GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council, held in the Village Hall

Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.30pm.

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| **Members of the Parish Council In attendance:** | Cllr Chris Wright, Cllr Ian Ashley, Cllr Judith Westgate, Cllr Anne Eastwood, Cllr Adrian Townsend, Cllr Richard Betteridge, Cllr Paul Bolam, Cllr Claire Green, Cllr Robin Bennett and Cllr Sam James-Lawrie. |
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| **Public attendance:** | 2 members of the public was present. |
| **Minutes:** | Elaine Small (Parish Clerk). |

# **01/24/1 Apologies for Absence** Cllr Matthew Dovey (prior engagement).

# **01/24/2 Declarations of Interest** None.

# **01/24/3 Public Participation**

Resident asked about the activity on field opposite and just past Huw and Gray as you are travelling to Garsington. It was explained that it was an archaeological dig on the Northfield land for exploratory purposes, before building on this site.

A resident commented on the lack of lighting up The Hill which was discussed and noted.

A resident talked about the issue of overgrown hedges seen extending into walkways particularly   
1. Boundary of the field down Pettiwell where hedge and trees needs cutting right back, the bank has overgrown, also drains on this are clogged with dirt and leaves.   
2.Bushes etc need cutting back from between The Bake House and Red Lion.  
3.Hedge needs cutting back leading up to Village Hall.  
4.The hedge/trees top of the Hill on Oxford Road and further down this road.  
5. Combewell overhanging tree branches.

Cllr Betteridge will ask the Grass Cutting team if they can incorporate any of this in their schedule in the future and will look into securing a contractor.

# **01/24/4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 4th December 2023**

Minutes needed minor changes to spelling and a road name. Approved and signed by Cllr Wright.

# **01/24/5 Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda**

a. Asset of Community Value (ACV). This has been extensively worked on by Cllr Ashley and paperwork to be sent in next week.

b. Solar power funding application has been submitted to SODC. It was also mentioned that stiles and path grant application will be submitted at a later stage in the year.

c. Cllr Townsend talked about meetings for Northfield and the fact that there is no transparency and reports were not sent for him to view, although he has been closely involved in talks over the plans. Cllr Wright reported that a consultant to the agent to the developer has organised two meetings to discuss high-level ideas about the environment and mobility at Northfield. To his mind only two new “facts” had emerged from these meetings, concerning the rerouting of the Oxford Road after the shelter belt proceeding north and the number of cars per household that were being used in the current designs. Nonetheless, the agent appeared to be trying to decide who should represent the GPC in these meetings which was not acceptable and this had been relayed to the agent. After some discussion it was agreed that if Cllr Wright was unable to change the current representation at these meetings after making fresh arguments, he should still try to attend on the basis that it was better to have some representation rather than none.

Cllr James-Lawrie mentioned that OCC has plans related to car usage including rail links etc. Other areas around Europe have “vision” on this which seem to work. GPC has no confidence over this aspect of the plans so far. Stakeholder meeting needs to happen before GPC can have input. It was asked of Cllr James-Lawrie if he would find out about car parking expectations. Cllr Wright will report back.

d. Pettiwell - Cllr Wright has applied to the Land Registry and it was noted that the original village green registration has handwritten name of a Mrs Pickering having “right of way”. It is thought that 2 adjacent houses have rights of way over the Green. Await if any comments come in over this.

# **01/24/6 County Councillor Report Cllr Robin Bennett.**

Report given GPC

Flooding was discussed information can be found on link <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-payments-for-communities-affected-by-flooding>

Pinch point (north side of school) on Wheatley Road. Mike Wasley is the person who is involved in this, who informed Robin that it had been approved but not actioned on. GPC discussed that this should be the priority to be done first. On funding for the second Pinch point there was no money allocated/not enough money in pot for this to be done. GPC discussed the use of CIL money.

30 mile an hour limit past Guydens Farm on entering Garsington village. It was agreed that it was unlikely that anything would happen here before Northfield was resolved

Parking along the “no-name” road was discussed again asking for a “4 hour wait” sign to be installed. Cllr Bennett said he will ask again for the feasibility of this.

Pettiwell parking outside and along where the MOT Centre was discussed and it was noted that there is insufficient parking on site for MOT’s etc. Trading standards getting involved?

Foot path along Pettiwell was discussed as an urgent need for pedestrians, as it is dangerous with the amount of cars using the road. It was asked if Cllr Bennett could get involved.

# **01/24/7 District Councillor’s Report - Cllr Sam James-Lawrie.**

Cllr James-Lawrie is to chase the need for traveller sites to be resolved. Waiting for Oxfordshire wide report on the amount of sites required.

Application for solar lights applied for. Stiles and footpath money. Cllr Bettridge suggested he will put in a grant request at a later date.

# **01/24/8 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk.**

a. Maple tree donation £500 agreed and paid in December 2023.

**01/24/9 Planning**

P23/S4124/LDP – 5 Larch End, Garsington, OX44 5AL. Apply render on the external wall and painting. No objection.

# **01/24/10 Finance**

a. Bank statement approved and signed.

The following invoices were agreed and passed for payment by the PC

Salary & expenses Clerk and BGM £ 1861.40

HMRC income tax £164.12

April Skyes Interim £197.50

Land Registry (Judy Westgate) x 2 @£6 = £12

Paul Bolam £2.75

Website Service £41.40

Invoice sheet to be signed off by x2 Cllr’s.

b. Budget Monitoring report 2024. Approved. Cllr Ashley was thanked for his hard work on this.

1. Interim Audit. It was suggested GPC could think about moving/using a new payment system called Scribe .It has been looked into and was thought better to move to this in due course and to revisit in the new financial year.

2. Monthly report is circulated – projects not allocated as yet.

3. Tree grant needs spending by 31st March 2024, but Cllr Bolam will look into this and report back.

c. Precept approved – signed by the Chair Cllr Wright. Clerk emailed to the appropriate authority (SODC).

d. An element of CIL money needs to be spent in the next financial year. Cllr Ashley would provide details at next meeting

**01/24/12 Village maintenance**

a. Gigaclear – Cllr Betteridge to liaise with Cllr Dovey to get feedback via a face to face conversation with the company, reference the mud churned up and left on paths/roads, and the conduct of the company. Wayleave in Pettiwell. Need to check if this has been signed off. Cllr Dovey to be asked if this has been signed and sent.

b. SSE versus GPC. Cllr Ashley reported GPC has no contract on a variable tariff agreement in place for the cancellation/de-energising fee of £80 + VAT. He was assured verbally that they would do this. Clerk has sent in the information requested by SSE to get Cllr Ashley`s conversation on the record.

c. Working Group on path from Garsington to Wheatley. GPC waiting to see if there is any feedback from Horspath/Wheatley councillors.

d. Foot path Pettiwell - Cllr Richard Betteridge has prepared a design for this and a risk assessment to PC. Concerns were voiced on the safety whilst building this and it was proposed that advice could be sought from Alan Bower (Inhabit Limited?). Cllr Betteridge will investigate best way of mitigating risk.

Deep Clean request has been suggested for Southend 91-47; Oxford Road from the footpath to Elm drive – up to The Hill; Wheatley Road North Manor to Tadpole Lane at No. 32.

**01/24/13 Neighbourhood plan update**

Cllr Wright explained he is waiting for feedback on this from SODC.

**01/24/14 Any Other business**

a. Garsington Primary School asking if anyone is interested in becoming a Governor as they have a vacancy. Interest was expressed by 2 Cllr’s. They were encouraged to telephone or email school. Clerk will ask Garsington School to put this in the Newsletter.

b. Overgrown hedge along path left hand side towards school making it dangerous for children and parents/walkers. Cllr Wright will speak/letter to the residents (Section 154 Highways Act 1980).

C Cllr Townend offered to draft a paper about developing a relationship with Garsington school and GPC. This will be presented at next meeting with proposals.

# Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

# Date of forthcoming meeting: 5th February 2024