Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 9th January 2006 commencing at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors David Baker, Anne Eastwood and Cliff Shuker with G Russell in attendance. Also present were two residents of the Parish.

1. Apologies for Absence were accepted from Cllrs Cliff Moss who is unwell and Paul Bolam and Gurdip Saini who are away. County Cllr David Turner and District Cllr Ann Tomline were also unable to attend and sent apologies.

2 Public Participation

Mr McEnerney asked about the future arrangements for issuing bus passes and travel tokens. The Clerk explained the new system that the SODC is going to be introducing with effect from April, although a final decision will not be made for a few days.

3 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Anne Eastwood declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Application P05/W1236 7 Wheatley Road as the applicant is known to her.

4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th December 2005

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

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. The Clerk said that it was now known that the Sports Club rent is being paid into an account at NatWest’s Cornmarket branch but it was not known who held the mandate for this account. The bank itself would not provide him with any information.

b. It was agreed to make a donation to the St Mary’s Church appeal in the current year of £5,000. This would be within the Council’s power under discretionary payments. It was hoped that the Council would be able to make a similar donation in 2006/7.

c. The Chairman said that he had received no response from Mr John Palmer and would try again to contact him.

d. Cllr David Baker said that he made further enquiries about users of bus route 49 and the unreliability of this service had been confirmed. Apart from not running to its time table there are apparently occasions when the service is cancelled completely.

e. The Chairman is due to meet on site with Peter Ronald from the County Council to look at both the narrow section of the pavement in Wheatley Road and also ways of preventing traffic damage to the green in Pettiwell.

f. Cllr Cliff Shuker said that the broken railings along the High Path in Southend have not yet been repaired. Cllr Turner has arranged for a survey of the bank’s stability.

g. The Clerk was authorised to accept whichever turns out to be the lower estimate for the repair and servicing of the Ransomes 213.

h. Cllr Shuker said that the advertising sign for the Three Horseshoes is no longer being placed in such a way that it is blocking the pathway. The Clerk said that he had not yet received any information from Trevor Brown concerning the regulations about portable advertising boards. It was agreed that the matter should be held over until this information is available.

6 County Councillor’s Report

Through the Clerk County Cllr David Turner said that he wished to congratulate Cllr Paul Bolam for his presentation at the County Council Committee which had approved the traffic calming proposals for Oxford and Wheatley Roads. Cllr Shuker agreed and asked that this be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting.

Cllr Turner asked the Clerk to report that the matter of the repair to the barrier in Kiln Lane had been discussed by officers from both Highways and Countryside Services who had concluded that the danger is not significant enough to warrant immediate action. Cllr Turner said that he personally is not happy with this decision and councillors all expressed their amazement. Cllr Baker gave the Clerk copies of photographs which illustrate the problem and also clearly show that contractors for Thames Water almost certainly caused the damage in the first place. It was agreed that the Clerk should make contact with Brian Short and Mark Sumner.

7 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Mrs Ann Tomline was unable to attend the meeting, having been delayed by other business.

8 Finance

The Council considered the Report of the Internal Auditor following Mr Rollerson’s examination of the accounts for the period ended 31st March 2005.

He was basically satisfied with the book-keeping but he pointed out that the Council was under-recovering VAT paid upon small items of expenses re-imbursed to third parties. The auditor suggested that a petty cash system be started with a float of £100. This was agreed. He had also asked that the Council should explain to all those receiving payments of salary and ‘honorariums’ that they were expected to report such payments in their tax returns.

The Clerk said that he had been asked about the size of the Council’s reserves and that Mr Rollerson had suggested that the Council’s Asset Register should be completed by 31st March 2006.

Balances:

Barclays Current £8,570.88

Barclays Community £50.15

Bank of Ireland at 8/12 £118,184.94

It was agreed that the necessary changes to the Bank of Ireland mandate would be made as soon as possible even though it may be necessary to arrange for the new signatories to visit the branch in Reading.

The Clerk reported that the amount recoverable from Village Hall Committee totals approximately £11,700. Mr Mike Patrick has agreed that this will be paid but has asked for copy invoices.

The following cheques were approved for payment:

Total Pest Control (moles) £164.50

BR Consulting (internal audit) £110.00

G Russell salary £302.40

Admin expenses £138.80

J J Bark (mower service/repair) £131.32

Young Brothers (tree & bench) £193.88

Young Brothers (grass & shelter) £2,702.50

S Ratliff (Clerk’s computer upgrade) £320.60

The Council approved a payment of £100 to Trevor Woodington that had been made since the last meeting. It was suggested that in 2006/7 the annual payments to Mr Tipping, Mr Tomline and Mr Woodington should all be made in the same month.

Precept for 2006/7: It was agreed that the Precept would remain unchanged at £18,370

9 Planning

a. Application

(Cllr Anne Eastwood left the room and took no part in discussion of this matter)

P05/W1236 7 Wheatley Road; Erection of two storey extension, single storey extension with glass roof and glass front detached garage

The Council considered that this application be approved as appropriate development.

b. Decisions and other Planning matters

The following matters were noted:

PO5/W1078 113 Southend; Demolition of existing porch. Erection of conservatory

Planning Permission granted 7th December 2005

PO5/W1080 64 Wheatley Road; Raising of existing roof level to allow construction of first floor extension to existing bungalow

Planning Permission granted 8th December 2005

PO5/W1130 21 &23 Wheatley Road

Erection of one three bedroom detached dwelling and three garage block. Alteration of first existing access and closure of second

Planning Permission granted 21st December 2005 (details to be circulated)

10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

Details of the arrangements for making non emergency calls to Thames Valley Police will be circulated. It will no longer be possible to call police stations direct but the Police say that a response is at all times guaranteed from this number (0845 8505505).

11 Land off Oxford Road

The planning application needs revision and Cllr Shuker will deal with this as quickly as possible. The Chairman said that he been approached by Mr Partlett with concerns about the security of the site and it was agreed that this is an important factor.

12 Traffic Calming

The schemes for Oxford and Wheatley Road have been approved and it is expected that they will be carried out in 2006/7. The Clerk will seek further information.

13 Affordable Housing

There had been another opportunity to view and discuss the options before the meeting, which had been attended by several residents. Two couples were very interested and had been advised that they must register with the District Council.

14. Village Maintenance including Sports Field

The Kings Copse bus shelter has now been painted and the play area hedge cut. Cllr Shuker reported that the play area fence had been vandalised again but is now repaired. The ‘rocking horse’ has been put out of use. Cllr Mrs Eastwood will check to see if Cllr Paul Bolam has been in touch with the Garsington Society about stiles.

15 Village Hall

The Parish Council has been invited to attend a joint meeting on 10th January with the Sports Club and the Village Hall Committee. The Chairman and Cllr Baker will attend and it is thought that Cllr Moss will also be there.

Cllr Baker reported on the last joint meeting when it was said that the Sports Club is seeking an extension to its existing hall and wants to discuss with others all the possible uses to which the new building could be put.

16 Change in Bus services

Details of the new time tables which come into effect on 30th January will be circulated.

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Monday 6th February 2006. Cllr Shuker said that he would be unable to attend due to holiday.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm