Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 5th February 2007 commencing at 7.30pm. The Chairman, Cllr Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Cllrs David Baker, Anne Eastwood, Gurdip Saini, and John Hieatt, with G Russell in attendance. Also present were County Cllr David Turner, District Councillor Ann Tomline, Alix Michaelis from ORCC, and six residents.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Cliff Shuker, who was on holiday, and Cllr Paul Bolam, absent due to work commitments.

2 Public Participation

i. On behalf of Cliff Moss, Mr Tipping raised the disappointing turnout for the meeting to discuss starting a youth group. The Chairman said that he would contact Mr Moss direct.

ii There were several examples of fallen elm trees in the Parish and questions were asked about what action would be taken to clear them. County Cllr David Turner said that the County will clear only trees which block or are a danger to highways etc.

iii. On behalf of Mr. North, Ernie Tipping said that the ditch at the bottom of Pettiwell still needs attention and this was noted by County Cllr Turner.

iv. Several residents asked the Parish Council to oppose the planning application for Kiln Farm.

v. Mike Patrick said that the areas around Combewell and Clinkards Hill need tidying. Cllr Turner commented that in other parishes he knew of councils which conduct regular footpath and pavements walks to identify overhanging branches and then politely report them to the responsible householders.

3 Declarations of Interest

None

4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th January 2007

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

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. The Clerk confirmed that Mr Small from SODC Enforcement has been invited to attend a Parish Council meeting but has not yet indicated when he will be available.

b. War memorial damage; the contractor’s quotation for £850 has been sent to Rampart Security and has been forwarded by them to their insurers.

c. The Chairman is unable to attend the County reception on 28th February. Councillors were asked to tell the Clerk if any could go in his place.

d. The Rev Cowles confirmed that he has agreed the Cemetery rules and regulations with Cllr Shuker. This will be an agenda item in March.

e. Councillors reported that two electricity sub-stations in Horspath were known to be fenced. The Council would still like the sub-station in Southend to be screened.

6 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr Turner updated the meeting with news about BMW’s campaign to change the route of the bridle path. An alternative has been suggested and the company is claiming that it needs access across the present path. The matter will be discussed at the County’s Cabinet meeting on 20th February.

The County’s budget for 2007/8 is to be set at a meeting on 13th February and a 4.0% increase is expected.

Cllr Turner reported on the recent progress in tackling the flooding problems. He made notes on several other highways, footpath and bridle path matters.

7 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Mrs Tomline said that she hoped that the Parish Council’s application for a grant to improve the land off Oxford Road would shortly be approved.

The District Council’s setting of its budget for 2007/8 is progressing. Distribution of concessionary fare tokens will now be handled by post; details will be explained in Garsington Newsletter. From April SODC is handing over even more telephone call handling to an outside agency in Coventry. Cllr Tomline said that householders with green recycling boxes are advised to mark them with their name or house number to prevent them being stolen.

8 Finance

Barclays Base Rate Tracker at 8th December £50.39

Barclays Current Account at 31st January £12,009.20

Bank of Ireland at 5th January £123,594.73 (interest earned £470.56)

The following cheques were approved for payment:

Southern Electric (Christmas tree) £2.60

Chris Drewett Signs (Play area) £112.80

Colourplus (Dec/Jan Newsletter) £812.03

Playdale Playgrounds £186.74

Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association £40.00

G Russell (Clerk’s salary) £315.90

G Russell (Admin) £58.20

9 Planning

a. Applications

PO6/W1321/O (Outline) Farmer’s End, 115 South End; erection of replacement chalet bungalow;

By a majority vote it was agreed that approval of this application should be recommended but with the comment that the neighbouring property should not be adversely affected.

PO7/W0062 Kiln Farm, Kiln Lane; Change of use of barns to B1 (offices).

The Council unanimously agreed that this application should be recommended for refusal. It was noted that the plans provide for 13 parking spaces and the Council regarded the access arrangements as inadequate and dangerous. There were also concerns that allowing this application would set a precedent for other development south of Grenoble Road. Cllr Tomline told the meeting that if officers recommend it for approval she would ask for this application to go to the Planning Committee.

P07/W0067 Lower Farm, Lower Road, Garsington OX44 9DP

The Council has been sent the wrong plans for this application. An extension to the consultation period will be requested.

b. Decisions and other planning matters

Greenwoods Appeal: Previous comments will be forwarded. Any new comments are required by 11th February. Cllr Tomline said that cars awaiting repair are being parked in Pettiwell even now. Residents have noted vehicles apparently delivering car parts.

PO6/W1172 Alterations and extension to Garsington Sports Club to provide a new community centre

Planning permission granted 8th January. Various conditions have been imposed and details will be circulated.

PO6/W0860 Pettiwell House; Conversion of garage/storeroom/playroom to become ancillary accommodation/ granny flat

Planning permission granted 26th January

PO6/W1166 29 Oxford Road; Ground floor rear extension including dormer to first floor landing

Planning permission granted 25th January

10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

a. Review of Primary School Provision. The Clerk has received confirmation that consultation will take place if any proposals affect schools in this area.

b. Mr and Mrs David Clarke of Kiln Lane have asked the Council to consider the provision of dog waste bins. Councillors agreed in principle that these bins should be provided and will discuss the locations at the next meeting. The Clerk will collect information about costs.

11 Sub-committee reports:

Village Hall project

(Chairman is Cllr David Baker; Cllrs Anne Eastwood and John Hieatt are members)

Cllr Baker outlined the Committee’s plans for consultation with the Village. A draft of the document is being prepared for discussion at a joint meeting of the committees (Village Hall and Sports Club) on 19th February. The Clerk was asked to attend this meeting because the grant application process would be discussed.

Land off Oxford Road

(Chairman is Cllr Cliff Shuker; Cllr Godfrey Eden and the Clerk are members)

Carry forward to next Council meeting.

Affordable Housing

(Chairman is Cllr Paul Bolam; Cllr David Baker and Cllrs Anne Eastwood are members)

Carry forward to next Council meeting.

Green Belt threat

(Chairman is Cllr Anne Eastwood; Cllrs David Baker and Paul Bolam are members)

Unfortunately no-one is available to attend the EIP in Reading on 28th February. This is the date on which discussion of the Oxford Green Belt is expected to take place.

12 Transport Needs: Car scheme

Alix Michaelis (ORCC) said that the recent survey had highlighted the demand for a village car scheme, especially since in South Oxfordshire no ‘dial-a-ride’ scheme is in operation. There are various options:

Shared Taxi or Taxibus;

Private car schemes (Wheatley, Stadhampton, Berinsfield and Chalgrove) with insurance for public liability required; and

Minibus schemes (Nettlebed).

Whatever scheme is adopted the most important requirement is sufficient volunteers to make it work. County Cllr David Turner said that he was sure that Jackie Edwards, organiser of the Chalgrove scheme, would be pleased to give her advice and Alix Michaelis confirmed that the help of ORCC is ongoing.

The Chairman thanked Alix for her presentation and said that the Council would discuss the matter at its March meeting.

13 Village Maintenance

The Council agreed to accept Ian Young’s grass cutting quote of £2,550 plus VAT for 2007. It was noted that this is an increase of £150 (6.25%)

The Clerk said that he has been told that SODC Public Amenities can organise graffiti clearance if required although it is not something that the task force teams routinely do. He was asked to find out if any particular treatments are recommended.

The Chairman asked the Council to consider whether tackling the problems caused by the dead elm trees should be taken on by the Parish.

Ian Young will be asked to visit Phipps Well and suggest a programme of routine maintenance.

14 Playground repairs

Carried forward to March meeting.

15 Oxford Road Site Grant Applications

The Clerk confirmed that approval of this application had been delayed pending the Council’s ability to confirm that the Bank of Ireland Reserve is ‘earmarked’ for Village Hall improvements. Mike Patrick has now supplied a set of audited accounts from 2000 which make this clear so no further delay is anticipated.

16 Village Flooding problems

The Clerk has spoken to Gordon Hunt, the County’s drainage engineer, who says that SODC consultants have recommended a new man hole access to facilitate routine clearance of pipes and more banking to be created at Hazel End. There will be an on site meeting with the landowner this week and work is expected to be carried out during February. There is no problem about SODC funding this work as far as Gordon Hunt is aware.

17 Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting should be on Monday 2nd April and will be followed by a brief meeting of the Parish Council to deal with any urgent business.

The Meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.