control would be installed for these works which will consist of a channel under the footpath around the back of the school.

Cllr Richard Betteridge reported that topsoil was to be spread to regrade the levels following the removal of the Old Stone Wall. Cllr Paul Bolam had a photographic record for Historic England of the removal process and reported that no proper foundations of the wall had been uncovered during removal, only rubble. Cllr Richard Betteridge reported that there was money left in the grant amount to buy a seat for the open space created following the removal of the Old Stone Wall. The Parish Council agreed to buy a wooden seat for this space.

Cllr Paul Bolam brought up the matter of wet leaves making footpaths dangerous, this was discussed. Clerk stated that a deep Clean from SODC was due in February with action areas to be identified and ranked for cleaning, all will feedback areas for action. The combining of litter picking and path maintenance in general was explored for action in the next year by volunteer groups.

12/19/13Village Bus Service

Nothing to report.

12/19/14 Nominated Asset – The Three Horseshoes

Cllr Ian Ashley reported that the village bid had been unsuccessful although the bid was one of the four shortlisted for consideration by the seller. Cllr Ian Ashley had no information regarding the successful bidder. Cllr Ian Ashley reported that monies would be returned to all those who contributed towards the bid.

Cllr Anne Eastwood thanked the team who had put in such a huge amount of work to produce a professional bid.

Cllr Chris Wright stated that the Community Benefit Society was now an established entity in the village and asked the question what role could this entity now be used for. He asked all to ponder on this. Cllr Matthew Dovey agreed to look into how to put the CBS into a dormant state.

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12/19/15 Burial Ground

Cllr Richard Betteridge reported that a proposed pathway had been marked in the burial ground which had been mown. Cllr Anne Eastwood reported that she had received concerned comments from some visitors to the burial ground. The Churchwarden showed a plan of the burial ground. Cllr Richard Betteridge to arrange for a copy of the existing plan of the burial ground.

It was agreed to discuss the proposed pathway and any tree planting in greater detail at the next Parish Council meeting, and to have some form of public consultation.

12/19/16 Oxford-Cambridge Expressway/Northfield Update

Cllr Ian Ashley and District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie to attend a meeting this week regarding the review of the Oxford City Plan.

 12/19/17 Any Other Business

Cllr Anne Eastwood asked about the Christmas Tree lights, Cllr Richard Betteridge will arrange.

Cllr Judy Westgate reported that the Newsletter printer had noted that our advertising rates were low compared to other local newsletter advertising charges. Cllr Westgate will investigate other local newsletter charges.

Cllr Ian Ashley reported that he had spoken with the Head and school Business Manager at the primary school regarding funding for road crossing improvements.

Cllr Chris Wright reported that a second response had been received from SODC regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie wished everyone Happy Christmas.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm