**GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 2nd February 2015, commencing at 7.30pm. The Chairman, Chris Wright presided: present were Cllrs Anne Eastwood (Vice Chairman), Paul Bolam, Matthew Dovey, Mike Patrick, Judith Westgate with J Eden in attendance. Cllr Ian Dickinson and County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale joined the meeting at 8.50pm and District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie joined the meeting at 8.10pm.

2/15/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Ian Dickinson and District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie had sent apologies; they would not be present at the start of the meeting due to other commitments.

2/15/2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mike Patrick declared an interest with reference to Disabled Ramp at Elm Drive Shops.

2/15/3 Public Participation

None

2/15/4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 5th January 2015

1/15/12 Defibrillators – change to read “ when installed outside”

2/15/5 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

None

2/15/6 County Councillor’s Report

County Councillors report had been circulated.

Chairman Chris Wright raised his concerns about the new estimated costs for the proposed pavement extension on The Hill. This had doubled from the original quote and although the options for using an alternative contractor were available it was not an easy option to take. He also pointed out that these were only estimated costs and the figures could increase further when the actual work was carried out. County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay- Gale had not seen the latest estimate, she asked the Clerk to forward a copy, she would then discuss the issue with Area Steward Keith Stenning, she was still prepared to commit £450 from her budget for this project, however, she would see if there were any other funds that might be made available to assist with the costs of this project.

Cllr Mike Patrick raised the ongoing lack of action regarding work to clear the gullies in Oxford Road and Southend he had not received any response to his emails. This needed to be actioned as soon as possible to prevent the problem of roads flooding.

Also the road drains below 71 Oxford Road were all blocked and needed cleaning.

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay – Gale said she would chase up both these items.

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale asked if the problems with the drains at the Primary School had been resolved, it was confirmed that some work had been done, it was not clear if all the problems had been resolved.

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale gave a brief account of the latest round of budget cuts that the County Council was dealing with. The Community Budget had been taken away and this would have an impact on many areas.

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale left the meeting at 8.10pm

2/15/7 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie updated the Council on the latest information following the terrible fire at Crowmarsh.

Negotiations were ongoing to find an alternative building, currently a small number of staff were working from other offices and many were currently carrying out their duties from home, but overall services were back to normal as far as this was possible.

A two week extension had been given to all planning applications.

LEADER were waiting to hear from DEFRA what European Funds would be available it was anticipated that this might be in February. Cllr Paul Bolam raised the question of grants for new playground equipment. Cllr Gillespie said that as soon as applications could be submitted she would let the Council know. Unfortunately, following the fire, this was a grey area at present, it was possible that all grant applications would be put on hold for the foreseeable future

The current application submitted by the Council for assistance with purchasing defibrillators would probably be delayed due to the fire. Councillor Gillespie said she would try and establish what the current situation might be and report back.

2/15/8 Finance

Barclays Bank current Account at 31st December 2014 £44512.16 (January Statement not received)

Council noted the DD payment to Grundons for December £66.18

The following cheques were approved for payment

Litho and Digital Impressions (Community Plan) £500

Colourplus Feb/March Newsletter £843.23

HMRC/PAYE £68.60

Clerks Salary £279.45

Administration Costs £33.26

2/15/9 Planning

P14/S4054/HH 23 Wheatley Road

Erection of ground floor addition to existing dwelling to form a shower/wc/wet room for disabled person.

No objections were raised to this application.

P14/S4064/HH 17 The Hill

Demolition of existing conservatory, pitched roof section over ground floor bedroom and first floor dormer window. Erection of a single storey rear extension, new pitched roof over ground floor bedroom and first gable-end dormer window.

This building was in the Conservation Area. There were no objections providing that the application had been approved by the Conservation Officer.

2/15/10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

1. Thank you had been received from Garsington Volunteer Drivers for £100 donation.

2. Email had been received by Chairman Chris Wright regarding the parking of cars and school buses outside the Plough. This was causing problems for the owner, it was very difficult to exit the premises particularly in the afternoons when it was necessary to collect children from school. Chairman Chris Wright suggested to the owner, who was present at the meeting, that the School should be contacted regarding the buses. It was also acknowledged that vehicles travelling up Pettiwell sometimes at speed did add to the problem. The resident felt that as his wife had sent the email she should be informed directly. Chairman Chris Wright said he would respond.

2/15/11 Playground

Cllr Paul Bolam confirmed that the playground was in good order when he last visited, there were still jobs that needed to be carried out when the weather improved.

New Playground Equipment

Cllr Bolam had obtained quotes for additional equipment.

City Team Swing £2,095 plus installation £641 = £2736

In addition safety surfacing would also be required, two types were available

Grasslock safety surfacing £1,161 (27m2)

Wet-Pour Safety surfacing £3,379 (17.85.2 at a depth of 80mm) this price would also include the sub-base ground preparation.

Maximum approximate costs would be £6115 if wet pour surfacing was used.

Prices had also been obtained for a Single Mast Activity Net this was a much bigger spend with costs being in the region of £14,000 if wet pour surfacing was used.

It was generally felt that the City Team Swing was probably the best option in view of other work that needed to be carried out to existing areas and equipment.

Poplar Close

The Clerk had received a response from SOHA regarding the installation of play equipment on the green area in Poplar Close, they had confirmed that they owned the land and in principle did not have any objections to play equipment. Cllr Bolam said he would obtain the residents views and would then communicate further with SOHA. He asked the Clerk to forward the email.

It was hoped that some equipment could be installed in this location if funding could be found. This was one of the areas that had received a large number of comments in the recent Community Plan.

Cllr Mike Patrick said it might be worth putting in a grant application to WREN they had been very supportive when funds were required for the village hall refurbishment. Cllr Bolam said he would look into this.

2/15/12 Village Maintenance

1.Defibrillators

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie had confirmed that access to outside defibrillators was via the emergency services.

It was still unclear how this was activated. Clerk would try and establish this by contacting the Emergency Services.

2. School Crossing on The Hill

In principle the Council still agreed this work should be done, however, the increased estimated costs were a concern. Chairman Chris Wright said he would write to Mark Francis at OCC

3. Grass cutting

The quote from BGG had been circulated to all Councillors, this was considerably less than was currently being paid to the three contractors who currently carried out the work.

It was agreed that the contract should be awarded to BGG for all village grass cutting for 2015/16 for the areas that the Parish Council were responsible for maintaining. Two points were raised that needed clarification

a. Chairman Chris Wright asked for clarification on the collection of grass clippings

b. Cllr Anne Eastwood suggested that we ask the Contractor for the names of other Councils who used BGG and obtain their views on the service provided.

Clerk will action this and send letters to the current Contractors advising them that they will not be required for 2015/16.

There are some areas associated with the current contractors that will need to be resolved,

a. Mower owned by Parish Council

b. Emptying of waste bin in Children’s Playground. Cllr Paul Bolam said that he would do this.

c. Grundons waste unit in the Church Yard which needs to be put out for collection each week. It was agreed to ask the contractor who currently did this task if they would continue. Clerk would also contact Grundons to establish if they offered a service to collect bin from standing site within the Church Yard.

To be discussed at the next meeting.

d. Badgers and Moles in Burial Ground

Chairman Chris Wright had received communication from a concerned resident.

It was agreed that it was necessary to take some action to deal with the mole problem. Clerk will contact Total Pest Control.

Badgers, unfortunately as this was the breeding season no further action on resolving this problem could be taken until July. Clerk would contact Natural England for further advice

and report back.

e. Kissing Gates

Tina Everett was in the process of applying for a grant from TOE to assist with the installation of these new gates.

f. Broadband Cabinet

Chairman Chris Wright reported that after several discussions with BT the cabinet on the green by the telephone box would not be moved. Moving this box would have severely delayed the enhanced broadband services coming to the village. BT has agreed make a payment of £786 in compensation to the Parish Council following agreement that the box can remain in its current location.

g. Disabled Ramp at Elm Drive Shops

Estimate for work not yet received, to be carried forward to next meeting.

2/15/13 Community Plan

Councillors were handed a copy of the full report.

Cllr Matthew Dovey said the short version was in the process of being delivered to every household in Garsington.

District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie said what an outstanding job the steering committee had done. Chairman Chris Wright suggested that she might like to personally express this to them individually. Cllr Gillespie said if the Chairman would provide her with contact details she would certainly do this.

Chairman Chris Wright asked what would happen now in view of the resignation of the Steering Committee Chairman, how would the plan be implemented. Cllr Dovey said this was currently under review, some areas were already being dealt with, Good Neighbour Scheme and Village Planting, other volunteers would be asked to take on other tasks including members of the original steering committee.

Cllr Dovey said that he was still keen to formulate a Neighbourhood Plan. District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie said this was very worthwhile and should be given serious consideration.

2/15/14 Village Bus Service

Go Ride

A copy of the email following the meeting between the five Parish Councils had been circulated to all members of the Council.

Cllr Matthew Dovey gave a summary of the meeting, without support from the five parishes this service would not be viable. The total subsidy required was £3728 per annum, the suggestion was to split this between the five parishes based on the current electoral register, which means that Garsington would need to provide £797.05 per annum. All the other parishes had now agreed this, with Chalgrove and Watlington making the highest contribution. Payment would be made monthly in arrears.

It was agreed that as this was a relatively small sum for a necessary service the Council would approve subsidy.

Thames Transit

Cllr Matthew Dovey said this service was also not commercially viable based on the current services provided. No changes were planned at the present time. A meeting is due to take place on 18th February 2015. Cllr Dovey will report back at the next meeting.

2/15/15 Policing/Speed Monitoring

Latest police report for the area had been circulated.

Speed Indicator Device

Cllr Matthew Dovey said that he had now agreed a date with PCSO Diane Greenwood for the initial installation to take place the following weekend in Oxford Road. He still required people to come forward to help with this installation and the ongoing task of maintaining the unit and moving it around the village. Cllr Dickinson said he would be available to assist on Saturday.

2/15/16 Any Other Business

Cllr Mike Patrick raised the issue of dogs in the Memorial Playing Field, the Sports and Social Club were concerned about this, more people were walking dogs in the area even though it was understood they were not allowed to do so. Although there were signs they were not very prominent and generally disregarded by some members of the public. The Sports and Social Club were seeking clarification clearly they did not want dogs fouling the football or cricket areas. Chairman Chris Wright said he would look at the lease. In the meantime the clerk would obtain quotes for two new signs.

Cllr Paul Bolam reported that the Parish Council School Governor had advised that candidates for the post to replace the current Head Teacher had now been shortlisted and a decision would be made shortly.

Cllr Anne Eastwood raised the question of dog waste, it would appear that this could now be disposed of in the normal litter bins, if this is correct why pay for the designated dog bins.

Clerk to obtain clarification on this.

Clerk raised the meeting dates for April and May in view of various Bank Holidays and the Election. It was agreed that the Clerk would sort out the dates and advise the Council.

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm