**GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 5th January 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. Also present District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie.

1/15/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Ian Dickinson – away on business

1/15/2 Declarations of Interest

None

1/15/3 Public Participation

None

1/15/4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 1st December 2014

Amend header to include Cllr Paul Bolam who was present at this meeting.

1/15/5 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

Cllr Mike Patrick asked if there was any progress with the installation of the kissing gates.

Chairman Chris Wright advised that Tina Everett was currently looking at grants to cover the installation costs.

Cllr Mike Patrick said we should make sure this remained on the Agenda so that it did not get overlooked.

Clerk confirmed that she had sent a letter to Thames Water reference the problems at Kiln Lane/Oxford Road junction.

1/15/6 County Councillor’s Report

Report had been circulated to all Councillors.

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale joined the meeting at 8.20pm

Footpath extension Wheatley Road/The Green, the County Councillor said she was very sorry but there were no funds available for this work and if the Parish Council wanted the work completed it would need to fund the project. Chairman Chris Wright asked about the fees and administration costs, could these be waived or reduced, the County Councillor responded that these were payable under the contract agreed between the County Council and Carillion and unfortunately as they were only in year three of a twenty five year contract it was unlikely to change at the present time. The County Councillor said she did have £900 left in her budget and would contribute £450 of this money towards the fees and administration costs, she would advise Area Steward Keith Stenning of this.

Chairman Chris Wright thanked the County Councillor and said that any amount however small was welcome, the Parish Council had in principle agreed to fund this project. Clerk would request a firm quotation from Mark Francis at OCC and a timetable of when the work might be carried out.

Cllr Mike Patrick said he was still awaiting a response on when the gullies in Oxford Road and Southend would be attended to.

Chairman Chris Wright asked if the email from Mr Painter in Southend had now been actioned, County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said the drains had been cleared but she was still awaiting an answer on the potholes/road surface.

Planters at the Plough – County Cllr said the letter should have been sent to Drayton Office for the attention of Jason Sherwood who had taken over from Paul Yoward who was the original officer dealing with this, she had also passed a copy of the letter to the Area Steward Keith Stenning. Clerk would resend the letter to Jason Sherwood at OCC.

County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale left the meeting at 8.45pm

1/15/7 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie said how pleased she was that the Parish Council had managed to complete and submit the grant application to part fund the proposed purchase of Defibrillators, the Clerk reported that the form was difficult to complete plus you needed to provide a lot of documents to support the application, this had not been easy in the short time available. Cllr Gillespie said the grant scheme was undersubscribed and they were currently looking at how the application for funds could be made easier.

Cllr Paul Bolam asked if grants for New Playground Equipment would be available, Cllr Gillespie responded that funds would be available in April, she would advise the Parish Council when the grant applications could be submitted.

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie said she had attended the Examination in Public Meeting (EIP) at the Cherwell Council Offices, also present were members from CPRE and Oxford Green Belt Network, she felt that the Inspector had taken on board all the points raised by the various attendees, she felt that the Inspector would probably agree the proposals outlined in the Core Strategy. It would be interesting to see what progress is made at Cherwell Council as a result of this meeting. Chairman Chris Wright asked if SODC were planning anything similar. District Cllr Gillespie said not at the moment, they are currently carrying out a Green Belt Study at the present time the Local Plan 2031 stands.

Chairman Chris Wright asked about the future use of the Brookes University site at Wheatley, would this be considered for housing, District Cllr Gillespie said there were no discussions at the moment, however there were a number of Brown Field sites that could possibly be utilized and would provide the space for the number of houses that SMHA are stating should be built, but the City Council were still pushing for Green Belt land to be used.

1/15/8 Finance

Barclays Bank current Account at 31st December 2014 £44512.16

Newsletter Advertising £324

Council to note the DD payment to Grundons for November £65.78

The following cheques were approved for payment

Garsington Voluntary Drivers – Donation £100

Citizens Advise Bureau – Donation £100

Garsington Sports & Social Club – Grass cutting £1200

Southern Electric £17.54

Colourplus Dec/Jan Newsletter £872.77

HMRC/PAYE £93.80

Clerks Salary £278.34

Newsletter Editor £93.39

Insurance – Speed Indicator Device had been added to the Insurance Schedule, no additional costs would be incurred this year, the fixed rate for the next two years would increase by £18.00 to reflect this additional asset.

1/15/9 Planning

P14/S3727/FUL Unit 1, Guydens Farmhouse, Oxford Road

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission P14/S1563/FUL for addition of two storey extension for unit 1 and amendment to site boundary position 1.

By a majority vote this variation was approved.

1/15/10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

The Big Clean Up – Clerk had advised SODC of the areas that Councillors had made her aware of that needed to be included.

Green Belt Assessment Event at SODC Offices, Chairman Chris Wright had already said he would attend, Cllr Anne Eastwood said she would also attend. Cllr Matthew Dovey said that if he was available he would like to attend.

Clerk had received an email from a resident in Southend regarding hedge along the field by the Post Box, the overhanging trees and brambles made it very difficult to use the pavement, the resident also reported that the stile into the field was broken. Chairman Chris Wright said that the stile working party are aware of this damaged stile, it would be repaired when the weather was better. It was agreed that the Clerk would send a letter to the landowner asking for the hedge to be cut back.

Email had been received from resident in Wheatley Road, asking why the white lines had been repainted by the School, it had previously been agreed that they should be removed. Cllr Anne Eastwood explained that this was the decision taken by the Area Safety Officer, Mark Francis, at the site meeting last year. It was agreed that Cllr Eastwood would supply the Clerk with the full details and a reply would be sent.

1/15/11 Playground

Cllr Paul Bolam said that he did not have anything to report on the Play Area.

Cllr Bolam said that due to work commitments he had not yet contacted SOHA regarding the green space in Poplar Close, it was agreed that the Clerk would do this.

Cllr Bolam said that he had been looking at new equipment for the Play Area and now that a Team Swing appeared to be the preferred piece of new equipment, he would get a full quote for both the cost of the equipment and the installation and report back.

1/15/12 Village Maintenance

Defibrillator - Chairman Chris Wright reported that he has spoken with South Central Ambulance with regard to access of defibrillators when installed, but they were not really interested. The question is how do you get access in Stratford they dial 999 and they are then given the security number to access the defibrillator. You needed quick access, so individual telephone numbers would not work.

Cllr Matthew Dovey suggested that perhaps you could have a dedicated line with a recorded message. It was also suggested that perhaps the Police or St John’s Ambulance might be able to assist. District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie said that Baldon Parish Council were currently discussing this and had a Doctor advising them, she would try and find out what the access procedure was in this area. Clerk would also contact the Police.

Disabled Ramp at the shop, following on from the last meeting, Cllr Judith Westgate reported that she had been to look at the site and whilst she was there, the hairdressers were helping a lady with a walking frame to reach the pavement. Cllr Anne Eastwood said that she understood the need was fairly small and wondered if a disabled ramp really necessary. The Clerk outlined what Rob Jeffery had said in his original communication last April. It was agreed that Clerk would ask Mr Jeffery to provide a quote for a disabled walkway from the Post Box to the side of the steps. To be discussed further.

1/15/13 Community Plan

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that the final edit had now been completed and copies of the plan would be available shortly.

They would only be producing 100 copies of the full plan. A four page summary document was being printed for delivery to every household. Copies of the full plan would be available at various points throughout the Village, it would also be available online.

Chairman Chris Wright said that one of the issues for further discussion was better communication with the Sports and Social Club. He said he would make contact with Tony Price to discuss the situation and see how this could be moved forward.

1/15/14 Village Bus Service

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported on the current financial problems with the Saturday/Sunday service run by Go Ride, currently the service cost £3,728 per annum. Go Ride were looking at the options available to cut these costs, some of the services are not well used and they are looking at only running two in and two out of the City Centre on Saturday, they would also like to stop the Bank Holiday Service and possibly the Sunday Service. Cllr Matthew Dovey said that following a meeting with David Turner it was suggested that Parishes on the route should make a contribution of say 20% towards the cost to keep the service running. Example: Cash taken in month of July was £250.

Chairman Chris Wright said if this contribution was made would it be money well spent for our community. Did we know how many Garsington residents actually used the weekend buses? Cllr Matthew Dovey said he would find out if it was possible to obtain usage statistics.

Chairman Chris Wright felt that at the moment there was not enough information available for the Parish Council to take a decision.

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that Thames Travel were also looking to reduce the number of buses during the day, at the moment no decision had been made, but they were looking to possibly implement changes in May. They would make sure that information was available well in advance of this proposed date so that it could be discussed by the Parish Council.

Cllr Matthew Dovey said he had hoped to see the bus timetable in the December Newsletter, the Clerk said that both the general timetable and the Christmas timetable had been put in on separate pages.

1/15/15 Police/Speed Monitoring

The Police report had been circulated to all Councillors

Chairman Chris Wright asked for an update on the Speed Indicator Device, Cllr Matthew Dovey said this had been delayed due to the departure of PCSO Ken Cooney, he now had the contact details for his replacement and hoped to get this sorted out shortly.

1/15/16 Any Other Business

None

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

**REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS**

FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE

**January 2015**

**NEW WAYS OF RUNNING LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT FRONT LINE SERVICES**

Oxfordshire County Council continues to break new ground about how public services are run and will move to a new more networked management structure in the summer. The world of Local Government is changing. Oxfordshire County Council is now an enabler, commissioner and partner with fewer services being delivered in traditional ways. We increasingly work across boundaries in the public sector and join things up to benefit residents.

**Chief Executive Role to be axed**

Further modernisation is essential to protect front line services in the light of further likely cuts to local government funding after the General Election in May. The days of a traditional management hierarchy have gone. On 30th January it was announced that Chief Executive Joanna Simons will be standing down in June. She will not be replaced, and the roles of the Chief Executive will be devolved down the organisation.

**During the life of the next parliament we will need a new way of working, building on the partnerships we have been developing over the last few years**. This means:

* More **joint working** in all sorts of ways – in health and social care with the NHS, with schools in our Teaching Schools Alliance, our back office partnership with Hampshire  and our new Tri-County arrangements for the economy with Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire
* Going “**Digital by Default**” to make things easier for the public, and streamlining processes through “Lean” working as we have been doing in adult social care
* **Rationalising our office bases** with public sector partners, and rolling out agile working across the council
* Making the **best possible use of our contracts** and being more commercial in all we do

**The Case for a Unitary Authority**

The County Council Leader Ian Hudspeth recently launched a discussion document ***Strategic Financial Case for a Unitary Council.*** He wants to start the debate about how local government should be organised in Oxfordshire to simplify things for the public and save money for essential services. The report is attached.

*More information at:* [*https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/jan/new-ways-running-local-government-protect-frontline-services*](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/jan/new-ways-running-local-government-protect-frontline-services)

**£108.6M GROWTH DEAL SIGNED**

A £108.6m investment into Oxfordshire has been given the go-ahead with Minister Greg Clark MP signing a Local Growth Deal that will create 6000 jobs and 4000 homes across the county by 2021.The Minister for Universities, Science & Cities signed the Growth Deal today at the Abingdon campus of Abingdon & Witney College. Local MPs’ and businesses joined the Local Enterprise Partnership Board (OxLEP) to take part in the signing ceremony.

£15.7million of investment has been confirmed for the first year commencing 2015/2016 with a further £92.9 million of commitment through to 2020/2021 which will be used for ten transport, infrastructure and skills projects throughout Oxfordshire and generate up to £208.5m in public and private investment.

The deal includes:

* Investment in substantial measures to **reduce the risk of flooding**, ensuring businesses continue to operate, roads and railways remain operational and people can be confident that their homes and businesses won’t be damaged.
* Joint investment with the University of Oxford in a **new Centre for Applied Superconductivity** to bring university professors and entrepreneurs together to collaborate on exciting developments in fields as diverse as computing, cryogenics, x-rays and MRI scanning and electricity storage.
* Investment with the both City of Oxford College and Abingdon and Witney College in state-of-the-art skills centres enabling **local people to be trained in vital skills in science, engineering and technology**, preparing them for future employment.
* Significant investment to **improve transport links** including roads, cycling networks and parking – linking Oxfordshire’s world class universities with businesses and helping people get to where they need to be faster.
* Continued investment into Oxfordshire’s Growth Hub, Oxfordshire Business Support (OBS) which **helps local businesses access the support and make the connections** **needed for growth**.

The Oxfordshire Growth Deal is part of a national £12 billion long-term programme to revitalise local economies and was announced by the Government in July 2014. The deals are significant for rebuilding the British economy and sharing the benefits locally through the network of 39 LEPs.

*For more information please see:* [*https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/jan/%C2%A31086m-growth-deal-oxfordshire-signed*](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/jan/%C2%A31086m-growth-deal-oxfordshire-signed)

**COUNTY COUNCIL SETS OUT LONG TERM TRANSPORT PLAN**

On 27th January, the Cabinet of the County Council approved the Local Transport Plan (LTP4). It will now be sent out to **further consultation between February and April**. The plan will support the ambitions for the county up to 2031, before which an expected **100,000 new homes and 85,000 new jobs** are likely to be created.

The plan includes the Oxford Transport Strategy, which sets out ambitious plans for transport in and around Oxford city, including looking at **mass transit solutions like rapid bus services along strategic routes**, integrating transport modes by **transforming the park and ride network** and making it easier to cycle by introducing cycle super routes across the city. Also featured is our innovative ‘Science Transit’ approach to deliver a comprehensive, high quality public transport network for Oxfordshire and **new, updated Bus strategies**.*More information on the approved plan: https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/jan/county-council-sets-out-long-term-transport-plan*

**NEW SPECIALIST FIRE ENGINE UNVEILED**

A new multi-purpose 12-ton fire engine packed with equipment to deal with a range of emergencies is set to be unveiled by Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service. The vehicle, known as a Rescue Tender, will be based at Kidlington Fire Station. It carries over 300 pieces of equipment and is crewed by firefighters who have acquired specialist skills through an in-depth and on-going training regime to respond to challenging rescue incidents.

*For more information see:* [*https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/jan/new-specialist-fire-engine-set-unveiling*](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/jan/new-specialist-fire-engine-set-unveiling)

**UNWANTED BOOK DRIVE AT 5 OXFORDSHIRE LIBRARIES**

Oxfordshire people looking to make space on their bookshelves for Christmas gifts will have the opportunity to donate unwanted books to charity at local libraries during January and February.

The county council’s library service, in association with the National Literacy Trust are inviting donations of books at five libraries – Oxford Central, Witney, Banbury, Cowley and Didcot.

*For more information see:* [*https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/jan/unwanted-book-drive-five-oxfordshire-libraries*](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/jan/unwanted-book-drive-five-oxfordshire-libraries)

**CONSULTATION ON SCHOOLS ADMISSION POLICY AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2016/2017**

Oxfordshire County Council is consulting on its admission policies and arrangements for 2016/17. The scheme covers **all mainstream state funded** primary, infant, junior and secondary schools in Oxfordshire and will apply to the normal admissions round for the 2016-17 academic year.

There are a number of documents on the consultation homepage at: <https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/admissionrules2016/consultationHome>

*Closes March 1st 2015*

**PARISHES**

**BERINSFIELD**

**Speed Limit** - The long-awaited 40mph speed limit at all four approach roads to the roundabout at Berinsfield has hit technical problems. The County Council agreed the limit several months ago, but our engineers are waiting to hear back from SEC on their planned programme for the illuminated signs required south of the roundabout. The other non-illuminated signs and road markings are in hand, but can’t be put in place until this electrical work is completed. The earliest date being quoted at the moment is ‘end of February’. Our officers and I continue to chase, but sadly this frustrating delay is out of our hands.

**Cycle Way** - At a recent Localities meeting I was able to promote the proposed cycle way from Berinsfield to Oxford on behalf of the Parish Council to Richard Jeremy, one of OCC’s strategic planning officers who is directly involved with the development of the Local Transport Plan. He confirmed that it is not too late to get the scheme included into the plan by responding to the consultation which goes out in February.

**Day Centre** - The County Council is due to transfer our Adult Learning Service out to Abingdon and Witney College on 1st June. We have now agreed that The Union Cowley, Kidlington, Berinsfield, Banbury, Grove and Blackbird Leys centres will definitely transfer. The College have made it very clear that they want educational services in these locations to continue as now for at least a year. The Berinsfield Day Centre’s lease with OCC Adult Learning will transfer to the College so they can operate as normal and expect no changes to this arrangement.

**STADHAMPTON**

**65 Houses application** - I have responded to the consultation on the planning application for 65 houses on land to the East of Newington Road, Stadhampton. I strongly oppose this development on the grounds that it would cause a dangerous escalation of traffic on the A329 which is a narrow country lane, already used as a rat run to the M40. It would also have serious implications for the County Council who is still responsible for the provision of school places. Stadhampton Primary School would have to be permanently enlarged to cope with the probable extra number of children. Both Icknield Community College and Lord Williams Academy would also need extra provision. A detailed response from OCC departments dealing with traffic, public transport, education, housing numbers, archaeological impact, library provision and waste management issues has been submitted to SODC. The Council would require the developer to provide Section 106 money in the region of £462,364.00 for the educational uplifts alone.

**Village Hall Signs –** I was able to donate £1,893.0 from my Community Budget towards improving access to information and signage about the new Village Hall. I hope it helps people find their way around, and to park with consideration for others.

**CLIFTON HAMPDEN**

**New Infrastructure** - After much lobbying it’s good that The Science Vale transport strategy in LTP4 contains a key new scheme, involving a new road north from Didcot, an additional Thames river crossing, supplementary access to Culham Science Centre and a direct link to the B4015 up to the A4074 at the Golden Balls roundabout which would provide Clifton Hampden with a desperately needed bypass. The scheme would help to provide an additional link from south to north between the Science Vale and Oxford, in particular the major employment areas of Oxford in the Eastern Arc, as well as providing an alternative route to the A34. Improvements to access to the Culham Science Centre through increased connectivity by bus and cycle are also included.

**SANDFORD ON THAMES**

**Village Hall** - I was delighted to attend the official opening of the newly enlarged Sandford Village Hall on 10th January. This very ambitious project was envisaged and delivered by the residents, who managed to raise over £300K through fundraising and sponsorship from organisations including the County Council. The new hub will feature a regular Saturday market and a Brunch Café. Through my Councillor’s Community Budget I have also been able to support the Youth Playground Group in the development of their scheme for a new play area on the recreation ground.

**New Park & Ride –** As part of the County Council’s objective of cutting the number of cars going in and out of Oxford, a series of six new Park & Ride facilities are proposed in LTP4 and planned to be sited outside the ring road. The nearest one to villages in this Division is proposed to be sited next to the A4074 on the Science Park at Sandford. To encourage people to use these new car parks there will need to be a highly integrated and efficient bus service into the City, which is also planned.