**GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 7th December 2015, commencing at 7.30pm. The Chairman Chris Wright presided: present were Cllr Anne Eastwood (Vice Chairman) Paul Bolam, Richard Betteridge, Matthew Dovey, John Hieatt, Mike Patrick, Judith Westgate, with J Eden in attendance. Also present one member of the public, District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie and County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale.

12/15/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Ian Dickinson – away on business

12/15/2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mike Patrick declared an interest under item 12 Sports and Social Club Defibrillator invoice

12/15/3 Public Participation

Charlie Payne outlined to the Parish Council the problems associated with the proposed closure of the Maple Tree Children’s Centre in Wheatley in the proposed County Council budget cuts. The Maple Tree Children’s Centre offered advice and support to parents and carers covering 12 local parishes; during 2015 twenty four families in Garsington had used the service; Charlie outlined her own personal situation and the help that she had received as a young mum without family support. She felt that the County Council proposal to only have eight centres across the county was insufficient for the needs of vulnerable families, particularly as it would be on a referral basis only. This proposal would considerably reduce the benefits to those families who were currently able to just drop in and seek help and advice. She felt that the referrals system would create a stigma and people would not use the proposed new centres.

County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale stated that a final decision had not yet been taken, however, with the financial cutbacks it was likely that the proposal to only provide eight centres around the county would happen.

Chairman Chris Wright asked the County Councillor what it costs to run a children’s centre, the County Councillor stated that it was around £120,000 per annum

Chairman Chris Wright asked Ms Payne what she was looking for from the Parish Council. She stated that at this time she was looking for support from all the 12 parish councils whose residents were eligible to use the Maple Tree Children’s Centre to try and get the County Council to reconsider. Cllr Judith Westgate asked the County Councillor why if there was so much support to keep these centres open the County Council were intending to close them. The County Councillor said that Cllr Mark Grey was still looking at all the options, there was a possibility for some centres to be run by volunteers with perhaps Parish Councils considering offering funding. Cllr Anne Eastwood asked about the extra money that the County Council would receive in April, could some of this be allocated to the Children’s Centres. It was agreed that the Parish Council was prepared to offer support to try and change the proposed decision to close the centre. Ms Payne handed out copies of the OCC Consultation Questionnaire and asked all the councillors to complete and return it to support the need for this centre to be retained. The consultation closes on 10th January, Chairman Chris Wright said that when future plans were available further support could possibly be discussed.

12/15/4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 2nd November 2015

The minutes were approved and signed

12/15/5 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

None

12/15/6 County Councillor’s Report

A copy of the County Councillor’s report had been circulated.

County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale pointed out the Devolution proposal in the report.

Oxford Direct Services – The Parish Council would like someone from the County Council to come and talk to them about these proposed changes, Cllr Matthew Dovey asked the County Councillor if his understanding of the report was correct, if Parish Councils did not take on these Services they would not be carried out. County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said this was likely to be the outcome. Clerk will ask someone from the Direct Services team to come and talk to the Parish Council.

The County Councillor asked Cllr Matthew Dovey if he could give an update on the bus service.

Cllr Dovey said that at the present time there would not be any changes in the T1 service until at least February, worst case scenario is that some of the daily services will be lost. The route is still losing money in spite of the fare increase, but because of the road works and the problems they are causing to the service it is difficult to get a clear picture. Some talks have taken place about the possibility of the T1 service going into the Jennings Business Park at Chalgrove, this might increase passenger numbers. Cllr Anne Eastwood asked about the subsidy only being stopped between Watlington and Garsington, Cllr Dovey said it was too early to tell what would happen.

Cllr Dovey reported that discussions had commenced with Go Ride about a possible service, however, Go Ride currently get a lot of subsidy support and the possible loss of this could result in this community service not being viable.

Cllr Mike Patrick asked the County Councillor if it was still the plan for County Council personnel to move from the Unipart site. The County Councillor confirmed this would happen next year.

12/15/7 District Councillor’s Report

Green Belt Study Report- The Clerk had received a response from Peter Canavan regarding the incorrect areas given in this report for the two sites in Garsington that might be possible areas within the green belt for development. The response had been circulated. Unfortunately, the response did not clarify the situation. The District Councillor said she would speak to Peter Canavan to try and get some clarification and report back.

Kiln Lane – District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie said this application will go to committee, but not until January/February, she agreed to update Barbara Engstrom and Liz Dain.

Neighbourhood Plan – Chairman Chris Wright asked if District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie would arrange for someone from SODC to come and talk to the Parish Council, it was difficult to decide if a Neighbourhood Plan was the best way forward for Garsington.

District Councillor said she would organise this for February.

12/15/8 Finance

Barclays current account at November 2015 £37,046.25

PC to note the DD payment to Grundons £40.79

The following cheques were approved and signed

Emma Pennington – Trumpeter Remembrance Sunday– donation £60.00

Citizen Advice Bureau – donation - £100.00

Positive Tree Care - £170.00

New Leaf Trees - £792.00

Garsington Village Hall - £68.00

Rob Jeffery – Defibrillator installation Sports and Social Club £300.00

HMRC/PAYE £69.00

Mrs J Eden Clerks Salary - £275.62

Go Ride CIC £67.92

Centrewire – Kissing Gate - £1242.00

Budget for 2016/17

The proposed budget for 2016/17 was discussed and approved.

Precept for 2016/17

It was agreed to make a small increase in the precept from £21,000 to £22,000. Clerk would advise SODC

12/15/9 Planning

P15/S3918/HH 111 Southend

Two storey rear extension, part single storey side extension.

Cllr Dovey expressed concerns about the size of the proposed extension, by a majority vote it was agreed that the application should be approved.

12/15/10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

Letter from the Office of the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, requesting details of any local celebrations that might be planned for the Queen’s 90th Birthday over the weekend of 11th and 12th June. Clerk to circulate the letter.

12/15/11 Playground

Cllr Paul Bolam joined the meeting he reported that a cheaper quote of £14,800 had been received for the proposed playground equipment, however it had arrived too late for the grant application, which had now been submitted to SODC using the higher quote. Receipt of the grant application had been acknowledged. The Parish Council should hear at the end of January if the application has been successful. If successful this would provide 50% of the cost of equipment.

Cllr Paul Bolam had advised the Clerk that the panel on the small slide had been replaced and the Clerk had forwarded the cheque to Playdale.

12/15/12 Village Maintenance

Defibrillator – Provision of a suitable electricity supply was still a problem at the Elm Drive Shop site, the clerk had received a response from Mr Khuja (owner of the proposed takeaway) who was unable to help. A response had not been received from the owner of the other shop at the present time. It was felt that it was difficult to overcome power supply problems at the Hairdressers.

It was suggested that the cost of a power supply from the lamp post be investigated with the Electricity Board, Clerk would also find out if it was possible to use solar power. Cllr John Hieatt said he might be able to arrange an alternative site to the shops, he would investigate and report back.

Disabled Ramp – Sketch plan was still awaited. Chairman Chris Wright would speak to Cllr Ian Dickinson.

Kissing Gates – Cllr Richard Betteridge reported that due to the very wet weather, installation of the gates had been delayed.

Old Stone Cross – The Clerk had submitted the Scheduled Monument Consent application to the Secretary of State, waiting for a response.

Street Lights – The street light outside The Plough had now been fixed.

It was agreed after discussion that although there were some dark spots in parts of the village, no action would be taken to increase the street lighting at this time.

Trees in Combewell, Cllr Mike Patrick had provided a quote for work on a number of trees in Combewell which totalled £550, he had also received a letter from two residents in Combewell regarding the Horn Beam and White Beam which Positive Tree Care had suggested be replaced with more suitable species reducing maintenance costs in the long term.

Chairman Chris Wright raised the issue of ownership, Cllrs Mike Patrick and Anne Eastwood said the Parish Council had always carried out maintenance to these trees it was also suggested that the Parish Council planted some of the trees. Chairman Chris Wright asked Cllr Judith Westgate if she could establish who owns the land before any further decision is taken. To be deferred until the next meeting.

12/15/13 Village Bus Service

See report under 12/15/6

12/15/14 Policing/Speed Monitoring

Police report had been circulated

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that other Parish Councils had approached him for details of the speed indicator device.

12/15//15 Town and Parish Forum

Chairman Chris Wright reported that at the above meeting John Cotton had been very forceful in his arguments that all Parish Councils should consider a Neighbourhood Plan. SODC won 95% of all planning appeals prior to the changes in the planning law. In the last year and on the presumption that SODC have a land bank only 40% of all the appeals had been won.

Cllr Matthew Dovey said this did not match his view of a meeting he had attended earlier in the year, when a Neighbourhood Plan did not appear to be of any particular value to the Parish.

It was agreed that this would be discussed further when the SODC advisor being arranged by District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie had been to speak to the Parish Council.

12/15/16 Any Other Business

Old School Garden

It was understood that the planning application had been withdrawn. Chairman Chris Wright asked if consideration should be given to try and find out what the owners intentions were for the land now. It was felt that a personal approach would be better than a letter. Cllr Richard Betteridge said that he had some connections with the family and he would pursue the matter and report back.

Cllr Paul Bolam said he would still like to see the wall removed behind the Old Stone Cross, Clerk will contact the Conservation Officer.

The Meeting closed at 9.10pm

**REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS**

**DECEMBER 2015**

FROM CLLR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE

**AUTUMN STATEMENT/COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW – IMPACT ON OCC**

Chancellor George Osborne delivered his Autumn Statement on Wednesday 25 November, including details of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). The CSR confirmed that core Central Government funding (comprising business rates and revenue support grant) to Local Government will fall by 24% in real terms over the next four years. When taking into account Office of Budget Responsibility forecasts of other income raised locally by councils, the overall position is a 6.7% real terms reduction, which means difficult decisions will have to be taken by OCC when preparing the forthcoming budget after full details of the Local Government Settlement have been received. Key CSR announcements were:

1. Local authorities responsible for adult social care (which includes OCC) would be given the option to increase Council Tax by 2% to fund the increased costs of adult social care associated with the new National Living Wage. This is in addition to the 2% increase councils are permitted without a referendum, meaning OCC can now consider a 4% rise in Council Tax. However, this has to be seen in the context that most OCC residents will not have had a 4% wage rise.

2. An additional £1.5bn of funding for Local Government from the Better Care Fund will be made available by 2019-20, and ring-fencing of the public health grant will continue in 2016/7 and 2017/8. This must be considered against the background of an ageing population and a 94% increase in demand for home care since 2011, with similar increases expected over the coming years.

3. Confirmation of £12bn Local Growth Fund allocations for 2015/16 to 2020/21 made through Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

4. An extra £250m of funding for pothole repairs for five years to 2020/21. However, it has to be confirmed if this is annual or over the review period. The allocation for Oxfordshire would be around £2.5m.

5. The New Homes Bonus is to be reformed with proposals to include a ‘sharpening of the incentive’ and reduction in payment period from six years to four.

**DEVOLUTION**

OCC Leader Ian Hudspeth, along with the District councils, LEP and Health colleagues, will be presenting the Oxfordshire devolution proposal to Secretary of State Greg Clark in early December. This is an opportunity for Oxfordshire to have devolved powers to provide the infrastructure required to deliver the 86,000 new jobs and 100,000 new homes by 2030. The proposal also includes the integration of Health and Social care – the aim is to reduce duplication, improve efficiency and provide a better Health care system for all of Oxfordshire’s 670,000 residents.

**COUNCIL LAUNCHES ‘FOSTERING-FRIENDLY’ CAMPAIGN**

OCC is joining forces with local employers and other organisations to make the county the most ‘fostering friendly’ place and encourage more people to foster children. The aim is to create the best possible environment for foster carers by harnessing wider support and building greater recognition for the special role foster carers play in society. Partner organisations are being invited to pledge support by signing a [‘Fostering Friendly Covenant’](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/fostering-friendly-employer), which sets out their commitment to supporting staff, volunteers or members who foster, and to promoting foster care more widely. Details here:

https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/nov/council-launches-‘fostering-friendly’-campaign

**PROVISIONAL GCSE DATA**

The Department for Education has published provisional GCSE results for 2015. Key Headlines for Oxfordshire schools:

* 59.1% of pupils achieved five or more A\*-C grades, including English and Maths
* 73.1% made the expected level of progress in English
* 70.5% made the expected level of progress in Maths

Across the country performance was down slightly on 2014 levels but Oxfordshire remains above average. (NB the data will not be finalised until early 2016 and may change.)

**ADDITIONAL BROADBAND FUNDING**

An extra £5.58m of funding has been announced. This comes from: Oxfordshire LEP, £2m; South East Midlands LEP and Cherwell District Council, £120,000; Oxford City Council, £168,000; Government’s Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) programme, £2.2m; BT, £1.1m. This means more than 4,600 additional businesses and homes across Oxfordshire will be able to access superfast fibre broadband. The percentage of county homes and businesses able to get superfast fibre broadband will be increased to more than 95%. More details can be found out at

www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk.

**SUPPORTED TRANSPORT SERVICES**

On November 10th, OCC's Cabinet met to agree proposals for the future of the county's supported transport services. This followed a consultation held over the summer, which had over 2,600 responses. The proposals were discussed as part of the need to make between £6.3m and £7.5m savings from OCC's supported transport budget. The Cabinet agreed to withdraw bus subsidies from all services, with the caveat that if the Local Government Spending settlement to be announced later in the year is more generous than predicted, some funds would be made available to subsidise off-peak services on key routes. The 100+ subsidised bus services in Oxfordshire make up around 9% of the bus network. This means that more than nine out of ten services run without any public subsidy and are not affected by any of the proposals.

**PREPARATIONS FOR WINTER WEATHER**

OCC is fully prepared for winter with a full fleet of 31 gritting vehicles, which have been serviced and tested over the summer. They are ready to run on 28 routes, covering a total distance of 1200 miles. Winter depots have been stocked with 12,500 tonnes of salt, which allows OCC to undertake 50 gritting runs of the entire network (at 240 tonnes per run). Since the last major ‘snow event’, OCC has increased the starting stock of salt by a third and has also restocked the county’s 1300 salt bins. Free bulk bags of salt have been offered to all town and parish councils. The take-up so far this year has been minimal, with only 52 requested, as stocks have been retained from previous years. The daily update on whether roads will be gritted is posted on the winter pages of the OCC's web site <http://winter.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/>

**BERINSFIELD SERVICES AT RISK**

As a result of the proposed budget savings announced by OCC the Berinsfield Information Centre, the Day Centre and the Children’s Centre may face having their funding withdrawn in the future. I am working with the Parish Council to see if there are any ways in which the community can support them to stay open such as finding other sources of funding, co-locating with other services and forming clusters with others to share costs. If anyone can help with this work please get in touch with me or the Parish Council.

The consultation detailed in last month's report runs for a few more weeks until the end of Sunday 10 January 2016.

**CLIFTON HAMPDEN – PLANNING ISSUES**

The application to establish a Solar Farm between Clifton Hampden and the Culham Science Park has been granted.

Hills Quarry Products held a public exhibition on 25th November to explain the details of their proposed quarry site between Clifton Hampden and the railway line. The area has been reduced from 160 hectares to 104 hectares, to accommodate the newly scheduled archaeological site known as Fullamoor Plantation. The projected tonnage has been reduced from 5 million tonnes to 2.5 million tonnes and the time scale for excavation to 10 years rather than the previously proposed 25 years. While these adjustments are welcome none will address the very worrying impact of lorry movements in and out of the site which will be routed through Clifton Hampden and Burcot onto the A4074, or via Abingdon and onto the A34. Routing agreements will be put in place to prevent lorries using Culham and Clifton Hampden bridges, but enforcing such agreements is notoriously difficult. The application will be submitted in the New Year.

The County Council has committed to building a new road north from Didcot, across the Thames to join up with the A415 close to the Culham Science Park. The precise route has yet to be determined and funding found from the central government supplied Local Growth Fund. This new river crossing will link with a new Clifton Hampden relief road that will take traffic away from Clifton Hampden village and onto the Golden Balls roundabout on the A4074.

**REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS JANUARY 2016**

**FROM CLLR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT**

Oxfordshire County Council has now received details of future grant funding from central Government and the levels are even worse than feared. The council had been preparing for up to £50m of savings from 2016 to 2020 (on top of the £292m it is already in the process of making for the period from 2010 to 2018). However, on the basis of figures provided by central Government last month, OCC will have to make £20m further savings on top of the £50m, bringing the total saving to £70m over the next four years. Central Government has changed the formula for funding councils, and it seems shire counties, particularly in the south of England, have come off worst.

The list of proposed savings for £50 million was already controversial, with many members of the public opposing them. To achieve the additional £20 million savings, no area of the council can be exempt other than those where there is a statutory obligation to provide for the most vulnerable in the county. This means other areas will suffer disproportionately, which will involve some very difficult and controversial decisions. By law, the Council has to pass a balanced budget with no revenue borrowing. The Cabinet recommendations will be published 18th January for decision 26th January, before the budget goes to Full Council on 16th February.

**DEVOLUTION**

OCC Leader Ian Hudspeth, District Leaders, LEP representatives and health colleagues attended a meeting with the Secretary of State in December to put forward the case for Oxfordshire devolution. The meeting was very positive, however Government has not yet said what it will ask for or offer. Any move towards a Combined Authority is very much dependent on this and will be preceded by a governance review. All aspects of the offer and governance have to be agreed by each individual council before a Combined Authority can be created.

**FLOODING**

Oxfordshire’s High Volume Pump has been deployed to flood-hit areas in the North to assist with operations. The pump is crewed by seven fire-fighters, all of whom volunteered to go and help – thus missing out on New Year celebrations with their own friends and family. OCC Leader Ian Hudspeth personally thanked them for their commitment.

**OXFORD FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME**

A public drop-in event will be held on Tuesday 19th January in Oxford Town Hall. This event is running from 2:30pm to 7pm and is taking place as part of the consultation on the route options. All interested parties are invited to attend this event, or any of the other four local events:

* Wednesday 20th January – Abbey House (Council Offices), Abingdon, OX13 3JE
* Friday 22nd January – South Oxford Community Centre, OX1 4RP
* Wednesday 27th January – Kennington Village Centre, OX1 5PG
* Thursday 28th January – West Oxford Community Centre, OX2 0BT

The consultation is an opportunity for the public to view and comment on the various options that have been developed for the channel. It will be also be available online.

**New Oxfordshire Libraries app**

Oxfordshire Libraries can now be accessed from smart phone or tablet. People can:

* manage their account
* search the catalogue
* renew and reserve books.

Bar code scanning is available on devices with a front-facing auto-focus camera.

Search for 'Oxfordshire Libraries' at the App Store or Google Play.

**applications deadline for primary school places**

Families with children due to start primary school this year are being urged to ensure they don’t miss the 15 January applications deadline.

Parents or carers of children born between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012 should visit the primary school admissions pages and apply online where possible.

Primary or junior school applications also need to be made for children currently attending an infant school who were born between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009.

**County’s youngsters improve in core subjects**

Oxfordshire’s eleven-year-olds have surged ahead in reading, writing and maths tests, according to the latest figures.

The proportion of the county’s pupils reaching Level 4+ in all three core subjects at Key Stage Two increased to 81 per cent in 2015 – up from 79 per cent last year.

It means the county has moved above the national average of 80% on this measure. The proportion of children making expected progress between the ages of seven and eleven is also higher than the national average for reading and writing, and in line for maths.

The recent Oxfordshire Reading Campaign, backed by the Oxford Mail and delivered by the National Literacy Trust, helped targeted primary schools make significant improvements in literacy attainment at Key Stage One and Two in recent years – with many schools intending to carry on using the programme.

Melinda Tilley, OCC's Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families, said: “This campaign work has helped create and sustain a real culture of reading and writing in participating schools, and I think it’s fair to say we are seeing this reflected in these improving results.”

**Date** January 2016

**To:** Garsington Parish Council.

**Location:** Village Hall

**Contact:** Judy Eden judith20@btinternet.com

**Matters to report:**

In December Thames Valley Police has received 21 calls from the Garsington area.

They related to:

9 x Miscellaneous calls,

7 x Road Traffic Incidents

1 x reported loose horse

1 x missing person

2 x suspicious activity

1 x anti social behaviour

We advise residents to continue to call, when any activity deemed suspicious is seen.

**Crimes Reported**:

In December there have been 8 reported crimes in the Garsington area

They related to:

8 x Miscellaneous incidents

**Have Your Say Meetings**

The next have your say meeting is not yet been planed but any issues can be email to the neighbourhood team box on

wheatleychalgroveNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

**Crime Statistics:**

The Home Office National Crime Mapping website gives the public access to street-level crime information as well as information on their Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Neighbourhood Priorities and Events - details of Have Your Say and other neighbourhood activities. Log on to [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk),

**Have you signed up to Thames Valley Alert?**

Thames Valley Alert is the new system for receiving crime and policing updates for your area. You can also filter the updates you receive by specifying the priority level of the messages. To sign up to receive alerts visit [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/](https://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/)

Please note that Thames Valley Police now has a new non emergency number which is **101**

**Report sent on behalf of the Wheatley Chalgrove Neighbourhood Police Team**

WheatleyChalgroveNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk